



खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR

Vol. 4, No-13

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KHANIJ SAMACHAR



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VOL. 4, NO-13 , 1st – 15th JULY , 2020

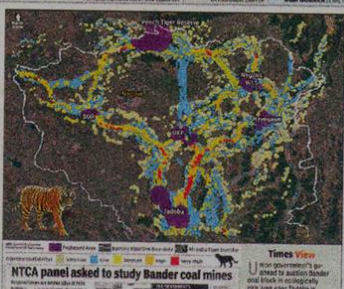
BANDER COAL BLOCK & THREAT TO TADOBA: TOI REPORTS

Bander 80% forest, but report says no clearance needed

The mine will destroy environmental and ecological values, and adversely affect the forest. The report also says that the mine will destroy the forest and the forest will be lost. The report also says that the mine will destroy the forest and the forest will be lost. The report also says that the mine will destroy the forest and the forest will be lost.

2015, 2018 Study By CIL Subsidiary Does Not Mention Presence Of Flora, Fauna

Vijay Pinjarkar@timesgroup.com
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Recipe for triple disaster: Ramesh to Javadekar

Vijay Pinjarkar@timesgroup.com
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Bander coal block, 7-9 kms from Tadoba, set for auction

Area Serves As Wildlife Corridor To Bor, Melghat; Has Resident Tigers Too

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Rejected twice, Centre & state kept Bander auction move alive

Vijay Pinjarkar@timesgroup.com
Nagpur: Far from being a sudden development, the move to auction Bander coal block near Tadoba appears in the making for months. Despite being rejected twice, Centre kept the issue alive even after a decade by seeking NOC from gram panchayats. On May 23, 2020, these blocks were allotted to Bander Coal Company Pvt Ltd (BCCPL), Mumbai, a joint venture of Amar Iron & Steel, Yamuna.

Brahmapuri, TATR officials' 'no' to mining in Bander

Vijay Pinjarkar@timesgroup.com
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NTCA panel asked to study Bander coal mines

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CAST OPEN FOR DISASTER

Vijay Pinjarkar@timesgroup.com
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At cross-purposes: Wildlife underpass on Bander coal block

Vijay Pinjarkar@timesgroup.com
Nagpur: It is a case of one hand of the central government not knowing what the other is doing. Or not caring. While Union ministry of coal has put up Bander coal block for auction as a result of which all forest and wildlife in the area will be destroyed, the Union ministry of road transport & highways (MoRTH) is building a wildlife underpass on the highway right on the block to enable wild animals to safely cross the road. MoRTH has sanctioned ₹100-crore to public works department (PWD) to construct three wildlife underpasses on roads cutting tiger corridors surrounding Tadoba. "Of this, ₹56.6 crore will be spent on one underpass between Khaknuri and Bander and ₹43.4 crore on the other waiting for the proposed underpass to be rendered the underpass useless," admit PWD officials. Taking suo motu cognisance of TOI report 'Stringent new road projects in Maharashtra to cut off tiger corridors' on November 29, 2016, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered PWD to build three wildlife underpasses. Of the nine vital road stretches, wildlife underpasses have been proposed on seven. A senior PWD official told TOI, PWD has floated tenders for three underpasses. Mitigation measures. The nine vital road stretches, wildlife underpasses have been proposed on seven. A senior PWD official told TOI, PWD has floated tenders for three underpasses. Mitigation measures.

JUNE 30

BIG RESPITE TO WILDLIFE AND FORESTS

Vijay Pinjarkar@timesgroup.com
Happily, wiser counsel has prevailed and Union government has agreed to drop the move to auction Bander coal block near Tadoba. Vociferous protests by environmentalists and common citizens, and the state government coming out decisively against the move saved the day. This is a big respite for wildlife and forests in the area. What is still concerning is how, in spite of being rejected twice earlier, the blocks still made it to the auction list. It shows the mining lobby is surreptitious as well as persistent. Everyone will need to be vigilant for similar moves in future not just about Bander but also other projects.

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SEPT 16, 2010

Tadoba ESZ notified in 2019, allows no mines around it

Mazhar Ali | TNN

Chandrapur: Nine months before the coal ministry announced that Bander block on the northern tip of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is among the 41 in the country to be put up for auction to private parties, the popular park had got protection from destruction by the Union environment ministry. However, neither green activists nor current forest officials were aware of it.

On September 11, 2019, the ministry issued the eco sensitive zone (ESZ) notification. On June 18, the coal ministry made the announcement on Bander block. The ESZ prohibits all kind of commercial mining and stone quarrying in the area. As per an official map available with TOI, a part of Bander block juts into not only the Tadoba buffer, it also lies smack on the ESZ.

"Though forest officials knew that the ESZ had been notified they were unaware that Bander was a part of it. They did not have a copy of it. After digging information on the environment ministry's website I found the notification," said Bandu Dhotre of Eco-Pro NGO which was spearheading the agitation to stop mining in Bander.



Tadoba field director NR Pravin said that mining can

take place neither in Bander or in Lohara east and west coal blocks in the southern part of Tadoba.

► Will move court, P 4

Will move court if coal ministry does a U-turn, says Dhotre

► Continued from P 1

Dhotre had played a crucial role in the inclusion of forest cover over Bander and, Lohara east and west coal blocks in the ESZ draft.

He had opposed both the mines when they were proposed in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

While forest officials wanted to limit the ESZ only as far as the Tadoba buffer, Dhotre had insisted that the boundaries be extended to cover the northern and southern wildlife corridors. "This was to prevent any mining activity in the future," he said.

As per Dhotre's suggestions, the proposed ESZ had a 10km boundary radius outside Tadoba core and include 3 kms outside the buffer. "This was to ensure that it covers Bander in the north and extends up to the railway line passing through Lohara forest," said Dhotre who was "happy" that the environment ministry had agreed to the

NO MINES NEAR BANDER

proposal.

The green activist said the approval of ESZ is the final nail in the coffins of all the coal blocks in the northern and southern corridors of Tadoba.

"Even if the Union coal ministry does a U-turn, we will challenge it in the court of law," said Dhotre.

Listing of Bander, along with 41 other coal blocks, to be auctioned had evoked a huge uproar from wildlife activists. There was a strong opposition and a series of protests from wildlife buffs.

Following the dissent expressed by state's environment minister Aaditya Thackeray and former Union environment minister Jairam Ramesh, the Union minister for coal and mines Pralhad Joshi had agreed to withdraw Bander coal block from the auction list. A formal announcement is expected soon.

सोने ५० हजार तर, चांदी ५१ हजार ५००

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

जळगाव : अमेरिकेसह विदेशातील विविध बँकांनी व्याजदर शून्य केल्याने सोने-चांदीत गुंतवणूक वाढू लागल्याने त्यांच्या भावात मोठी वाढ होत आहे. बुधवारी एकाच दिवसात चांदीच्या भावात थेट १२०० रुपयांनी वाढ होऊन ती ५१ हजार ५०० रुपये प्रतिकिलोवर पोहोचली आहे. सोन्याच्याही भावात एकाच दिवसात ७०० रुपयांनी वाढ होऊन ते ५० हजार रुपये प्रतिकिलोवर पोहोचले आहे.

कोरोनामुळे आवक कमी व

“ अमेरिकेसह विदेशात विविध बँकांनी व्याजदर शून्य केल्याने सोने-चांदीकडे गुंतवणूकदारांचा कल वाढला आहे. त्यामुळे त्यांचे भाव वाढत आहेत. सुवर्णनगरी जळगावात प्रथमच सोन्याचा भाव ५० हजार रुपये प्रतिकिलो झाला आहे. - सुरील बाफना, सुवर्ण व्यावसायिक

भारत-चीनमधील तणावामुळे गेल्या काही दिवसांपासून सोने-चांदीच्या भावात सातत्याने वाढ सुरुच आहे. त्यात अमेरिकेसह विदेशातील विविध बँकांनी व्याजदर शून्य केल्याने गुंतवणूकदारांचा कल सोने-चांदीकडे वाढला आहे. २७ जून रोजी सोने-चांदीचे भाव एकसारखे होऊन ते ४९ हजार ३०० रुपयांवर आले होते. त्यानंतर मंगळवारी चांदीच्या भावात

एक हजार रुपयांनी वाढ होऊन ती ५० हजार ३०० रुपयांवर येत ५० हजारांचा पल्ला ओलांडला होता. सोन्याचे भाव मात्र ४९ हजार ३०० रुपयांवर स्थिर होते. बुधवारी चांदीच्या भावात १२०० रुपयांनी वाढ होऊन ती ५१ हजार ५०० रुपयांवर पोहोचली. लॉकडाऊनच्या पाचव्या टप्प्यात सुवर्णबाजार सुरू झाला तरी चांदीची आवक कमी असल्याने तिचे



भाव वाढतच होते. त्यात सोन्याच्याही भावात झपाट्याने वाढ होत गेली. मागणी कायम असल्याने २७ रोजी सोन्यात ४०० रुपयांनी वाढ होऊन ते ४९ हजार ३०० रुपये प्रतिकिलोवर पोहोचले. दुसरीकडे चांदीत ६०० रुपयांची घसरण होऊन तीदेखील ४९ हजार ३०० रुपये प्रतिकिलोवर आली होती.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DATE : 4/7/2020 P.N. 1

Coal: J'khand takes Centre fight to SC

Jharkhand escalated its fight with the Centre on coal mine auction to the level of Centre-state dispute by filing a suit in the Supreme Court to assert its ownership right over mines, and warned that over exploitation of mines would be an environmental hazard.

US, EUROPEAN ETF DEMAND ECLIPSES TOP ASIAN CONSUMERS' BUYING

Gold Funds Underpin Pandemic Price Rally as Jewellers Vanish

Bloomberg

Western investors piling into gold in the pandemic are more than making up for a collapse in demand for physical metal from traditional retail buyers in China and India, helping push prices to an eight-year high.

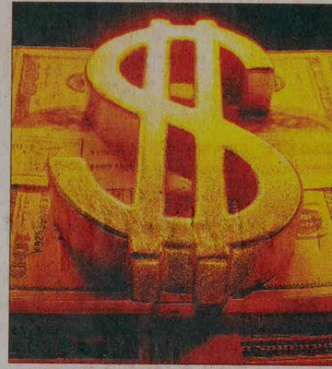
Inflows into exchange-traded funds this year — mostly in North America and Europe — are already inches away from the annual record set in 2009, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Meanwhile, demand in China and India, the world's two biggest buyers of gold bars, coins and jewelry, plunged after the coronavirus stalled imports and emptied malls. Sales have been slow to return as rising prices deter buyers.

The shift underscores the global push-and-pull for gold between western investors looking for a safe haven and traditional demand

centers for physical gold in Asia. It also raises crucial questions for the market this year, as gold prices risk losing support if ETF inflows slow down, or could gain even more momentum if Chinese and Indian demand bounces back.

"We expect the U.S. and European investors to remain interested in gold regardless of Asian demand," said Darwei Kung, head of commodities and portfolio manager at DWS Investment Management Americas Inc. "If the buying pattern were to go up as well for China and India at the same time as what you see in the ETF market, then the price would have come up even further."

Fear-driven investment demand in developed countries has contributed about 18% to this year's gain in gold prices, while weaker buying by emerging-market consumers provided an 8% drag, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. estimated in a June note. An economic reco-



very and a weaker dollar may mean an emerging-market demand in the second half of the year could "shift from being a drag on gold prices to a tailwind."

Still, higher gold prices could exacerbate "demand destruction" in the East and make prices even more dependent on investors in the West, said Commerzbank AG analyst Carsten Fritsch.

Spot gold has risen 17% in 2020, closing out the second quarter with the largest rally in more than four years. On Tuesday, gold futures on the Comex topped \$1,800 an ounce for the first time since 2011.

The higher prices have had a chilling effect on Asian shoppers even as economies reopen. Traditionally seen as a store of wealth, demand for jewelry in China and India tumbled as lockdowns, job losses and weak economic growth curbed discretionary spending.

Precious metals consultancy Metals Focus Ltd. forecasts a 23% decline for Chinese gold jewelry consumption in 2020, while Indian demand is expected to drop 36%. Chinese gold sales could be as much as 30% lower than 2019, said China Gold Association Chief Executive Officer Zhang Yongtao. Still, that is an improvement from a previous estimate of a 50% decline when the outbreak was at its peak he said.

NAV BHARAT DATE : 6/7/2020 P.N. 7

कोयला ब्लॉक नीलामी की शुरुआत अच्छी

1,140 संस्थाएं शामिल हुईं तकनीकी सत्र में : जोशी

नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क

329 पंजीयन हुए
8 दिनों के भीतर

दिल्ली. कोयला मंत्री प्रह्लाद जोशी ने कहा कि वाणिज्यिक कोयला खनन के लिए नीलामी प्रक्रिया की शुरुआत बहुत अच्छी रही है और घरलू कोयला इतिहास में इसे लेकर प्रतिक्रिया सबसे अच्छी रही. उन्होंने कहा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों सहित कुल 1,140 संस्थाओं ने ब्लॉकों की बिक्री शुरू होने के बाद तकनीकी सत्र में भाग लिया और 26 कंपनियों ने निविदा दस्तावेज खरीदे हैं और देशी-विदेशी मिलाकर 10 कंपनियों ने मौके पर जाने की इच्छा जताई है.



शुरुआत की. केवल इच्छुक लोग वहां आए. तकनीकी सत्र में 1,140 लोग शामिल हुए. इनमें 50-60 से अधिक लोग अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों के थे.

मंत्री का यह बयान झारखंड सरकार की आशंकाओं के मद्देनजर महत्वपूर्ण है, जिसमें अंदेशा जताया गया था कि कोरोना वायरस महामारी के कारण वाणिज्यिक कोयला खनन की नीलामी के लिए निवेशक नहीं आएंगे. जोशी ने कहा हमने 18 जून को वाणिज्यिक कोयला खनन की

बेचे 26 निविदा
दस्तावेज

उन्होंने बताया कि नीलामी प्रक्रिया शुरू होने के 8 दिनों के भीतर 329 पंजीयन हुए और 26 निविदा दस्तावेज बेचे गए. प्रत्येक निविदा दस्तावेज की कीमत 5 लाख रुपये है. उन्होंने कहा कि विदेशी कंपनियों सहित लगभग 10 संस्थाओं ने कोयला ब्लॉक क्षेत्रों का दौरा करने की इच्छा जताई है. भारत के कोयला इतिहास में एक सप्ताह के भीतर यह सबसे अच्छी प्रतिक्रिया है और पूरा विश्वास है कि आने वाले 20-30 दिनों में इसमें और सुधार होगा.

India's coal import drops 30% in Apr-Jun

■ Business Bureau

THE country's coal imports registered a drop of 29.7 per cent to 48.84 million tonnes (MT) in the April-June period of the ongoing financial year, according to industry data.

India had imported 69.54 MT of coal in the April-June period of 2019-20, according to provisional compilation by mjunction. Mjunction, a joint venture between Tata Steel and SAIL, is a B2Be-commerce company that also publishes research reports on coal and steel verticals.

The drop in imports assumes significance in the wake of government mandating state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) to replace at least 100 million tonne (MT) of imports with domestically-produced coal in 2020-21.

The country's coal imports also dropped 22.5 per cent to 15.22 MT last month, against 19.64 MT of coal imported in June last fiscal, it said.

"The weak trend in imports is in line with market expectation,



given the continued high stockpile of coal in the system. The plunge in thermal power sector's PLF (plant load factor) in the past couple of months and the sharp decline in cement output do not augur well for import demand in coming month," mjunction MD and CEO Vinaya Varma said.

India's coal import during last month through major and non-major ports is estimated to have decreased by 8.01 per cent over May 2020, mjunction said.

Last month, the import stood at 15.22 MT (provisional), compared to 16.54 MT (revised)

imported in May 2020.

Coal import in June last year stood at 19.64 MT, according to a compilation by mjunction's, India Coal Market Watch (ICMW). Of the total imports in June 2020, non-coking coal was at 10.06 MT, against 10.54 MT imported in May 2020.

Coking coal imports were at 2.84 MT in June 2020, down against 3.18 MT imported a month ago. During the April-June 2020 period, non-coking coal imports stood at 32.88 MT as compared to 48.48 MT during the year-ago period.

Mining giant told to pay \$2 bn for Arctic spill

Russia declared national emergency after a spill of 21,000 tonnes of diesel fuel

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russia's state environmental watchdog said on Monday that metals giant Norilsk Nickel should pay an unprecedented \$2 billion in damages over a huge Arctic fuel spill.

Rosprirodnadzor said it had sent a request for "voluntary compensation" to a subsidiary of Norilsk Nickel, NTEK, estimating the damage to Arctic subsoil and water resources at 147.8 billion rubles (\$2.05 billion).

Norilsk Nickel's Moscow-listed shares fell by nearly 5% on Monday evening.

Controlled by Russia's richest man Vladimir Potanin, the company is the world's largest producer of nickel and palladium.

The amount of the fine is equal to a third of its net profit in 2019.



Environmental disaster: Emergency workers pumping out fuel after a massive diesel spill in Ambarnaya river. ■ AFP

A Norilsk Nickel spokeswoman said the company had not yet received the papers from Rosprirodnadzor.

Aluminium producer Rusal, which owns 28% in Norilsk Nickel, said it found the size of the fine "unexpected" and "unprecedented," adding it hoped a board meeting would be convened ur-

gently to discuss the matter.

"We are sure that shareholders will be able to jointly find a solution in this difficult situation," a Rusal spokeswoman said in a statement.

A national-level state of emergency was announced after 21,000 tonnes of diesel fuel spilled from a reservoir

that collapsed in May outside the Arctic city of Norilsk, polluting huge stretches of river in remote tundra with bright red patches visible from space.

'Unprecedented damage'

Russia's Natural Resources Minister said the fine reflected the huge damages caused by the spill.

"The scale of the damage to Arctic water resources is unprecedented," Dmitry Kobylkin was quoted as saying in a statement on Monday.

Mr. Kobylkin drew comparisons to one of the worst oil spills in U.S. history – the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill off Alaska which, he pointed out, cost Exxon Mobil more than \$5 billion in punitive damages. President Vladimir Putin has said he expected Norilsk Nickel to fully restore the environment.

जमीन मालकांना ४३ कोटीचा दंड, जमीन जप्त

बनवाडी अवैध उत्खनन प्रकरण : आता 'एफआयआर' दाखल होणार

फहम खान/धीरज शुक्ला।
लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

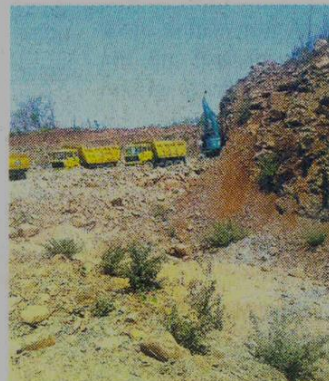
नागपूर : बनवाडी गाव परिसरातील अवैध उत्खनन प्रकरणात अखेर प्रशासनाने कठोर पावले उचलली. मंगळवारी दोन जमीन मालकांना ४३ कोटी २ लाख रुपयांचा दंड ठोठावण्यात आला आहे. सोबतच 'सीलिंग'मध्ये मिळालेली एक जमीन जप्त करण्यात आली आहे. 'लोकमत'ने हे प्रकरण समोर आणले होते व त्यानंतर अवैध उत्खनन करणाऱ्यांना अगोदर ३ कोटी ७७ लाखांचा दंड ठोठाविण्यात आला होता.

प्रशासनाने सुरुवातीला या प्रकरणात



लो लोकमत इम्पॅक्ट

मवाळ भूमिका घेतली होती. परंतु 'लोकमत'ने हे प्रकरण लावून धरल्यानंतर प्रशासनाने कठोर पावले उचलली. यामुळे कोट्यवधींच्या महसुलाचे नुकसान झाले असल्याचे प्रशासनाने मान्य पान/९



याच परिसरात झाले अवैध उत्खनन.

१० दिवसात करू शकणार अपील

दोन्ही जमीन मालकांना दंडाची रक्कम भरावी लागेल. महाराष्ट्र जमीन महसूल कायदा १९६६ च्या कलम २४७ अंतर्गत पुढील १० दिवसांच्या आत या आदेशाच्या विरोधात उपविभागीय अधिकारी (ग्रामीण) यांच्याकडे दोन्ही जमीन मालक अपील करू शकतील असे तहसीलदारांनी आदेशात स्पष्ट केले आहे. तहसीलदारांनी या आदेशासोबतच बुटीबोरी पोलीस ठाण्याला पत्र लिहून अवैध उत्खनन प्रकरणात दोन्ही जमीन मालकांविरुद्धात 'एफआयआर' दाखल करण्यास सांगितले आहे.

Gold's Rally to \$1,800 Sees ETF Inflows Exceed Full-year Record

Bloomberg

Gold's allure is only getting stronger as 2020 unfolds. Spot prices reached \$1,800 an ounce and year-to-date inflows into bullion-backed exchange-traded funds have topped the record full-year total set in 2009.

Investors have favoured havens this year as the coronavirus pandemic rips through economies, spurring sustained inflows into gold-backed ETFs as central banks and governments unleash vast stimulus programs. States across the US recorded new highs in cases and deaths on Tuesday, and Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President Raphael Bostic said the resurgence of the virus may be threatening the pace of America's recovery.

"A massive investor response to Covid-19 has pushed ETF holdings to re-



cord levels, the impact of which has outweighed the decline in jewelry demand and absorbed increases in recycling," said James Steel, chief precious metals analyst at HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. Further inflows are expected "as investors respond to elevated risks and low yields," he said.

Holdings in gold-backed ETFs rose to 3,234.6 tons on Tuesday, according to initial data compiled by Bloomberg. That's up 655.6 tons so far in 2020, topping the rise in tonnage terms seen in 2009. The total has risen each month this year.

Spot gold was up 0.2% at \$1,798.55 an ounce at 9:36 a.m. in London, after climbing above \$1,800 to reach the highest since November 2011. In other precious metals, silver and platinum were higher while palladium was little changed.

Bullion prices and holdings are widely expected to extend gains, with Goldman Sachs Group Inc. saying the metal could reach a record \$2,000 in the next 12 months and JPMorgan Chase & Co. recommending investors stick with bullion.

"Short-term price risks remain skewed to the upside as long as the virus does not come under control," said Carsten Menke, head of Next Generation Research at Julius Baer Group. "The near unprecedented fiscal and monetary peacetime response to Covid-19 supplies gold with two substantial bullish inputs: liquidity and debt," HSBC's Steel said.

Tata Steel sales slump 22.8% as pandemic hits demand, output

Consolidated production in April-June quarter falls 28.5%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Tata Steel Ltd. (TSL) on Thursday said its consolidated sales fell 22.8% to 5.28 million tonnes (MT) during the April-June quarter, from consolidated sales of 6.84 MT in the year-earlier period, as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted operations.

Consolidated production during the quarter also fell 28.5% to 5.52 MT from 7.72 MT in the first quarter of 2019-20, TSL said in a regulatory filing. In the just concluded quarter, TSL's India sales were at 2.92 MT, down from 3.96 MT in the year-earlier period, while the production volume fell to 2.99 MT from 4.5 MT.

Sales in Europe fell to 1.94 MT, from 2.26 MT a year earlier, while output fell to 2.14 MT from 2.65 MT.

TSL said overall in the first quarter of 2020-21, produc-



Mobility restrictions had hit industrial activity and consumer sentiment across geographies, Tata Steel said. ■ REUTERS

tion and sales volumes were lower as the outbreak of COVID-19 and ensuing mobility restrictions impacted industrial activity and consumer sentiment across all geographies. "In India, capacity utilisation of our upstream facilities was adjusted to about 50% level in April, while our downstream units were closed," TSL added.

The steel maker said that, with the phased opening of the economy, utilisation levels had been ramped up

gradually to about 80% by end of June, adding that downstream facilities had also been restarted and were being ramped up progressively.

"With the continued opening of the economy... the proportion of domestic sales will increase from second quarter," it said.

While urban markets were showing slow recovery, retail sales, especially in rural markets, were seeing an improvement, TSL added.

CIL lines up ₹10,000-crore capex for FY21

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NEW DELHI

The world's largest coal miner CIL said it had lined up ₹10,000 crore as capital expenditure (capex) for the current financial year.

"Subsidiary-wise, combined capex plan and capital budget of CIL as a whole for FY21 is pegged at ₹10,000 crore," Coal India (CIL) said in a statement.

While the plant and machinery portion, including procurement of heavy earth moving machinery, comprises the major share with over ₹3,700 crore for the year, the expenditure on land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement involves upwards of ₹1,900 crore, it said.

These two heads make up about 57% of the overall capex of 2020-21.

Coal India had spent ₹810 crore on its capital expenses in the April-June period of FY20.

Auto, Steel Cos Go the Extra Mile to Keep Covid at Bay, Sustain Shop Floors

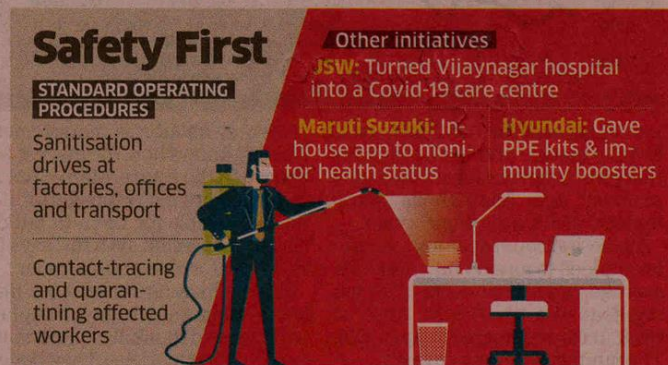
Roll out steps for a clean and sanitised workplace and support for affected employees

Sharmistha Mukherjee & Bhavya Dillipkumar

New Delhi | Mumbai: Auto and steel companies including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motor India, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, JSW Steel and SAIL are closely monitoring the health of employees on their shop floors as Covid-19 cases rise.

The companies are intensifying sanitisation drives at factories and offices and are working with medical teams to contact-trace, quarantine and treat affected workers while sustaining operations and adhering to government guidelines.

Thirteen employees at Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) have tested positive in the past few weeks. Though no case was reported from the shop floor or the offices, the company undertook deep sanitisation of the areas that the affected employees worked from as a precautionary measure. "We also sanitised the vehicle used to transport the affected employees. Simultaneously, we carry out contact tracing of other employees



and family members who were in close contact with the affected employee in the last 14 days from the date the test was done. The contact-tracing process covers the workplace, transportation, cafeteria and all other common areas," said Vikram Gulati, senior vice-president, TKM.

Hyundai meanwhile has put in place a cross-functional task force to assess, review and take necessary actions daily to check the spread

of infection within the company.

"Every day, our teams work on allocation of manpower from non-restricted areas regularly to run operations smoothly in both plants. For some employees, we have also made arrangements to accommodate them in a clean and safe living quarters with adequate social distancing measures and amenities near the factory," said Stephen Sudhakar, senior vice-president (people strategy and business support),

Hyundai Motor India.

Maruti Suzuki, too, has in place robust standard operating procedures for its facilities and regional offices, following government guidelines. "We have an extensive system of checks and balances, use of technology and constant communication on importance of self-restraint and discipline," said a spokesperson.

Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai Motor India did not share details of the number of positive cases registered among employees.

Among steel companies, JSW Steel, which has registered 420 positive cases at its Vijayanagar plant, has established a Corona Corner control room and response cell to assist employees and their family members. It has joined hands with the Ballari administration to convert its Jindal Sanjeevani Hospital into a Covid-19 care centre.

At SAIL, where 40 employees, including the chairman, tested positive, a team from Apollo Hospital was engaged at the corporate office to carry out a re-assessment of processes.

एनएसई घरेलू रिफाइनरियों की सोने की छड़ों को स्वीकार करेगा

सोने के वायदा सौदों के सैटलमेंट के लिए बीआईएस-स्टैंडर्ड गोल्ड एनआरएस की शुरुआत की

बिजनेस संवाददाता | नई दिल्ली

प्रमुख स्टॉक एक्सचेंज एनएसई अपने प्लेटफॉर्म सोना वायदा सौदों के फिजिकल सैटलमेंट के लिए घरेलू रिफाइनरियों द्वारा तैयार सोने की छड़ों को स्वीकार करेगा। एनएसई ने बीआईएस-स्टैंडर्ड गोल्ड के लिए एनएसई रिफाइनर स्टैंडर्ड्स (एनआरएस) की शुरुआत की है जो शुक्रवार, 10 जुलाई 2020 से लागू हो गए। इनका उद्देश्य देश में कमोडिटी वायदा सौदों के लिए फिजिकल सैटलमेंट फ्रेमवर्क की प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाना है। इससे घरेलू बाजार के प्रतिभागियों को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। उसके प्लेटफॉर्म पर डिलीवरी के लिए स्वीकार्य बुलियन कमोडिटी के दायरे में बढ़ोतरी होगी। एनएसई ने शुक्रवार को जारी एक बयान में यह जानकारी दी। इससे पहले गुरुवार तक एनएसई सोना वायदा सौदों के निपटान के लिए सिर्फ लंदन बुलियन मार्केट एसोसिएशन (एलबीएमए) द्वारा मंजूरी प्राप्त रिफाइनरियों के सोने को ही स्वीकार करता था।



एनएसई के चीफ डेवलपमेंट ऑफिसर रवि वाराणसी ने कहा, एनआरएस की शुरुआत का एक उद्देश्य उन भारतीय रिफाइनरियों को उचित मौका देना भी है जो बीआईएस के नोटिफाइड मानकों का पालन करती हैं ताकि वे एक्सचेंज सैटलमेंट फ्रेमवर्क का हिस्सा बन सकें। इन मानकों में इम्पेनलमेंट के मानदंडों, कम्प्लायंस रिक्वायरमेंट्स, टेक्नीकल इवैल्युएशन, फॉलबैक मैकेनिज्म सहित सोर्सिंग ऑडिट्स आदि के बारे में विस्तृत गाइडलाइंस दी गई हैं। एनएसई ने 2018-19 में कमोडिटी डेरिवेटिव्स प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च किया था।

Auction of 11 mineral blocks put on hold

NEW DELHI, July 10 (PTI)

THE Government has put on hold the auction of 11 mineral blocks, including two gold mines, besides keeping in abeyance sale of four blocks. The blocks on hold for auction are in Madhya Pradesh, while the mines kept in abeyance are in Jharkhand, according to a document of the Mines Ministry.

However, the Mines Ministry did not specify the reasons for putting the sale of blocks on hold and in abeyance. Among the blocks put on hold for auction, two are gold mines, five limestone, three

basemetal and one bauxite block, the document said. Of the mines kept in abeyance, two are bauxite blocks and one each of limestone and dolomite. The notice inviting tenders of all 15 blocks was issued in January 2020. One mineral block was auctioned last month, while four more mines were put on sale this month. All the five blocks in Gujarat and Karnataka have reserves of 667.2 million tonnes.

Centre had recently asked states having mineral resources to identify at least five new mining projects for auction with pre-embedded clearance on a pilot basis.

Surat Diamond Units Unlikely to Open on 14th

Sutanuka.Ghosal@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Uncertainty looms over resumption of diamond manufacturing in Surat, the diamond cutting and polishing hub of India. Though the diamond manufacturing units are scheduled to reopen on July 14 after a fortnight of shutdown, traders said the units may not be able to resume work owing to the rapid increase in the number of coronavirus cases.

Moreover, the workers who had come to Surat for cutting and polishing of diamonds from different parts of Gujarat have returned to their home towns in Saurashtra, Amreli and Bhavnagar as the units were shut down on July 1.

"There is very little chance of these workers coming back anytime soon," Babubhai Kathiriya, president of Surat Diamond Association (SDA), told ET.

Surat is home to nearly 5,000 diamond manufacturing units which employ 800,000-900,000 people.

"The units had started working on June 1 with limited number of workforce as most migrant workers from UP, Bihar and West Bengal had left," said Kathiriya. "Despite adhering to government laid out SOPs (standard operating procedure), the units have not been able to contain Covid-19 cases. Maintaining social distancing has become a challenge to the diamond manufacturing units as the present infrastructure cannot afford such a seating arrangement."

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