



## तकनीकी पत्रिका विषय-सूची

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***Vol.3 No.8, August, 2019***

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Down to Earth, Vol.28 No.3, 16-30 June, 2019

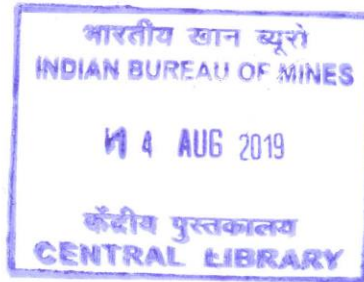
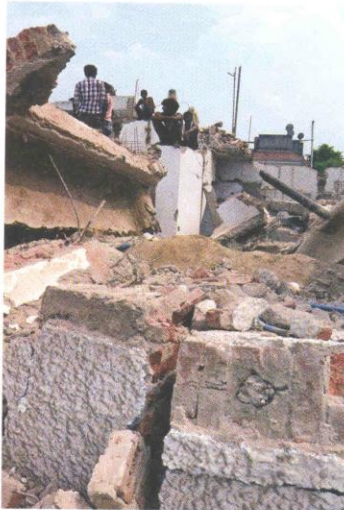
WORLD ENVIRONMENT  
DAY SPECIAL



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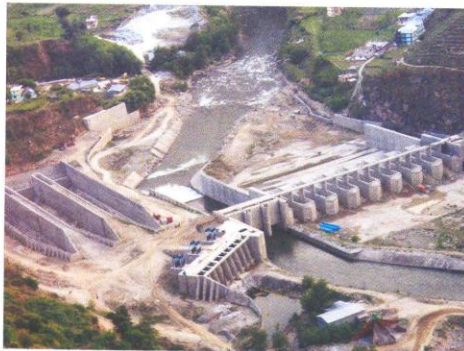
There is little effort to  
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# Down to Earth, Vol.28 No.3, 16-30 June, 2019

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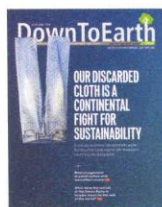
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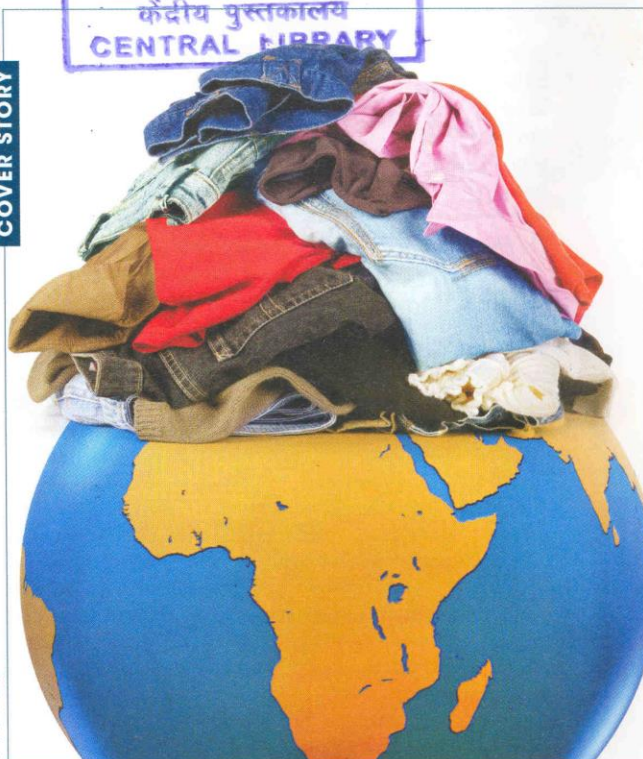


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◀ Cover design: Ajit Bajaj



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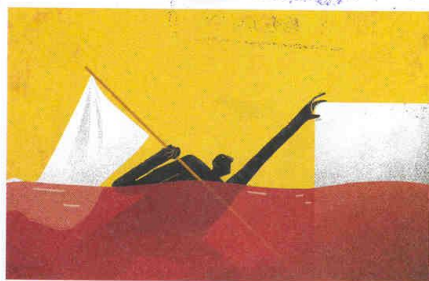
Singapore's fake news law can strangle free speech and press freedom



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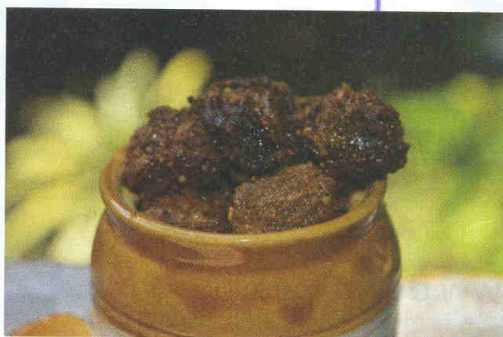


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Down to Earth, Vol.28 No.5, 16-31 July, 2019

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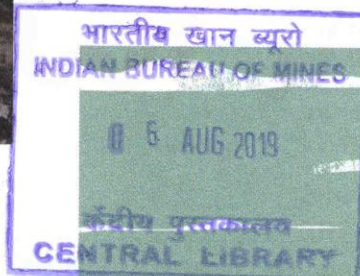


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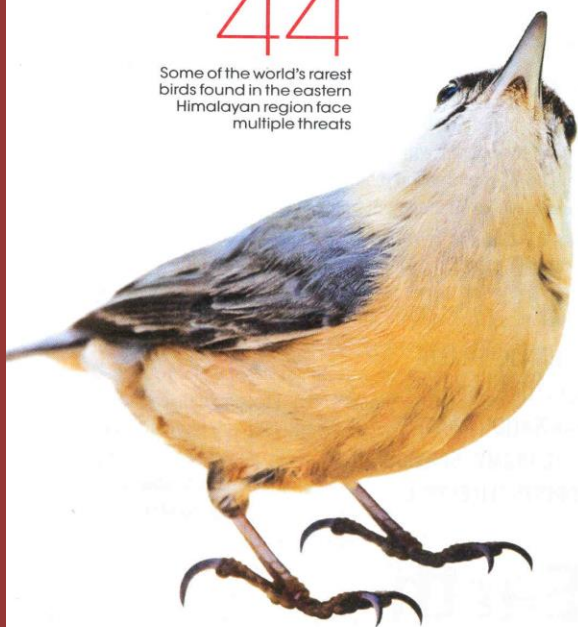
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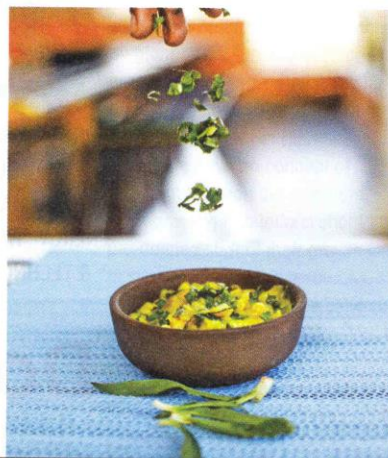
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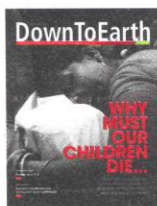
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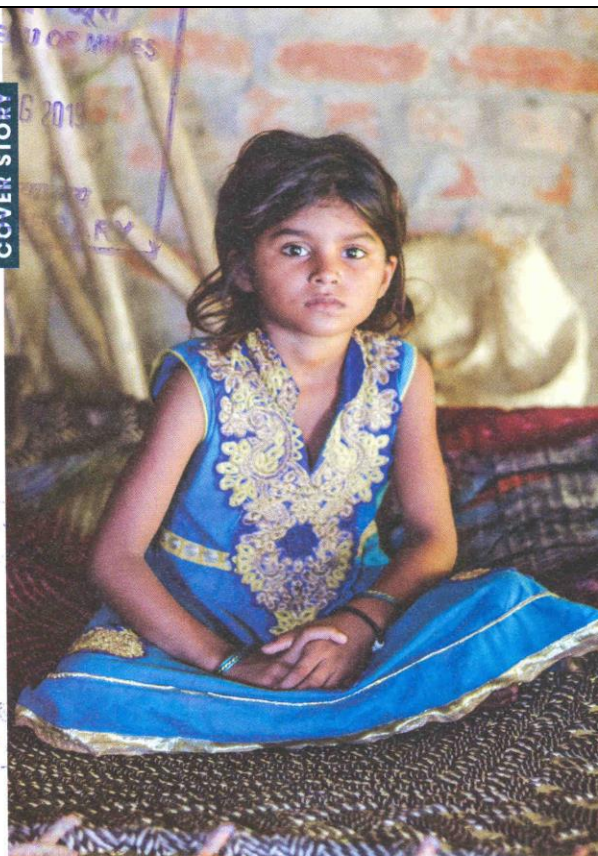
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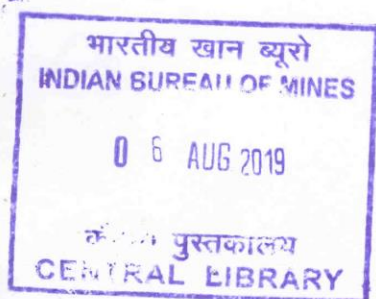
A code may be the beginning to cope with the unprecedented spells of heat waves sweeping the country

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24.7.19

## Review of Rural Affairs

The need to address the multidimensional nature of agrarian distress and the crises affecting the rural economy has been much deliberated upon. However, the proposed policies often deflect from the core structural problems that have a bearing on the issues besetting Indian agriculture, in general, and the farmers, in particular. A set of five papers discusses the dampers and drivers for building a resilient farming system in the country, such as the importance of the rural economy in the budgetary outlays of an agrarian state; the role of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as a coping mechanism for households facing increasing climate vulnerability; the ecological sustainability of agriculture across India; the performance of crop insurance and its adoption at the household level; and the impacts of capitalist development on rural livelihoods.



## Rural Crisis in Punjab

The public expenditure on the rural sector in Punjab bypasses key sectors of rural development for administrative spending. Has this led to the unending rural crisis in the state? [page 6](#)

## Risk Reduction in Telangana

The little amounts earned from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme turn into the main source of income for households' sustenance during droughts. [page 12](#)

## Ecological Sustainability

Any plan for sustainable development of agriculture must be cognisant of the need to preserve natural resources such as soil, arable land, and water. [page 19](#)

## Crop Insurance

Farmers in India facing losses are often compensated only for the cost of cultivation, and even this amount is received after much delay. [page 28](#)

## Cohesive Development Approach

An alternative development paradigm that explores the routes for diverting the capital inflow in the rural sector towards the protection of agriculture-related livelihoods is required. [page 36](#)

## Review of Rural Affairs

Over the past several years, Indian agriculture has undergone significant changes by moving towards input-intensive cropping systems. However, the path of high external input agriculture has not only been unsustainable, but has also adversely affected agriculture-dependent livelihoods and the natural resource base of the economy. Developing a balanced and integrated agricultural system with limited use of chemical inputs would require a greater emphasis on climate-resilient crops. This edition of the Review of Rural Affairs brings together papers that help identify and formulate solutions to some of the problems that plague agriculture and the rural economy.

## Towards a Resilient Farming System

- 5 The major growth episodes of Indian agriculture are closely associated with the initiation and spread of the green revolution paradigm and technology. This has placed enormous strain on the natural resource base leading to land degradation, decline in the levels of soil organic matter and loss of soil fertility. The alternative path for agriculture that takes agroecology as its core, however, makes a decisive shift away from the production-centric approach of the green revolution paradigm towards an ecosystem-centric view of agriculture. — *P S Vijayshankar*

## Rural Economy, State and Public Policy: Exploring the Rural Crisis of Indian Punjab

- 6 The contemporary situation of Punjab's rural economy has been a subject of serious concern. Analysing the evolving levels and patterns of the public expenditure on the rural sector over time, it is found that there has been a progressive diversion of the public spending on the rural sector towards local-level administration, bypassing key sectors of rural development such as human resources development. This aspect has been a major driver of the unending rural crisis in the state. — *Baldev Singh Shergill, Ramanpreet Kaur*

## Uncertain Climate, Vulnerable Livelihoods: Role of MGNREGS in Risk Reduction

- 12 Livelihoods in the semi-arid tropics are particularly vulnerable to climatic uncertainties and frequent droughts. The low levels of development of diversified livelihood options in the non-farm sector and a lack of skill base compel households to seek multiple low-income livelihoods in lean resource years. Among these, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has provided the most significant coping mechanism for most households, particularly the poorest and most backward sections. However, as the study of rural Telangana shows, challenges of implementation arise when the policy manifests on field realities which tend to reduce the effectiveness and weaken its impact. — *Manoj Jatav, Shreya Chakraborty*

## Statewise Report Cards on Ecological Sustainability of Agriculture in India

- 19 In the context of increasing farmer distress and vulnerability to risks associated with climate change, the dependence of agriculture on natural resources requires that these are sustainably managed. Using a framework of indicators in the domains of pest management, fertiliser use, soil health, water conservation, biodiversity, and efficient use of inputs, statewise report cards on ecological sustainability of agriculture across India are provided. Much variation is found in the sustainability of production practices across the country, with some states characterised by high use of pesticides, low soil organic content, depletion of groundwater levels, low crop diversity, high energy use, and widespread nitrate contamination of groundwater. — *Divya Veluguri, Ramanjaneyulu G V & Lindsay Jaacks*

## Crop Insurance in India: Where Do We Stand?

- 28 Programmes extending insurance cover for crops in India have long been in operation, but have not been able to include the majority of the agricultural sector within their ambit. Analysing the 70th Round Situation Assessment Survey data, the performance of crop insurance at the household level is examined and factors that determine its adoption are identified using an econometric analysis. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is then analysed by looking more closely at the structure of the scheme. The experiences of certain countries are also highlighted to provide a global perspective on improving crop insurance adoption in the country. — *Meenakshi Rajeev, Pranav Nagendran*

## Capitalist Development and Rural Livelihoods: In Search of a Cohesive Development Approach

- 36 Indian agriculture has been facing an intrusion of large capital into its domain in various forms, such as contract farming, industrialised agriculture, and forcible acquisition of agricultural land for industrial plants. But, what are the impacts of such types of capitalist development on rural livelihoods? The study argues that reform in agriculture—through setting up of special agricultural zones and other similar means—needs to be undertaken for further rural economic development, in general, and for protection of agriculture-related livelihoods, in particular. Looking into the prospects of the rural industrial sector, it emphasises that the clustering of rural non-farm enterprises can pave the way for an alternative development paradigm. — *Subrata Dutta*

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- Corporate Governance in Banks in India
- Gold Jewellery and Migrant Labour Force
- The Enduring Legacy of Lenin

## DISCUSSION

- No Breather for Food Subsidy Bill

## CURRENT STATISTICS

## How to Talk about Caste

Three accounts delve into the style, substance and aesthetic of Aniket Jaaware's *Practicing Caste: On Touching and Not Touching*. pages 17, 19 and 23

## Composition of Public Debt

Most policymakers, including economic technocrats in government, have come to believe that public debt, fiscal deficits and interest rates are objectives in themselves rather than the instrumentalities that they actually are. page 89

## Benchmark Index for Banks

An attempt to prepare a composite benchmark index with legal requirements and best practices available in literature on corporate governance in banks page 96

## Resource of Genetic Wealth

The greatest asset in combating the effects of uncertain climate is agro-biodiversity because genetic diversity distributes risk and enhances the coping capacity of farmers. page 14

## Kerala's Gold Jewellery Workers

A look at the migrant workers who are employed in the burgeoning gold retail houses, and the many facets of their service conditions page 106

# Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.54 No.28, July 13, 2019

## Tribal Politics in Jharkhand

- 10 The realisation that the interest of tribes does not lie in division but in forging an alliance, opens up the space for an alternative political path in Jharkhand. — *Virginus Xaxa*

## A New Development Model for the New Economy

- 12 The role of the government is to not only be a more effective provider of learning and health, but also an agent for greater access to opportunity and changing patterns of ownership at all levels. — *Avinash Persaud*

## Agro-biodiversity as a Resource

- 14 It is important to move away from an exclusive focus on techno-fixes when dealing with climate change. — *Suman Sahai*

## Destitute Thinking

- 17 Ethical impoverishment, Aniket Jaaware's *Practising Caste: On Touching and Not Touching* tells us, is a precondition and the initial form of new thinking and living. Destitution prepares the ground for inventing new forms of sociality. — *Udaya Kumar*

## Just Us

- 19 Rejecting the politics of identity and victimhood, *Practising Caste* articulates the politics of radical narcissism of a "just us" that tries to disinherit the knowledge received from the classical Sanskrit texts, philosophy, sociology and anthropology. — *Sanil V*

## Aesthetics of a Text

- 23 Aniket Jaaware's text has an aesthetic of simplicity of thought and language, removing the moral coercion that forces one to refer to the scholarly work of the "Academic Aakas" or the little gods of academia. — *Gopal Guru*

## Amalgamation of Existing Laws or Labour Reform?

- 33 A close reading of the Draft Labour Code on Social Security, 2018 suggests that neither have redundant provisions been removed, nor existing ones overhauled to make employment benefits available in a more effective manner. — *Santanu Sarkar*

## Kuki Perspective on Migration

- 38 The Kukis's unique pattern of migration is described and the formulation of a "wave model" of all migration taking place in a similar pattern is attempted. — *Haoginlen Chongloi*

## How Much Public Debt Is Too Little?

- 89 The entire literature on public debt is on determining "how much is too much." However, both the level and composition of public debt should be considered while framing fiscal rules. — *Pronab Sen*

## Corporate Governance in Banks in India

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## Gold Jewellery Making and Migrant Labour Force in Kerala

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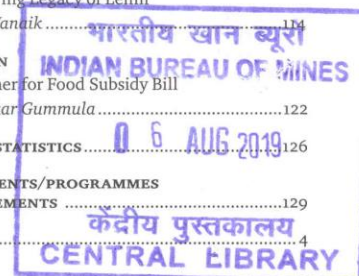
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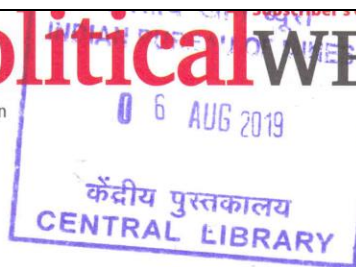
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## Challenges of Public Administration

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## What Is Skill Degradation

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The refractory industry is back with a bang. After several years of weakness, demand is rising across the board and the sector is evolving fast, with high-profile M&As but also long-term uncertainties on raw material sourcing. Myles McCormick takes stock of a changed landscape.

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- 24 The rise of the superabrasives**  
Automotive manufacturers are demanding better accuracy and longer life from abrasive tools, and this has created an opportunity for a new family of high-performance synthetic abrasives, as *Industrial Minerals* correspondent *Rose Pengelly* discovers.

- 28 Out of the melting pot: A year of change in refractories**  
After a year of reorganization and changing narratives in the refractories industry – from significant M&A activity to raw material price spikes, and from booming end-market demand to uncertainties in global trade – *Industrial Minerals* correspondent *Myles McCormick* takes stock of a changed landscape for companies operating in the sector.

- 32 Dissecting alumina supply**  
The non-metallurgical alumina market is diverse and complex and, over the past year, its main sub-sectors have been under pressure from rising costs and hiccups in supply, limiting availability of white fused, alumina hydrate and calcined alumina to the wider market, *independent consultant, Ted Dickson*, discovers.

- 40 Carol Jackson: 'We are going to be unstoppable'**  
In a quest to make HarbisonWalker International its customers' 'first and only call,' Carol Jackson has pulled out all the stops. "We are not your old refractory company," she tells *Jo Isenberg-O'Loughlin*.

- 44 Fluorspar market on edge as new participants step in**  
Moves by Canada Fluorspar and Sepfluor to enter the global fluorspar market have raised questions about how this will affect the worldwide supply and demand dynamic, and how fluorspar prices may be affected, as *market reporter Michael Greenfield* discovers.

- 47 Demanding supply**  
China has long been a major force in the global magnesia market. The entry of low-priced magnesia exports from China almost 30 years ago disrupted supply market dynamics. The growth of the Chinese steel and refractory industry since 2005 has equally influenced the way magnesia demand worked. Now, pollution regulations and their enforcement in China, coupled with the maturity of the steel and refractory industries, are causing a third major disturbance to the global magnesia market, *independent consultants Richard Flook and Ian Wilson* report.

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**62 Arciresa looks to Guyana for bauxite supplies**

Spanish bauxite processor and distributor Arciresa has agreed a deal with North American partner First Bauxite for the importing of raw bauxite from Guyana, to serve refractory producers in Europe and elsewhere, in the hope of breaking the sector's dependence on China.

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2017 brought some sharp limitations to titanium dioxide supply, specifically from China. China has carved out a position as the largest producer of titanium dioxide, but tightening environmental controls have imposed restrictions on the producers in the East Asian country. But the exact scale of the resulting capacity closures has been hard to assess and now balance in the market comes from a shift in the situation in China

- 15 **Liberty cancels Select Sands frac sand offtake deal**  
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Prices have built steadily over the past year in titanium dioxide, and despite seasonal fluctuations and one-off events the outlook is for a period of stability lasting at least into early 2019, writes *William Clark, Fastmarkets IM market reporter*.

#### 26 It's complicated: How mineral scarcity and human ingenuity shape the world of TiO<sub>2</sub> feedstocks

Amid growing concern about the supply of titanium dioxide feedstocks, *Fastmarkets IM correspondent Cameron Perks* examines the scarcity of these minerals and how processors are adapting to changes in availability.

#### 30 Crouching Tiger: TiO<sub>2</sub> in Indian markets

Titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>), in its 100th year of commercialization, has a strong presence in many industries due to its ability to provide opacity, high durability, color stability and most importantly the highest refractive index among all commercially available materials. *Fastmarkets IM correspondent Sunder Singh* presents an overview of the TiO<sub>2</sub> industry and major producers in India.

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#### 36 Old king coal: The next rare earths rush?

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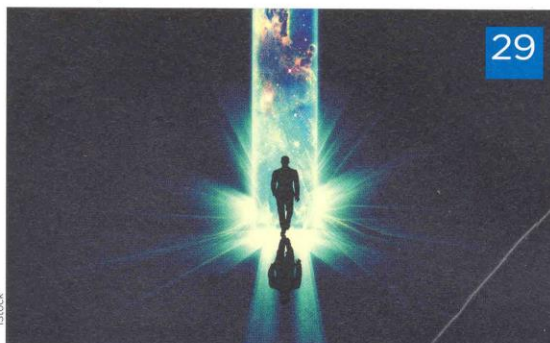
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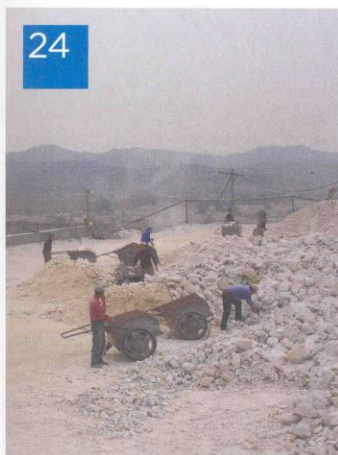


2017 and 2018 have been characterized by supply shortages in many industrial minerals markets as Chinese mines were shut down by environmental laws. 2019 promises much of the same supply constraints, but new producers are now coming online which should provide some respite to buyers.

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- 13 **Orocobre plans to more than double lithium production in Argentina**
- 14 **Frac sand news**
- 15 **CHROMIUM 2018: Foundry chromite market 'on the cusp' as bearish sentiment persists**
- 16 **Lynas bumps up against rare earth production cap**  
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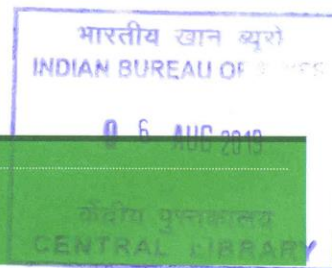
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- 26 Sibelco benefits from China's magnesite controls**  
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- 28 Industrial Minerals Year in Review**  
A look at the last 12 months in Fastmarkets IM's key mineral markets.
- 38 Unlocking the global graphite supply chain**  
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- 43 Industrial mineral juniors pay price for lack of market transparency**  
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- 45 Andalusite edges towards market stabilisation**  
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TiO<sub>2</sub> feedstocks  
Ceramics  
Processing



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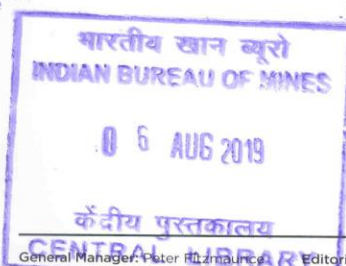
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Environmental restrictions have dogged the bauxite and alumina industry since 2016. But what does the future look like for the industry?

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### 28 Will the Chinese supply crisis continue during the Year of the Pig?

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### 36 How portable processing is shaking up mineral beneficiation

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Batteries  
Mineral exploration  
Abrasives

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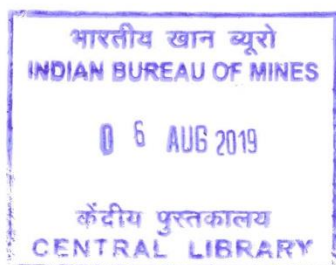
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Harsh K. Gupta introducing Nobel Laureate Y. T. Lee, Union Lecturer at Prague, XXVI IUGG General Assembly

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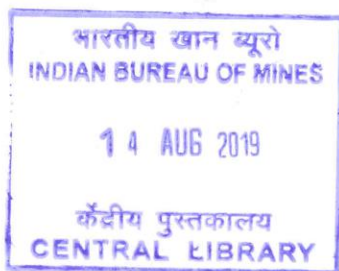
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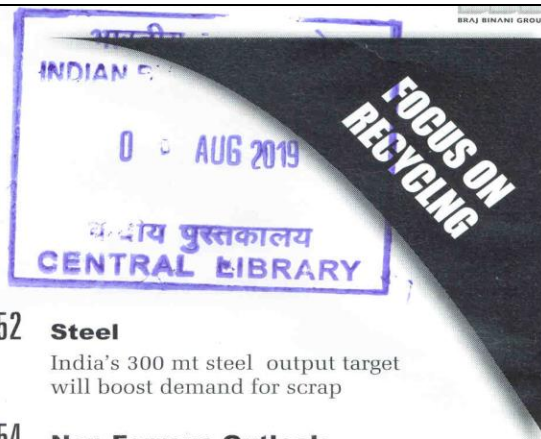
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