खनिज समाचार

KHANIJ SAMACHAR

VOL 1 NO-16

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Mrs. D. H. Vairagare

Asstt. Library & Information Officer

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KHANIJ SAMACHAR

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INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

VOL. 1, NO-16, 1st – 15th DECEMBER 2017

THE BUSINESS LINE DATE: 1/12/2017 P.N.16

Traders can stay away from MCX Lead

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The Lead futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) fell in the past week as expected to test the support level of ₹155 per kg.

The contract dropped to a low of ₹155 on Wednesday but has reversed higher from there. It is currently trading at ₹159/kg.

The upward reversal from ₹155 has increased the possibility of the contract moving higher to test ₹161 and ₹162 levels in the near-term. Whether or not the contract breaks above the ₹161-162 resistance region will determine the next move.

Traders can stay out of the market for some time.

Watch the price action in the coming days to get a cue on the next move to take a trade position.

If the contract manages to surpass ₹162 decisively, it can gain momentum. Such a break can take the contract higher to ₹165 initially.

Further break above ₹165 will increase the possibility of the up-move extending to ₹166.5 or ₹167 thereafter.

On the other hand, if the contract reverses lower after testing the ₹161-162 resistance region, it can fall to ₹156 or ₹155 levels once again. In such a scenario, a sideways move between ₹154 and ₹162 is likely.

On the charts, the possibility of this sideways move between ₹154 and ₹162 looks likely for a few weeks.

The region between ₹154.5 and ₹154 is a strong and crucial support for the contract and is likely to limit the downside in the short-term.

The contract will come under renewed pressure only if it declines below ₹154 decisively.

Such a break can drag the contract lower to ₹150 or ₹149 thereafter.

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

THE HITAVADA
DATE: 1/12/2017 P.N.11

Gold declines on lacklustre demand

NEW DELHI, Nov 30 (PTI)

GOLD prices declined by Rs 120 to Rs 30,400 per 10 grams on Thursday, mostly on account of slackened demand from jewellers and weak global cues.

Silver also remained under selling pressure and cracked below the Rs 40,000-mark by falling Rs 675 to Rs 39,325 per kg.

Globally, gold fell 0.16 per cent to USD 1,281.40 an ounce and silver slipped 0.15 per cent to USD 16.48 an ounce in Singapore.

In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity drifted down by Rs 120 each to Rs 30,400 and Rs 30,250 per 10 grams, respectively. The precious metal had gained Rs 20 on Wednesday. Sovereign, however, remained flat at Rs 24,700 per piece of eight grams.

Silver ready slumped by Rs 675 to Rs 39,325 per kg.

BUSINESS LINE
DATE: 1/12/2017 P.N.4

Steel demand set to improve in the near-term: ICRA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, November 30

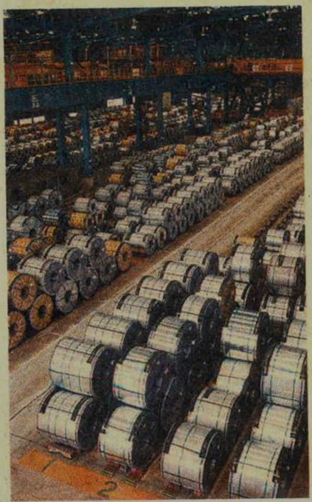
The domestic steel demand is expected to improve, while production growth is expected to revive on the back of a likely pick up in demand and favourable international steel prices in the near term, a report said here.

Backed by healthy consumption growth rates of 6 per cent in the month of October 2017, domestic steel demand growth was marginally higher at 4.5 per cent in seven months of the current fiscal, compared to 4.4 per cent in four months of the fiscal, rating agency ICRA said in a report.

Domestic steel production growth, however, eased to 5.1 per cent in seven months of the financial year from 6.9 per cent in the first four months.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 1/12/2017 P.N.11

Cement & Steel Drag Down Growth in Core 8 Sectors to 4.7% in October



Cement output falls 2.7%; steel slows to 8.4% as compared to year-ago period

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Eight core sectors grew at a slower pace of 4.7 per cent in October, chiefly due to subdued performance of cement, steel and refinery segments.

The eight infrastructure sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity — had clocked a growth of 7.1 per cent in October last year.

Meanwhile, the industry ministry has revised downwards September growth print of these eight sectors to 4.7 per cent from the earlier estimate of 5.2 per cent.

Coal segment has shown improvement as it grew by 3.9%

Official data released this evening showed that cement production contracted by 2.7 per cent as against an expansion of 6.2 per cent in October 2016. Output growth in the steel segment too slowed to 8.4 per cent in the last month compared to 17.4 per cent in the year-ago period.

Similarly, there was slowdown in refinery output, whose growth was 7.5 per cent in October this year. This compares with 12.6 per cent expansion in the same month last year.

Electricity generation, too, was slower on an annual basis.

Meanwhile, the coal segment has shown significant improvement as it expanded by 3.90 per cent. It witnessed a decline of 1.9 per cent in the year-ago period.

The fertiliser sector grew by 3 per cent as against 0.7 per cent last year. Crude oil production and natural gas output have shown improvement, too.

Cumulatively, the growth in the eight core sectors slowed down to 3.5 per cent as against 5.6 per cent in the comparable period of the last fiscal. The eight core industries constitute 40.27 per cent of weight of items in the index of industrial production (IIP).

THE HINDU DATE: 1/12/2017 P.N.13

Cement, steel, refinery drag down core sector growth to 4.7% in Oct.

Industry Ministry revises downwards Sept. growth to 4.7% from 5.2% earlier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Eight core sectors grew at a slower pace of 4.7% in October, chiefly due to subdued performance of cement, steel and refinery segments.

The eight infrastructure sectors – coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity – had clocked a growth of 7.1% in October last year.

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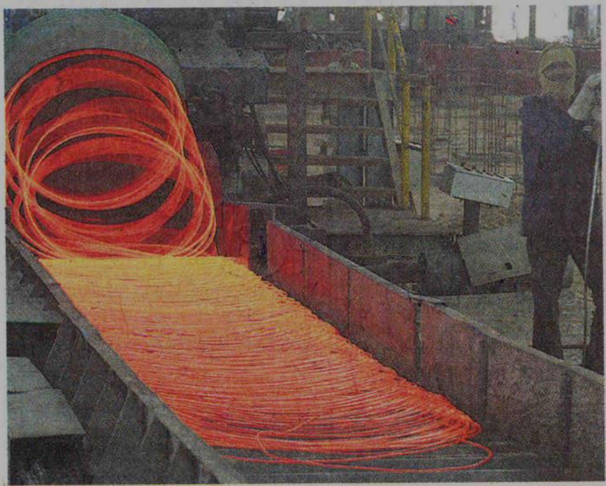


Losing steam: The eight core sectors had clocked a growth of 7.1% in October last year. • REUTERS

Output growth in the steel segment too slowed to 8.4% in the last month compared with 17.4% in the year-earlier period. Similarly, there was slowdown in refinery output, whose growth was 7.5% in October this year. This compared with 12.6% expansion in the same month last year. Electricity generation, too, was slower on an annual basis.

Coal improves

Meanwhile, coal segment has shown significant improvement as it expanded by 3.9%. It had witnessed a decline of 1.9% in the year-earlier period.

The fertiliser sector grew by 3% as against 0.7% last year.

Crude oil production and natural gas output have shown improvement, too.

Cumulatively, the growth in the eight core sectors slowed down to 3.5% as against 5.6% in the comparable period of the last fiscal.

The eight core industries constitute 40.27% of weight of items in the index of industrial production (IIP).

Suresh Prabhu Bats for Institutional Mechanism to Boost Jewellery Exports

BEST EFFORTS Commerce minister also in favour of industry setting up a gold board

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Commerce and industry minister Suresh Prabhu on Friday made a strong point for setting up an institutional mechanism to drive up jewellery exports.

Exports of gems and jewellery declined 24.5% to $3.3 billion in October from 4.38 billion in the year-ago period.

Addressing a summit on gold here, Prabhu suggested that efforts should be made to bring in the best global designer in the jewellery sector to compete in the international market.

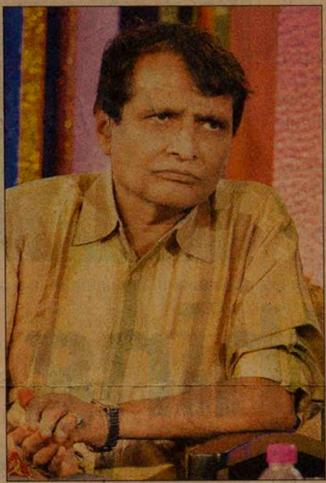
"With the organised support that the industry as well as the government can provide, we can create an institutionalised mechanism that is necessary to increase exports of the gold jewellery," the minister added..

> Exports of gems and jewellery declined 24.5% to $3.3 billion in October from 4.38 billion in the year-ago period

The commerce minister also favoured a suggestion of the industry to set up 'gold board', which "could be looked into".

India's annual export of gold and gold ornaments is only about $7 billion.

Later in the day, while interacting with reporters on the sidelines of a retail summit, Prabhu said his ministry is in the process of drawing up policies for growth of different sectors of the economy.



"Aggregation of all these economic activities of different sectors will amount to increase in GDP over a period of time," he said.

The minister is "very bullish" that in the next three years, "you would see India GDP numbers even far better than what they are today".

Arresting five quarters of deceleration in GDP growth, Indian economy bounced back from a three-year low to expand 6.3% in July-September as manufacturing revved up and businesses adjusted to the new GST tax regime.

The growth had slipped to a three-year low of 5.7% in the first quarter of the financial year.

THE TELEGRAPH DATE: 2/12/2017 P.N.10

Bait to attract mine bids

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: The government has relaxed the auction rules to attract more bidders for mines that will soon be put on the block.

"The amendment to the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 will give a fillip to the auction process," mines secretary Arun Kumar said on Friday.

According to an official statement, Maharashtra has confirmed that it will auction 15 mineral blocks while Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Telangana are expected to auction three blocks each. Odisha and Rajasthan will auction five blocks each.

The mines to be auctioned contain limestone, bauxite, copper, manganese and iron ore.

The amendments relate to the requirement of technically qualified bidders for the auction, end use conditions and net worth requirement.

According to the extant rules, for an average annual production of up to Rs 2 crore, the net worth required was Rs 4 crore. This has now been reduced to Rs 50 lakh. For annual production up to Rs 20 crore the net worth required was Rs 40 crore which has now been cut to Rs 10 crore.

For small bidders, the value of unencumbered immovable property can now be considered for net worth calculation, thus allowing larger participation.

According to Kumar, states earlier used to prescribe the end use conditions for miners and they were rigid. This resulted in inefficient mining as many mines with low grade ore dumps were saddled with this burden as they could neither be used for captive purpose nor could be disposed of.

In the amended rules, such miners will be able to dispose of 25 per cent of such dumps, which are not used for captive purposes. This will help move towards zero waste mining and utilisation of low-grade minerals.

Another significant change relates to the number of bidders. Under the old rules, an auction was annulled if there were less than three bidders and this process would go on for at least three rounds. Only in the fourth round flexibility was allowed. Each round of auction carries on for at least three months and this resulted in many blocks getting annulled time and again.

While the requirement of three bidders is still stipulated for the first attempt to auction, in the amended rules states have the flexibility to allocate the block in the second round itself even if there are less than three bidders. This will make the auction process less cumbersome and will help states to auction mineral blocks quickly, Kumar said.

The government expects to mop up an additional revenue of Rs 75,000 crore through the auction of 34 mineral blocks this financial year.

RULES RELAXED

The changes:

- Net worth requirement for annual production lowered
- Easy end-use conditions to ensure zero waste mining and utilisation of low-grade minerals
- Flexibility in number of technically qualified bidders required

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 2/12/2017 P.N.11

Govt to Auction 34 Mineral Blocks This Fiscal, Eyes ₹75kcr Revenues

MINING MATTERS Over 70 mineral blocks are likely to be auctioned in the next fiscal

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The government plans to auction 34 mineral blocks in the current fiscal after having eased the auction rules, and targets to mop up about ₹75,000 crore in revenues, mines secretary Arun Kumar has said.

Over 70 mineral blocks are likely to be auctioned in the next fiscal to garner about ₹1,25,000 crore, Kumar told reporters on Friday.

"We had rounds of discussions and we have brought out the amendments in auction rules which we feel will go a long way in smoothening the process," he said.

The changes in the auction rules made on Thursday will result in reduction in failures and quicker disposal of the mineral assets, Kumar said.

Under the old rules, the process of auction was annulled if there were less than three bidders and this process used to be carried out for three rounds at least, and only in the fourth round flexibility was permitted. Each round of auction was carried on for three months at least, which resulted in many blocks getting annulled time and again.

While a minimum of three bidders is still stipulated in first attempt to auction, in the amended rules now the states have the flexibility of allocating the block in

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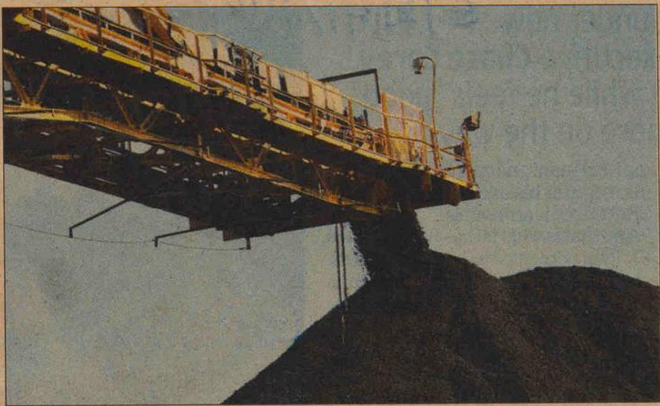


the second round itself even if there are less than three bidders.

Net worth requirement for bidders have also been relaxed.

Now a company with net worth of ₹50 lakh can bid for a mineral block with average annual production of up to ₹2 crore. Earlier the net worth required to bid for such a block was ₹4 crore. For an average annual production up to ₹20 crore, the net worth required has been brought down to ₹10 crore, from ₹40 crore earlier.

So far 33 mineral blocks have been bid out, Kumar said, adding that the revenue to the states over the lease period from the auctioned mines is estimated at ₹1, 28,000 crore. "In this fiscal, so far 12 mineral blocks have been auctioned, which brought a revenue of ₹48,000 crore over a lease period of 50 years," he said.

Earlier, the state used to prescribe end use conditions on miners and it was very rigid. This amounted to inefficient mining as many mines with low grade ore dumps were saddled with this burden as they could neither use it for captive purpose, nor could dispose of it.

In the amended rules, such miners will be able to dispose of 25% of dumps that are not used for captive purposes.

THE HINDU DATE: 2/12/2017 P.N.15

Govt. eases mine auction rules

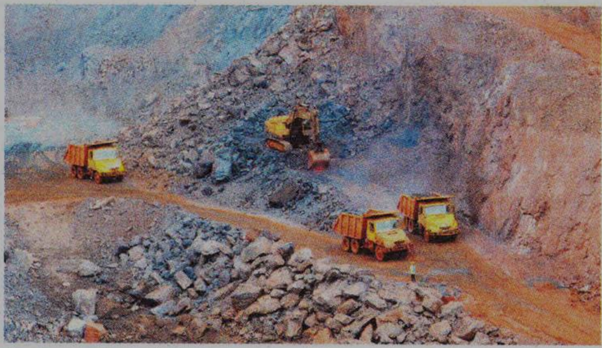
'Amendments aimed at making process more pragmatic, spur bidding interest'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

More than two years after it introduced auctions as a means to allot mining rights for major minerals, the Centre on Thursday significantly eased the auction rules in a bid to rekindle investor interest in a process that has been marred by failed auctions.

While 33 blocks of minerals have been successfully auctioned since May 2015, when the mineral auction rules were introduced, as many as 60 auctions have flopped for lack of interest. The development assumes significance as the Centre is looking to auction more than 100 blocks over the next 15 months with a potential value of about ₹2 lakh crore.

"We have been monitoring the process closely with State governments and there was a consensus that the rules needed to be eased to make the process more pragmatic for bidders without sacrificing the requisite checks on successful bidders," Union Mines Secretary Arun Kumar said at a briefing to explain the amendments notified on November 30.



Easing end use: Miners can now dispose of 25% of unused low-grade ore, removing a major concern for bidders.

States can now allocate blocks even if there are less than three bidders in the fray during the second round of auction, as opposed to the existing rule that requires the process to be annulled if there are less than three bidders in the first three rounds.

Net worth norms

In a bid to expand the pool of prospective bidders, net worth requirements have also been relaxed. For an average annual output of up to ₹2 crore, bidders now need a net worth of just ₹0.5 crore. Similarly, for an average annual output of up to ₹20 crore, the net worth norm has been slashed from ₹40 crore to ₹10 crore.

Rigid end-use conditions on minerals excavated from a block, have been done away with. Miners can now dispose of 25% of unused low-grade ore.

The Centre aims to spur increased interest in the upcoming auctions – 34 mineral blocks are in the pipeline for the rest of 2017-18. The new norms also have a clause to discourage miners from 'squatting' on mine leases. "We have now decided that if you have the letter of intent for a mine, be ready to mine within three years," Mr. Kumar said.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 2/12/2017 P.N.3

Post GST, demand for steel yet to recover

SURESH P IYENGAR
Mumbai, December 1

Steel demand in the country is still reeling under the impact of GST, and subsequent slowdown caused in steel-consuming manufacturing sectors.

The current trend is contrary to the expectations that demand will pick up from the December quarter with the revival in rural demand on the back of good monsoon, and Central government employees getting their Seventh Pay Commission arrears.

Traditionally, the steel demand is robust in the second half of the fiscal as the industry starts implementing its capex post-monsoon season. The slowdown in demand comes even as the government is hard-selling some of the stressed steel assets to recover accumulated bad loan of over ₹2-lakh crore.

Seshagiri Rao, Joint Managing Director, JSW Steel, said that contrary to expectations steel demand still remains weak as liquidity in the economy has dried up after the implementation of the GST. Some of the banks, which are bogged down by steel companies' loan defaults have turned cautious and trimmed their exposure to the sector.

Seshagiri Rao, Joint Managing Director, JSW Steel

"Based on our long-term relation, we had arrangements with some banks whereby they lend money to our dealers to the extent of goods they buy from us. Despite good track record of these dealers they are not getting loan from banks," said Rao.

Large corporates are avoiding services of SMEs with no GST registration as the clause makes buyers responsible for the tax of non-GST registered sellers.

Though the tax payable by non-GST registered service provider is pass-through, it increases responsibility of large companies taking their service.

With the domestic demand slowing down, steel companies are relying on exports to off-load their production. Delay in refund of domestic taxes under the duty drawback schemes has also hit steel companies hard.

Last month, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the government will clear all the tax refunds on exports by October 18. Some of the exporting steel companies have not received refund since July, said sources in the trade.

If the delay in refund of taxes on exports is not plugged, it will soon shut even the export option for steel companies as the cost of production in India is much higher compared to the competing countries, said an analyst.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 2/12/2017 P.N.4

Govt 'aims to auction 34 more mineral blocks this fiscal year'

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, December 1

The Ministry of Mines is expecting that States will put 34 more mineral blocks for auction in the current fiscal.

Speaking to reporters, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Arun Kumar, said, "We expect additional revenue from these mines over lease periods to be ₹75,000 crore during the balance period of the current year."

"Twelve mineral blocks have been auctioned in the current financial year till now. They will yield a revenue of ₹48,000 crore in the financial year," he added.

According an official statement, Maharashtra has confirmed that it will auction 15 mineral blocks while Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Telangana are expected to auction three blocks each. Odisha and Rajasthan too will auction five blocks each.

The Ministry of Mines also notified the changes to the Mineral Auction Rules on November 30. Commenting on the same, Kumar said that this is being done to encourage mineral production in the country.

An official statement said, "Earlier the state used to prescribe end use conditions on miners and it was very rigid. This resulted in inefficient mining as many mines with low grade ore dumps were saddled with this burden as they (miners) could neither use it for captive purpose nor could dispose it of."

In the amended rules, such miners will be able to dispose of 25 per cent of such dumps, which are not used for captive purposes. This will help progress towards zero waste mining and utilisation of minerals even in low-grade ore, the statement added.

Kumar said that this will be applicable for all mines auctioned after November 30.

The amended rules also allow States to continue the auction of mineral blocks if there are less than 3 bidders competing from the second round. Earlier, this flexibility was allowed from the fourth round. This will make the auction process less cumbersome and will help States auction mineral blocks quickly, the statement added.

THE HINDU DATE: 2/12/2017 P.N.15

Ministry seeks review of gold import duty

Jewellery sector had sought cut in levy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Rita Teaotia

Commerce Secretary Rita Teaotia made a case for reviewing gold import duty even as the gems and jewellery sector sought reduction in the import duty on the yellow metal to 4-5% from 10%, saying high levy encouraged smuggling.

"I think the real issue on why free trade agreements tend to be leveraged is the issue that we have been raising again and again and that is the [import] duty on gold," Ms. Teaotia said at an event here on Friday. "This is a matter that the Government of India is seized of," she said. "There are implications on both sides and I think we will have to work to come to some sort of balance on the duty issue. It certainly needs to be addressed because as long as there is arbitrage, there will be people who will try to game the system."

She also said that NITI Aayog had constituted an inter-ministerial panel to consider the components of the new gold policy for India.

THE HITAVADA (CITYLINE) DATE: 3/12/2017 P.N.10

Govt looks to auction 34 mineral blocks

■ **Business Bureau**

THE Government is looking to line up 34 mineral blocks for auction in the remainder of 2017-18 and up to 70 in 2018-19 as changes in bidding rules are expected to lead to wider participation and a smoothening of the process.

"We had rounds of discussions and have brought out the amendments in auction rules which we feel will go a long way in smoothening the process," Mines Secretary Arun Kumar said.

The Secretary expressed hope that the changes will translate into fewer failures and quicker disposal of assets.

"We have just got four months left in this year. Real benefits of these rules will happen in 2018-19. Around 60-70 blocks will go on auction (in the next fiscal). And I think they (the states) will garner at least Rs 1,25,000 crore. Going forward, we think of Rs 75,000 crore in these four

months," Kumar said.

So far, 33 mineral blocks have been bid out, he said, adding that revenue to the states over the lease period from the auctioned mines has been estimated at Rs 1,28,000 crore. "This fiscal, so far 12 mineral blocks have been auctioned, which brought a revenue of Rs 48,000 crore over a lease period of 50 years," he added.

Prior to the changed guidelines, the process of auction used to get scrapped if there were less than three bidders and this process was carried out for at least three rounds and flexibility was allowed only in the fourth round. Each round of auction went on for a minimum of three months, which saw many blocks getting annulled time and again.

While a minimum of three bidders is still required in the first attempt to auction, under the amended rules now, the states have the flexibility of allocating the block in the second round itself even if there are less than three bidders.

"This will make the auction process less cumbersome and will help states auction mineral blocks quickly," the Secretary reasoned. "The amended rules have also provided adjustment of the upfront premium to be adjusted against the due payments of miners at the earliest," he said.

Earlier, the states used to prescribe end-use conditions on miners that were very rigid. This amounted to inefficient mining.

Under the new rules, such miners will be able to dispose of 25 per cent of such dumps that are not used for captive purpose.

THE HITAVADA (CITYLINE) DATE: 4/12/2017 P.N.10

CIL Chief praises WCL's performance

■ **Business Bureau**

Gopal Singh, Chairman of CIL, Rajin R Mishra, CMD of WCL and other officials.

COAL India Limited (CIL) Chairman Gopal Singh praised the performance of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL). He was addressing the gathering at Umrer stadium in 'Meri Company, Mera Gaurav' programme on Sunday. He gave away the prizes to the outstanding officials and areas of the coal company. Singh inspected the Makardhokra Open Cast Mine and Aamb river diversion site of Umrer Area. He inaugurated the new Moorpar Underground Mine and crusher of Dinesh Opencast Mine through remote. CIL Chairman inaugurated open air theatre at Eco Park, Saoner.

Rajiv R. Mishra, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of WCL and Director (Personnel & IR) of CIL and Shekher Sharan, CMD of CMPDI, B K Mishra, Director Technical (Operations), Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director (Personnel), S M Choudhary, Director (Finanace), T N Jha, Director Technical (Projects & Planning) CVO Ashok Labhane were prominently present on the occasion.

In his speech Sri Gopal Singh praised WCL`s performance and said that work of WCL. is different from other subsidiaries of CIL. He gave it`s credit to CMD of WCL Rajiv R. Mishra.

He encouraged the employees of WCL to continue and maintain the new initiatives, for which other companies look at you.

In his welcome address, R R Mishra reiterated the commitment of the Team WCL to fulfill the expectations of the country. He assured that out of box work will be continued in the company.

M K Majumdar, Area General Manager of Umrer proposed the vote of thanks.

Priyesha Chaurasiya and Roohi Khan conducted the programme.

Team of Pathakhrea Area presented a skit on safety, Dheeraj and Jyoti presented songs and received applause from the general managers., HoDs and officials of the company present in large numbers.

LOTMAT DATE: 4/12/2017 P.N.7

'मायनिंग इंडस्ट्री व्हिजन २०३० ॲण्ड बीयॉन्ड'वर परिषद

एमईएआय नागपूर चॅप्टरचे आयोजन : तांत्रिक पेपर सादर होणार

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : मायनिंग इंजिनिअर्स असो. ऑफ इंडियाच्या (एमईएआय) नागपूर चॅप्टरच्या वतीने 'मायनिंग इंडस्ट्री व्हिजन २०३० ॲण्ड बीयॉन्ड' या विषयावर तीन दिवसीय आंतरराष्ट्रीय परिषद व प्रदर्शनाचे आयोजन ६ ते ८ डिसेंबर या कालावधीत वर्धा रोडवरील एका हॉटेलमध्ये होणार आहे. उद्‌घाटन केंद्र सरकारच्या खाण मंत्रालयाचे सचिव अरुण कुमार यांच्या हस्ते दुपारी ३.३० वाजता होणार असल्याची माहिती एमईएआय नागपूर चॅप्टरचे अध्यक्ष डी.के. सहानी यांनी रविवारी पत्रपरिषदेत दिली.

सहानी यांनी सांगितले की, खाण क्षेत्रासमोर अनेक समस्या आणि अडचणी आहेत. या क्षेत्राचा जीडीपीमध्ये २ टक्के वाटा आहे. तो वाढविण्याचे लक्ष्य आहे. विदेशात या क्षेत्राचा जीडीपीएमध्ये ६ ते ७ टक्के वाटा आहे. या शिवाय खनन व स्रोत, शाश्वत मायनिंग, अद्ययावत तंत्रज्ञान, फायद्यासाठी तंत्रज्ञानाचा अवलंब, मानवी क्षमता, कौशल्य विकास, विशेष धोरण, फर्टिनायझर खनिज आदींसह अनेक बाबींवर परिषदेत

पत्रपरिषदेत माहिती देताना डी.के. सहानी, बाजूला रंजन सहाय, दीपांकर सोम, एस.एम. बोथरा, एस.के. अधिकारी.

आयोजित विविध चर्चासत्रात वक्ते मार्गदर्शन करणार आहेत. याशिवाय देशविदेशातील तज्ज्ञ ३५ ते ४० तंत्रिक पेपर सादर करणार आहेत. विशेष पाच बाबींवर परिषदेत लक्ष केंद्रित करण्यात येणार आहे.

सहानी म्हणाले, या क्षेत्रात विकासाच्या भरपूर संधी आहेत. पर्यावरण हा मोठा मुद्दा आहे. त्यावर गांभीर्याने विचार केल्यास ही इंडस्ट्री अधिक फायदेशीर ठरू शकते. नवीन खाणींचा शोध घेता येईल. नवीन खनिज काढू शकतो काय, याकडे लक्ष देण्याची गरज आहे. विदेशी गुंतवणूक कशी येईल, यावर विचार करण्याची गरज आहे. यासाठी केंद्र सरकारने पुढाकार घेतला आहे.

या आंतरराष्ट्रीय परिषद आणि प्रदर्शनाने खाण क्षेत्रासाठी नवीन द्वारे खुली होतील, असा विश्वास आहे. परिषद आणि प्रदर्शनासाठी आयबीएम, जीएसआय, मॉयल, एमईसीएल आणि नीरीचे सहकार्य आहे.

पत्रपरिषदेत आयबीएमचे कंट्रोलर जनरल रंजन सहाय, मॉयलचे कार्यकारी संचालक (तांत्रिक) दीपांकर सोम, एस.एम. बोथरा, आयबीएमचे मुख्य मायनिंग जिऑलॉजिस्ट एस.के. अधिकारी उपस्थित होते.

THE HITAVADA (CITYLINE) DATE: 4/12/2017 P.N.4

CIL's supply grows by 9%

■ Business Bureau

STATE-owned CIL said its coal supply to power plants increased by 9.2 per cent to 290.59 million tonnes (MTs) in the first eight months of the current fiscal, driven by high loading of rakes.

"CIL's (Coal India) coal supplies to power utilities of the country posted a healthy 9.2 per cent growth at 290.59 MTs during April-November 2017 continuing the upward spiral," the world's largest coal miner said in a statement. This translates to a robust 24.59 MTs increase in absolute terms compared to 266 MT during April-November 2016, the public sector firm said.

The growth in coal supplies to thermal power stations last month was around 9 per cent higher at 40.92 MTs against 37.56 MTs supplied in November last year. "The increased supplies saw the coal stocks at power stations going up by over 2 MT to around 10 MT at the end of November 2017 compared to closing stock of 7.9 MT, October 2017," the statement said. The miner said it is gearing to to step up the supplies even further to pull the power stations out of the critical situation. Coal supplies to non-power sector is gradually increasing, with stabilisation of supplies to power stations, it added.

CIL registered 8.1 per cent growth in overall coal supplies for April-November period, maintaining the steady flow of the dry fuel to its customers with a staggering 27.69 MT increase in absolute terms compared to same period last year.

The PSU as a whole loaded 191.7 rakes per day to coal-based generating units of the country during April-November 2017 compared to 179.5 rakes same period last year.

The coal output during April-November period at 329.30 MT registered a growth of 1.8 per cent compared to 323.53 MT produced in the same period last year.

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Metals ($/tonne)						
Aluminium	2059	-2.8	-5.1	19.6	2188	1700
Copper	6809	-2.5	-1.3	17.6	7122	5426
Iron Ore	69	5.0	17.0	-13.2	95	54
Lead	2547	3.0	3.0	10.8	2585	1984
Zinc	3267	0.1	-1.8	20.4	3370	2087
Tin	19525	-0.2	-0.1	-8.4	21550	18750
Nickel	11230	-6.3	-12.0	0.7	12830	8710

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 4/12/2017 P.N.8

Gold stays range-bound amid volatility

But a cluster of supports maintain a bullish bias for a fresh rally in the yellow metal

GURUMURTHY K

Gold continues to remain range-bound and volatile within a range. The yellow metal began the week on a positive note and broke above $1,290 per ounce to record a high of $1,299 on Monday.

But a couple of strong economic data releases from the US took the sheen off from gold and dragged the prices sharply to a low of $1,270 by Thursday. Gold, however, managed to bounce from this low to close at $1,280 per ounce, down 0.6 per cent for the week.

Silver, for the second consecutive week, was beaten down much harder than gold. Unlike gold, the global spot silver traded weak all through the week. It made a high of $17.19 per ounce on Monday and tumbled from there. Silver made a low of $16.24 before closing at $16.44, down 3.6 per cent for the week.

On the domestic front, the gold and silver futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) was down for the second consecutive week. The MCX-Gold futures contract closed the week at ₹29,209 per 10 gm and was marginally down by 0.58 per cent.

But the MCX-Silver futures contract was knocked down badly in tandem with the global prices. The contract tumbled 4.2 per cent and closed at ₹37,582 per kg last week.

The US GDP and the Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) data were the major triggers last week that pulled gold price lower. The preliminary estimates showed that the US grew at 3.3 per cent in the third quarter. The growth numbers were revised higher from the initial advanced estimate of 3 per cent.

The strong growth number was the first trigger to reverse the gold prices lower from around $1,290 levels. It was followed by the Core PCE, a key determinant for the Federal Reserve to decide on the interest rates, that rose to 1.4 per cent. Both sets of data increased the speculation that the Fed could turn aggressive in hiking the interest rates. As a result, bullion prices reversed lower sharply. US jobs data release on Friday will be another key factor that could influence gold prices.

But interestingly, though the US data release pulled the gold price lower, it did not impact the dollar much and has failed to push the greenback higher. The dollar index tested 93.5 and has come off from there to close at 92.88, up 0.11 per cent for the week.

Dollar outlook

On the charts, the dollar index continues to remain weak. Inability to break above 93.5 last week indicates lack of fresh buying interest in the market for the dollar. Immediate support for the index is at 92.5. A break below it can take it lower to 92 or even 91.5 thereafter. Such a fall will signal that the overall downtrend that has been in place since the beginning of this year is intact.

It will also confirm the beginning of a fresh leg of downmove which is likely to target 90 from a medium-term perspective. A strong break below 91.5 will pave way for this medium-term fall.

Gold outlook

The global spot gold ($1,280 per ounce) is stuck inside the $1,270-$1,300 sideways range over the last three weeks. The bounce after testing $1,270 on Thursday signals that gold is likely to sustain above it in the coming days. Also, the cluster of supports between $1,265 and $1,260 can limit the downside in the yellow metal even if it breaks below $1,270 in the coming days.

As long as gold trades above $1,270, a rise to test $1,290 is likely. A break above $1,290 can take it further higher to $1,300. Inability to break above $1,300 can pull the prices lower and keep it range-bound between $1,270 and $1,300 for some more time. But if gold manages to breach $1,300, it can test the crucial resistance level of $1,310.

A strong break and a decisive close above $1,310 is needed for gold to gain fresh momentum. Such a break will increase the likelihood of gold targeting $1,350 or even higher levels over the medium term.

On the domestic front, the MCX-Gold (29,209 per 10 gm) has crucial supports at ₹29,000 and ₹28,800. Though a test of these supports in the near term cannot be ruled out, the outlook will turn negative only if the contract breaks below ₹28,800. As long as it sustains above ₹28,800, a bounce back move to ₹29,500 and ₹29,750 levels is possible again. A strong break above ₹29,750 will then pave the way for the next targets of ₹30,000 and ₹30,100.

Traders with high risk appetite can buy on dips at ₹29,050 and ₹28,850. Stop-loss can be placed at ₹28,700 for the target of ₹29,750. Revise the stop-loss higher to ₹29,150 as soon as the contract moves up to ₹29,350.

Silver outlook

The global spot silver ($16.44 per ounce) looks much weaker than gold. If it manages to bounce above $16.6 from current levels, the downside pressure will ease. A rise to $16.85 and $17.2 is possible in such a scenario. But, inability to break $16.60 from current levels can keep it under pressure for a fall to $16 or even $15.5 in the coming weeks.

MCX-Silver (₹37,582 per kg) has declined below the key support level of $38,000. The region between ₹38,000 and ₹38,500 may now act as a strong resistance for the contract. As long as the contract trades below ₹38,000, a fall to ₹37,000 or even lower levels cannot be ruled out in the coming days.

SERGEYP/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

THE TELEGRAPH DATE: 4/12/2017 P.N.10

Global deal to stop steel dumping

JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY

New Delhi: A deal struck by the G20 steel ministers in Berlin may mean better days for India's steel sector that has been at the centre of the country's massive bad loan problem, disrupting both the banking sector as well as industrial recovery.

The G20 deal by a body, called the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity, has promised countries will phase out subsidies and cut over-capacity, a move aimed at China which is found to be guilty on both counts. The move could also help to curb dumping by Korea and Japan.

The deal negotiated in the eleventh hour despite a row between the US, the largest importer of steel, and China, the biggest exporter, on Saturday will be presented at the WTO meet in Beunos Aires later this month.

However, Indian officials who were part of the conclave said the deal was more a statement of intent and fell short on actual deliverables as China resisted US pressure to take on more responsibility for market distorting trade.

However, the Europeans, who were leading the efforts to strike the deal seemed satisfied.

EU commissioner for trade Cecilia Malmstrom said, "The problem of excess capacity of steel has real effects on people's lives – especially those who became unemployed. Wide-ranging policy solutions will help create a level-playing field and support growth and jobs."

China and the US nevertheless remained at loggerheads with Beijing insisting it had done enough to manage the global overcapacity, while Washington threatened more counter-measures to protect itself from what it sees as unfairly traded steel.

The US has already come out with policies to encourage the use of local steel as well as anti-dumping measures.

G20 PACT TO BENEFIT INDIA

The G20 forum on steel in Berlin

What happened?

■ Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity — a G20 body — has signed a deal that commits countries to phase out subsidies and cut overcapacity

Were the negotiations smooth?

■ No. China and US were at loggerheads. Beijing said it had done enough to curb oversupply even as Washington demanded more measures

Where does India stand?

■ Dumping by China, Japan and Korea has hurt local steel makers. The bad loan problem in steel can be traced to dumping by the east Asian giants

"The only real positive takeaway other than the promised reduction in subsidy and over-capacity was that the forum agreed to meet at least thrice a year to review progress," Indian officials said.

As China's economy slows down, its demand for steel has been shrinking, producing huge over-capacity. This in turn has forced its steel makers to increasingly push sales to the rest of the world, often at below realistic prices, allege critics.

The World Steel Association has said China's demand dropped 3.5 per cent in 2015 and will shrink another 7 per cent over two years – 2016 and 2017 – taking it to about 626 million tonnes (mt). China, which has the capacity to make about 803mt, plans to cut as much as 150mt capacity over five years as part of its supply-side reforms.

However the Chinese complain they cannot be solely held responsible for the global problem and other countries will have to chip in.

Assistant Chinese commerce minister Li Chenggang warned against a situation where his country made "painful efforts" to reduce capacity "while the rest of the world just watches".

India's steel industry has been hit by low demand and dumping by foreign rivals. Several steel companies figure prominently in the RBI's list of top loan defaulters, including Monnet Ispat, Bhushan and Essar Steel. The three alone account for over Rs 1 lakh crore in bad debt. Even blue chip steel maker SAIL reported a loss of Rs 539 crore in the second quarter of this year despite a 21 per cent rise in sales.

As a result, India has been trying to create a duty wall to protect its local mills against dumping by China and other east Asian and east European countries who have resorted to cheap pricing.

The government has tried to help distressed steel firms by raising the import duty and slapping additional safeguard duties, but the fact remains bad loans in steel account for as much as Rs 3 lakh crore. In terms of loans owed to banks, the industry saw the highest slippages at 7.8 per cent followed by textiles.

All this has resulted in India getting involved in trade spats with the east Asian giants over import levies and restrictions. Japan has also threatened to take India to the WTO over restrictions that nearly halved its steel exports to this country over the past year.

India had earlier extended safeguard duties of 20 per cent on a range of products for another two years to protect domestic steel makers from imports from China, Japan and Korea.

THE HITAVADA (CITYLINE) DATE: 5 /12/2017 P.N.10

International mining meet, expo on 6th

Business Bureau

THE international conference on 'Mining Industry Vision 2030 and Beyond' will be organised on December 6. Arun Kumar, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Mines will inaugurate the three-days conference and expo at Radisson Blu Hotel at 3.30 pm. This was announced by Ranjan Sahai, Controller General of IBM while talking at a press conference. He said the conference and expo is being organised by The Mining Engineer's Association of India (MEAI), Nagpur Chapter in association with IBM, MOIL, MECL and NEERI.

He said that the objective of the three-days conference is to deliberate on the best practices, pursue the ongoing discussion process to support work of country's mining sector and facilitate arriving at logically connected framework, thus paving the way for Indian mining sector to create the favourable conditions for attainment of goal through enhanced collaborations. The conference is aimed to highlight the developments taken place in the domestic mining sector in recent past and the future plans. During the conference the stakeholders from mining industry, policymakers, though leaders and academia will brainstorm on the policies to exploit the domestic mining sector, in the backdrop of post MMDR Amendment Act 2015.

Sahai said that the conference will be focused on issues related to exploitation and resource assessment, human capacity and skill development keeping in view, the big push being given by the Government of India and self sufficiency, especially in strategic, critical and fertiliser minerals. The conference will help in gaining insight on the key thrust areas of domestic mining industry, provide a raodmap to present and future outlook relating to mining sector, help discussing new developments and advancements in the mining sector and act as a platform to interact with mining engineers, geologists, economist, technocrats and industry leaders.

The conference includes sessions on: Overview of mineral exploration; Mineral resource estimation and classification; New technologies for exploration of minerals; Scope for development of indigenous technology and role of mineral exploration for resource augmentation and Improving contribution of mining sector to GDP. Students, currently pursuing courses in mining engineering and geology from across the country are invited to participate in the conference to tap young talent for providing innovative ideas and solutions. A parallel session is proposed to be organised for them, he added.

Several eminent speakers will present their keynote addresses in the plenary session. The valedictory session of the conference will be held on December 8. About 35 to 40 technical papers on various seminar themes will be deliberated by various authors coming from all over the country and abroad. M P Choudhary, CMD of MOIL Ltd, Dr Gopal Dhawan, CMD of MECL and D K Sahni, Chairman of MEAI, Nagpur Chapter are the chief patrons of the Organising Committee for the conference. S M Bothra and H R Kalihari are the conveners for the conference and S K Adhikari, Chief Mining Geologist of IBM is the Organising Secretary.

THE HITAVADA (CITYLINE) DATE: 5 /12/2017 P.N.10

'Cement demand to witness modest growth in next fiscal'

■ Business Bureau

DOMESTIC cement demand is expected to register a modest growth of one per cent in 2017-18 fiscal driven by pick-up in affordable and rural housing and road and irrigation projects, rating agency Icra said.

As per the agency, the cement offtake has continued to remain weak in April-September and also in October due to factors such as weak real estate activity, sand shortage and GST implementation issues.

While the demand growth is likely to be driven by a pick-up in the housing and infrastructure segment, new project announcements from the private sector continue to remain weak.

"Going forward, the demand growth is likely to be driven by a pick-up in the housing segment – primarily affordable and rural housing - and infrastructure segment, mostly road and irrigation projects," ICRA Ratings Senior VP and Group Head, Sabyasachi Majumdar said.

Majumdar further said revival of public-private partnership is crucial to improve the pace of infrastructure development.

Domestic cement demand is expected to register a modest growth of one per cent in the current fiscal on the back of a rebound in cement demand from the fourth quarter of 2017-18 as against the earlier expectation of the third quarter, Icra said.

NAVBHARAT(MAHANAGAR) DATE: 5 /12/2017 P.N.7

माइनिंग सेक्टर का GDP में 2 प्रश का योगदान

'माइनिंग इंडस्ट्रीज विजन 2030 एंड बियांड' पर इंटरनेशनल कांफ्रेंस

व्यापार संवाददाता

नागपुर. माइनिंग इंजीनियर्स एसोसिएशन आफ इंडिया (एमईएआई) की स्थानीय शाखा द्वारा 'माइनिंग इंडस्ट्रीज विजन 2030 एंड बियांड' विषय पर 3 दिवसीय इंटरनेशनल कांफ्रेंस व एक्सपो का आयोजन 6 से 8 दिसंबर को वर्धा रोड स्थित होटल रेडिसन ब्लू में किया जायेगा. उद्घाटन केंद्र सरकार के खान मंत्रालय के सचिव अरुण कुमार द्वारा दोपहर 3.30 बजे होगा. यह जानकारी एमईएआई, नागपुर शाखा के अध्यक्ष डी.के. सहानी ने दी. उन्होंने बताया कि कांफ्रेंस में अनेक विषयों पर फोकस किया जायेगा. आज माइनिंग सेक्टर के सामने अनेक समस्याएं और अड़चनें हैं. इस क्षेत्र में जीडीपी का 2 प्रश का योगदान है. इसे बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य है. विदेश में इस क्षेत्र का जीडीपी में 6 से 7 प्रश योगदान है. उन्होंने बताया कि कांफ्रेंस में खनन व स्रोत, शाश्वत माइनिंग, अद्यतन तकनीकी ज्ञान, मानवी क्षमता, कौशल विकास, विशेष नीति सहित अन्य विषयों पर वक्ताओं द्वारा मार्गदर्शन किया जायेगा. इसके अलावा देश-विदेश के विशेषज्ञ 35 से 40 टेक्निकल पेपर्स पेश करेंगे. सहानी ने कहा कि इस क्षेत्र में विकास के बहुत से अवसर हैं. पर्यावरण बड़ा मुद्दा है. इस पर गंभीरता से विचार करने से यह इंडस्ट्री और अधिक लाभदायक सिद्ध हो सकती है. नये माइनिंग की खोज की जा सकेगी. नये खनिज निकालने की तरफ ध्यान देने की जरूरत है. विदेशी निवेश पर भी विचार होना चाहिए. इसके लिए केंद्र सरकार ने कदम बढ़ाये हैं. इस कांफ्रेंस और एक्स्पो से माइनिंग क्षेत्र के लिए नये द्वार खुलेंगे. कार्यक्रम में आईबीएम, जीएसआई, मॉयल, एमईसीएल और नीरी द्वारा सहकार्य किया जा रहा है. इस अवसर पर आईबीएम के कंट्रोलर जनरल रंजन सहाय, मायल के कार्यकारी संचालक (तकनीकी) दीपांकर क्षोम, एस.एम. बोथरा, आईबीएम के मुख्य माइनिंग जिओलाजिस्ट एस.के. अधिकारी सहित अन्य उपस्थित थे.

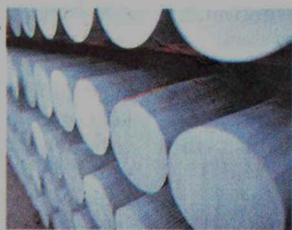
BUSINESS LINE DATE: 5 /12/2017 P.N.15

MCX Aluminium faces key resistance ahead

GURUMURTHY K

BL Research Bureau

The Aluminium futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) fell sharply, as expected in the past week, breaking below the key 100-day moving average support level of ₹133 per kg. The contract hit a low of ₹130.4 on Thursday but bounced back from there. It is currently trading at ₹133.35/kg.



Immediate support is at ₹132. If the contract manages to sustain above this support, a rise to test the resistances at ₹135.5 or ₹136 — the 21-day moving average — is possible in the coming days.

The downside pressure will ease only if the contract breaks above ₹136 decisively. Such a break can take the contract higher to ₹138 or ₹138.5 initially. Further break above ₹138.5 can boost the momentum. In that scenario, the possibility of the contract rallying to ₹142 and ₹143 levels will increase.

On the other hand, if the contract fails to break above the ₹135.5-136 resistance region and reverses lower, it can come under pressure again. This will reiterate the downtrend since November. In that case, the contract can fall to ₹131 and ₹130 again.

Traders with a high-risk appetite can go short on a reversal from ₹136. Stop-loss can be placed at ₹138 for a target of ₹132. Revise the stop-loss lower to ₹135 as soon as the contract moves down to ₹134.

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

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE:6 /12/2017 P.N.18

'माइनिंग इंडस्ट्री विजन-2030 एंड बियॉन्ड' पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी का आयोजन आज से

व्यापार प्रतिनिधि| नागपुर

'माइनिंग इंडस्ट्री विजन-2030 एंड बियॉन्ड' विषय पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी का आयोजन 6 दिसंबर से वर्धा रोड स्थित होटल रेडिसन ब्लू में किया जाएगा। माइनिंग इंजीनियर्स एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया के नागपुर चैप्टर द्वारा आईबीएम, जीएसआई, मॉयल, एमईसीएल और नीरी के साथ मिलकर इस संगोष्ठी और एक्सपो का आयोजन किया गया है। संगोष्ठी और एक्सपो का उद्घाटन बुधवार, 6 दिसंबर को दोपहर 3.30 बजे माइन्स मिनिस्ट्री के सचिव अरुण कुमार के हाथों होगा। इस दौरान कुछ नामी वक्ता अपने विचार व्यक्त करेंगे। तीन दिवसीय संगोष्ठी और एक्सपो 8 दिसंबर तक चलेगी। संगोष्ठी के माध्यम से डोमेस्टिक माइनिंग सेक्टर में किए गए विकास और भविष्य के लिए योजनाएं तैयार की जाएंगी। इस दौरान माइनिंग इंडस्ट्री के हितधारक, नीति निर्माता, विचारक नेता और शिक्षा जगत डोमेस्टिक माइनिंग सेक्टर को गति देने के लिए एमएमडीआर एमेनमेंट एक्ट 2015 के तहत नीतियों पर मंथन करेंगे। 8 दिसंबर को संगोष्ठी का समापन होगा। इसमें आईबीएम के कंट्रोलर जनरल रंजन सहाय, चेयरमैन कम मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर मॉयल लि. एम.पी. चौधरी, एमईसीएल के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर गोपाल धवन और एमईएआई नागपुर चैप्टर के चेयरमैन डी.के.साहनी आयोजन समिति के मुख्य संरक्षक है। एस.एम.बोथरा और एच.आर. कलीहारी संगोष्ठी के संयोजक हैं।

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

Dalmia Bharat Inks Pact With Piramal Bain to Bid for Binani Cement

Baiju Kalesh & Sneha Shah

Mumbai: Dalmia Bharat Cement, India's second-oldest manufacturer of the primary building material, has entered into an agreement with the Piramal Bain Resurgence Fund to bid for debt-laden Binani Cement, two people with the direct knowledge of the plan told **ET**.

Piramal Bain Resurgence Fund, the corpus dedicated to stressed assets, and Dalmia Bharat will likely bid for Binani's 6.25 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) plants in Rajasthan, with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) seeking to resolve the debt issue at Binani.

Piramal Bain Resurgence fund, floated by billionaire Ajay Piramal and American private equity fund Bain Capital Credit, and New Delhi-based Dalmia Bharat entered into the agreement last week.

Dalmia Bharat, which has formidable cement capacity in the eastern and southern parts of the country, is looking to replicate its success in lime-stone deficient northern India, where Rajasthan is the primary source of supplies to rich agrarian states of Punjab and Haryana, and the more affluent neighbourhoods of western Uttar Pradesh.

"The purchase of the Rajasthan unit can cater to the entire northern and western markets," said one of the two persons cited above.

Binani Cement has debt of about ₹3,400 crore and lenders are seeking an enterprise value of about ₹6,000 crore.

Both cos likely to bid for Binani's 6.25 mtpa plants in Rajasthan, with NCLT seeking to resolve debt issue at Binani

Piramal Enterprises, Dalmia Bharat, and Binani Cement declined to comment either on the arrangement or the likelihood of bids.

Lenders dragged Binani to the insolvency court after it failed to repay its dues for the past few years. The company, a profitable one until a few years ago, was hit by ₹700 crore royalty penalty from the Rajasthan government on its limestone mines in the state.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 6 /12/2017 P.N.4

Steel-makers want cap on iron ore production raised

Call for adequate availability of raw materials at reasonable prices

THOMAS P ABRAHAM

Bengaluru, December 5

With the busy season on for steelmakers, stocks of steel companies are back in focus.

Take, for instance, public sector behemoth Steel Authority of India, which is attracting analysts' attention (with a medium-term perspective) though it made losses in the September quarter.

Clearly, analysts are seeing good times ahead and therefore, have upped their price targets on the stock.

This however, calls for adequate availability of raw materials – iron-ore in this case – at reasonable prices. Not just in the short run but also in the long run, the domestic steel sector needs an assured supply chain ecosystem of iron ore.

Feeling the pinch

This is where miners from Karnataka are feeling the pinch.

They are bogged down by the cap imposed by the Supreme Court and an environment where players like JSW Steel (with the biggest steel mill in a single location) in Karnataka planning to utilise its full capacity, but not able to do so because of unsure supply of iron ore.

"The cap on production was imposed in 2011 by the Supreme Court. Imposing it at that point in time was right since it was a war-like situation. But six years have passed since then. India is growing. It needs steel. And Karnataka can contribute. But the State has been reduced to a position of importing iron ore from South Africa, which is a hugely carbon negative exercise. There have been huge job losses in Karnataka due to this development," explained Basant Poddar, Mentor, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) and MD, Mineral Enterprises Ltd.

"We are constantly knocking on the doors of the SC," he added.

Eco norms

Experts believe that after the Supreme Court ban and monitoring, companies are now complying with the environmental norms.

It is understandable that the committee appointed by the apex court is apprehensive, but the cap needs to be raised, they argue. And in the last six years since the ban, a lot of work has been done to comply with the environmental norms.

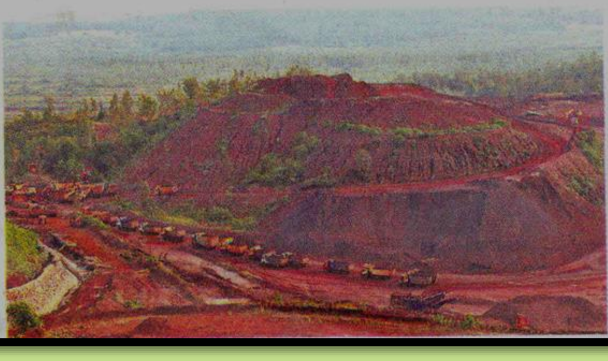
A top official of a global miner who wished to remain anonymous said: "The government has come up with transparent policies and using the best technology to keep track of the mining industry. Thrust must be given to the iron-ore sector to meet the steel vision of India to produce 300 million tonnes (as enunciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi) that will generate more revenue and create more employment."

The steel industry is a vital cog in the India growth story as it has one of the highest economic linkages to overall GDP. Steel has an output-multiplier effect of around 1.4 times on GDP. Thus, if the steel industry grows by 1 per cent, its proportionate impact on GDP would be 1.4 per cent.

The decision on removing, enhancing or maintaining status quo on iron ore production is pending with the SC, the outcome of which will have a bearing on the fortunes of steel mills in Karnataka and some of the neighbouring States too.

"We have asked for only 10 per cent increase from the current production levels, that is, to 33 million tonnes from 30 million tonnes now. Even the Central Empowered Committee set up by the SC has recommended moving it up to 35 million tonnes from 30 million tonnes," Poddar pointed out.

"That's not all. There is a fund of about ₹13,000 crore lying with the Monitoring Committee, which is supposed to be used for mitigation of environmental damages. But not a single paisa has been spent yet," said Poddar.



THE HITAVADA (CITYLINE) DATE: 7 /12/2017 P.N.10

Minerals should be provided at low cost: Sahni

■ Business Bureau

INDIAN economy is expanding at a fast pace and to meet the increasing demand of industry like power, steel, coal, railways etc., there will be huge pressure to increase the production of minerals which is the raw material. For this, a conducive environment should be created for operators and mining engineers who have the responsibility to augment production.

"Also, the Indian mining industry needs to stand up to global competition by providing quality and reducing costs," said D K Sahni, Chairman Mining Engineer's Association of India (MEAI), Nagpur Chapter while talking at the international conference and expo on 'Mining Industry Vision 2030 and Beyond.' It was organised by the MEAI, Nagpur Chapter in coordination with IBM, Geological Survey of India, MOIL, MECL and NEERI on Wednesday.

He said that the conference aims to highlight the developments taking place in the domestic mining industry an action plan for future. All stakeholders and engineers will have to brainstorm on the policies to exploit the domestic mining sector in the backdrop of post amendment of MMDR Act 2015.

Arun Kothari, President of MEAI said that the association which was established in 1957, has 5,500 members and 25 chapters across the country. MEAI organises more than 100 seminars, workshops, symposiums, training programmes in a year. For the development of mining industry, a legal and inclusive policy is required to lift social standards. Single window clearance and international reporting standards should also be introduced. Goods and Services Tax (GST) should be fixed at lower slab for minerals, he suggested. "The mining sector is underdeveloped and has huge potential to provide revenue and generate employment," he added.

Dr Gopal Dhawan, former CMD of MECL said that since two-and-half year, a vast transformation in mining industry is taking place with the amendments in the MMDR Act 2015. Spending needs to be increased on mining. He gave an example of the Karnataka Government receiving Rs 37,000 crore by auctioning seven mining blocks.

Rajan Sahai, Controller General of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) said that all the work in mining should be done through computers. "At IBM, we are following the Prime Minister's vision of 'Digital India' and conducting all work through computers," he said.

M P Choudhary, Chairman and Managing Director of MOIL said, it is estimated that steel production will increase to 300 MT by 2030 compared to 100 MT in 2017. A three fold jump in steel production will put pressure on mining industry.

In order to increase production, the mining industry will have to mine in scientific and sustainable manner to achieve its goal.

THE HINDU DATE: 7 /12/2017 P.N.14

NMDC to add tungsten mines

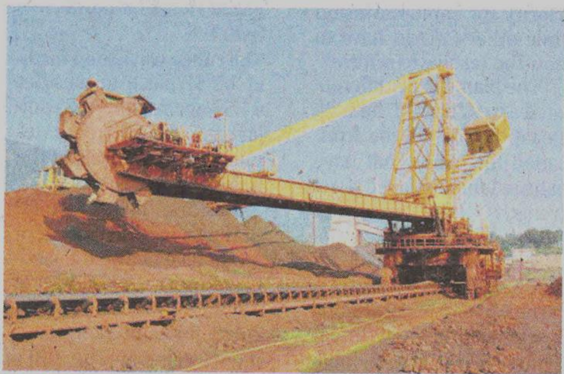
Plans alliance in Vietnam; aims to double iron ore mining capacity by 2022

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

From doubling iron ore output in five years, to seeking more diamond mines in Madhya Pradesh and planning a strategic foray in Vietnam for tungsten mines, NMDC Ltd. is pursuing a multipronged growth strategy.

Addressing reporters at the company headquarters in Hyderabad, on the upcoming diamond jubilee celebrations, chairman-cum-managing director N. Baijendra Kumar said the company plans to raise its iron ore mining capacity to 67 million tonnes (mt) by 2022. It produced 34 mt in 2016-17.

On the outlook for the current fiscal year, he said despite severe climatic problems and issues of logistics and infrastructure, the company was "doing well" and expected to outdo the FY17 production. NMDC, which last fiscal had a capital expenditure of ₹3,196 crore, planned to incur a capex of ₹3,500 crore in 2017-18. The company had reserves of about ₹5,600 crore and did not foresee any need for borrowings.



No shortage: NMDC as reserves of ₹5,600 crore and does not foresee any need for borrowings, says CMD Baijendra Kumar.

He said the company was also setting up a 3 MTPA steel plant in Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh. With regard to diamond mining, he said the company was keen on expanding its presence in Panna, Madhya Pradesh.

'Use in defence'

To queries on acquisition of a minority stake in a tungsten mine in Vietnam, Mr. Kumar said NMDC was likely to sign an MoU next month with Masan Resources, a leading natural resources firm in the southeast Asian country. Underscoring the significance of tungsten in defence applications, he said details regarding the investment were yet to be finalised.

NMDC had in October signed an agreement with Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd. (Midhani) for tungsten ore mining and processing. India's tungsten requirement is 250-300 tonnes, he said.

THE HITAVADA(CITYLINE) DATE: 7/12/2017 P.N.10

'Mining auction has increased revenue of Govt'

(Left pic) D K Sahni, Chairman of MEAI, Nagpur Chapter, Arun Kothari, President of MEAI, M P Chaudhary, CMD of MOIL Ltd, Arun Kumar, Secretary-Government of India, Rajan Sahai, Controller General of IBM, L K Nanda, Director of Atomic Minerals Directorate, Dr Gopal Dhawan, Chief Mining Geologist of IBM unveiling the conference booklet on Wednesday. (Right pic) A section of gathering. - Ministry of Mines, to Former CMD of MECL and S K Adhikari, (Pics by Satish Raut)

IN ORDER to bring about transparency to the allocation of mining licence process and development of the mining sector, the Mines and Minerals Development Regulation Act was altered in 2015. The changes allowed the private players to participate and invest in the mining sector through the auction process. Through the mineral auction process, the Central Government received a revenue of Rs 1.69 lakh crore mineral value out of which the various mining states received Rs 1.28 lakh crore.

"Looking at the figures the mineral mining auction process has become a success. It has benefited the Central Government by increasing its revenue," said Arun Kumar, Secretary-Ministry of Mines, Government of India, while talking at the 3-day international conference and expo on 'Mining Industry Vision 2030 and Beyond' organised by the Mining Engineer's Association of India (MEAI), Nagpur Chapter on Wednesday.

He said that by putting in place a favourable mining policy the mining sector was poised to clock a 10 per cent growth y-o-y basis. A number of meetings were organised and recommendations from industry were sought to give a boost to the mining sector. Based on the feedback, some of the rules were modified in the mining auction block process like cut in net worth criteria, broadening base of present bidders, increasing mining efficiency, reducing waste of minerals, etc. This gave better results and enhanced the number of participants in the bidding process.

The non-coal mining sector registered a 17 per cent growth by value in 2016-17 and 17.24 per cent growth during the first 6 months of this fiscal year compared to the previous year, he said.

Still, there were certain issues like environment and social demands due to which private firms had been heavily fined. In a Supreme Court judgement, large demands had been raised against private firms in the State of Odisha. These mining firms would be under tremendous financial strain. In spite of this, the industry would survive and come out stronger, he pointed out.

Efforts were being made to make the mining sector more acceptable to the people residing near the mining areas. The District Mining Foundation with Rs 13,000 crore had been established to implement projects in healthcare, drinking water and sanitation for villages near mining areas, he said.

Furthermore, aeromagnetic survey, a common type of geophysical survey, was being conducted covering an area of 8.3 lakh square kilometres at a height of 80 kilometres, he said. The Government was giving more thrust on exploration and wanted more large and serious players from the industry to participate in the process. Hindusthan Copper Limited had taken a decision to ramp up production and mining by more than three-and-a-half times from 3.5 lakh tonnes to 12.5 lakh tonnes. For this, it had awarded all contracts and had spent Rs 250 crore. "Many miners still have a lot of minerals under their existing mines which needs to be extracted," he stated.

Some companies still had mineral reserves for the next 125 years which needed to be exploited. More money had to be spent on exploration and they needed to expand in a bigger way to meet the future demand of the industry. He expected the mining sector to grow by 10 per cent on year-on-year basis.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 7 /12/2017 P.N.19

NMDC eyes expansion at home, abroad

In Golden Jubilee year, aims to invest ₹3,500 cr; shore up Australia, Vietnam ventures

V RISHI KUMAR

Hyderabad, December 6

NMDC Limited on Wednesday outlined its plans to double iron ore output by 2022 even as it focusses on growing its gold and diamond tungsten mining businesses in India and abroad.

The state-owned mining company, which in the last financial year produced 34 million tonnes of iron ore, is looking to take this up to 67 million tonnes by 2022.

The Hyderabad-based company, which is set to kick off its diamond jubilee with a year-long celebration from December 8, outlined plans to strengthen its overseas business, including Legacy Mines in Australia, its tungsten mining business in Vietnam, and coking coal business through venture partners in ICVL.

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, will launch the 60th year celebrations by releasing a stamp and unveiling a logo.

N Baijendra Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC, said the company has drawn up strategies for the near, medium and long term.

Diversification

The CMD said the company has diversified into steel-making, and undertaken several capital-intensive projects to modernise and increase capacities to retain its domestic leadership, apart from successfully entering businesses abroad.

Having teamed up with Midhani for stepping up the output of tungsten for use in defence and other strategic applications, NMDC has been engaged in discussions with Masan Resources based in Vietnam.

NMDC expects to finalise a deal and may even pick up a stake in the mines, he said.

N Baijendra Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC

Referring to gold and diamond mines, the CMD said: "While we are expanding our presence in Panna mines in Madhya Pradesh, we are also looking at opportunities to get rights for some more mines in the country."

Significantly, Legacy Mine, where NMDC is a major stakeholder, also holds promise for gold."

"Over the years, we have diversified and expanded our presence to other geographies, including Australia, Mozambique and Tanzania. Teaming up with other joint venture partners in ICVL, we expect to step up coking coal output," he said.

About the company's investments, the CMD said: "Last fiscal, we had a capex of ₹3,196 crore, and this year we expect to deploy about ₹3,500 crore.

Last fiscal, we closed with a turnover of ₹8,829 crore and have reserves of about ₹6,000 crore. For funding requirements for new projects, we will use internal accruals and debt."

The mining company had a few years ago set a production target of 100 million tonnes by 2022, But since then, it has lowered the target to 75 mt and now to 67 mt.This correction was made factoring in the demand for iron ore from the steel sector and the global market conditions.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 7/12/2017 P.N.13

Now's the right time to buy steel stocks

Supply cuts by China to boost domestic steel prices

PRIYA KANSARA

Mumbai, December 6

Analysts expect a robust second half for domestic steel companies on account of supply cuts imposed by the Chinese government beginning November 15 on its key steel producing provinces (forming 50 per cent of total Chinese steel output) due to environmental reasons (read winter), which can extend till May-June. This will result in firmness in global steel prices which, in turn, is expected to boost domestic prices, currently trading at a discount (6-8 per cent) to global prices due to weak domestic demand and higher production.

"China domestic rebar/HRC prices have rallied 21 per cent/7 per cent over the last one month

with a large part of the gains coming in after November 15 (the day winter curbs were implemented). We believe this will rub off positively on global steel prices from January 2018, thereby benefiting Indian steel producers. A recent surge in raw material prices (iron ore and coking coal) will also play a role in supporting steel prices globally," said PhillipCapital.

Also, Q4 is generally a good quarter for the steel sector. Further, demand in developed nations is improving led by the US. Kotak Institutional equities expects domestic steel prices to increase and buoy earnings of domestic steel companies (led by margin expansion) over the next two to three quarters — possibly exceeding its full-year estimates on the operating margin front. Moreover, this looks sustainable as Kotak expects domestic steel industry's capacity utilisation to improve to close to 90 per cent over the next two-three years.

58% jump in SAIL likely

While Tata Steel and JSW Steel are common brokerage picks with estimated upside potential of 25 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively,, PhillipCapital is extremely bullish on Steel Authority of India. The brokerage has not only upgraded the SAIL stock to "buy' from "sell" but also feels the stock price could jump 58 per cent from current levels. It has revised its target price to ₹120, almost triple from ₹44 earlier.

"We expect SAIL to see sequential improvement in performance (although gradual) as demand improves and prices recover in a seasonally strong period. Given the government's focus on improving its performance (mentioned in various media articles), its performance could surprise the market," PhillipCapital pointed out.

SAIL has tremendously underperformed its private counterparts due to disappointing financial performance and delays in projects for a prolonged period. The three stocks have already gained 45-60 per cent in the last one year and are set for another huge rally.

"A recent surge in raw material prices (iron ore and coking coal) will also play a role in supporting steel prices globally," says PhillipCapital

NAVBHARAT(MAHANAGAR) DATE: 7 /12/2017 P.N.7

'माइनिंग इंडस्ट्रीज विजन-2030 एंड बियांड' पर इंटरनेशनल कांफ्रेंस उद्घाटित

ऑक्शन पद्धति से बढ़ा सरकार का रेवेन्यू

व्यापार संवाददाता

नागपुर. जब से माइनिंग सेक्टर में ऑक्शन पद्धति की शुरुआत हुई है, तब से इस क्षेत्र की ग्रोथ बढ़ते जा रही है. पहले इस सेक्टर में जो नोटिफाई की पद्धति थी, वह पारदर्शी नहीं थी, लेकिन ऑक्शन पद्धति से आने वाले समय में भी इस सेक्टर को लाभ ही होगा. आज पद्धति के चलते ही माइन्स सेक्टर से सरकार का रेवेन्यू बढ़ा है. केंद्र को इससे जहां 1 लाख 69 हजार करोड़ का रेवेन्यू जनरेट हुआ, वहीं अलग-अलग स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को 1 लाख 28 हजार करोड़ रेवेन्यू आया. इस वर्ष के अंतिम 6 माह में पिछले वर्ष के 6 माह की तुलना में माइनिंग सेक्टर में 17 प्रश की ग्रोथ हुई है.

ऑक्शन प्रोसेस पूर्णतः सफल हुई है. उक्त विचार केंद्र सरकार के खान मंत्रालय के सचिव अरुण कुमार ने व्यक्त किए.वे बतौर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में होटल रेडीसन ब्ल्यू में माइनिंग इंजीनियर्स एसोसिएशन आफ इंडिया (एमईएआई) की स्थानीय शाखा द्वारा 'माइनिंग इंडस्ट्रीज विजन-2030 एंड बियांड' विषय पर आयोजित 3 दिवसीय इंटरनेशनल कांफ्रेंस व एक्सपो के उद्घाटन अवसर पर संबोधित कर रहे थे. इस अवसर पर अतिथि मॉयल के सीएमडी एमपी चौधरी, आईबीएम के कंट्रोलर जनरल रंजन सहाय, एमईसीएल के पूर्व सीएमडी गोपाल धवन, एटोमिक मिनरल्स डिवीजन, हैद्राबाद के डायरेक्टर एल.के. नंदा, एमईआई, नागपुर शाखा के चेयरमैन डी.के. साहनी व चीफ माइनिंग जियोलाजिस्ट एस.के. अधिकारी प्रमुखता से उपस्थित थे.

300 मीट्रिक टन का लक्ष्य

- चौधरी ने कहा कि अभी भारत में माइनिंग 100 मीट्रिक टन है. 2030 तक इसका लक्ष्य भ्री टाइम बढ़कर 300 मीट्रिक टन होगा. माइनिंग सेक्टर में प्रोडक्शन और आउट बढ़ाना होगा. इसलिए माइनिंग सस्टैनबल होना चाहिए.
- धवन ने कहा कि माइनिंग में टेक्नोलाजी का उपयोग करने से ट्रांसपेरेंसी के साथ काम जल्दी होगा. इस क्षेत्र में जीडीपी का 2 प्रश का योगदान है. माइनिंग पर अधिक से अधिक फोकस कर इसे और अधिक बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य है.
- इस 3 दिवसीय कांफ्रेंस में खनन व स्त्रोत, शाश्वत माइनिंग, अद्यतन तकनीकी ज्ञान, मानवी क्षमता, कौशल विकास, विशेष नीति सहित अन्य विषयों पर वक्ताओं द्वारा मार्गदर्शन किया जा रहा है.

एक्ट में बदलाव करना मुश्किल कार्य

उन्होंने मिनरल पॉलिसी पर के बदलाव पर कहा कि रूल्स में बदलाव करना आसान है, लेकिन एक्ट में बदलाव करना बड़ा मुश्किल काम है. इसके चलते ऑक्शन रूल्स को और अधिक मॉडिफाई किया जा रहा है. नॉन कोल माइनिंग सेक्टर में वर्ष 2016 तक 72 प्रश की ग्रोथ हुई है. इसमें और अधिक ग्रोथ के लिए फोकस किया जा रहा है. वार्षिक निधि का उपयोग कर एरो मैग्नेटिक सर्वे शुरू किया है. इसमें अधिक से अधिक मेजर प्राइवेट सेक्टर्स को आना चाहिए. इससे इसकी अधिक ग्रोथ बढ़ेगी और रेवेन्यू जनरेट होगा. वहीं मिनरल्स एक्सप्लोरेशन से क्षमता बढ़ेगी और ट्रांसपेरेंसी बढ़ेगी.

कपास के भाव

अकोला	4,400 4,700
बार्शीटाकली	4,200-4,400
अकोट	4,350-4,750
तेल्हारा	4,650-4,700
बालापुर	4,500-4,700
मूर्तिजापुर	4,400-4,450
अमरावती	4,400-4,600
तिवसा	4,400-4,500
धामणगांव	4,400-4,580
अचलपुर	4,400-4,700
वरुड़	4,300-4,600
दर्यापुर	4,500-4,700
अंजनगांव	4,300-4,500
वर्धा	4,500-4,800
आर्वी	4,510-4,700
पुलगांव	4,500-4,600
समुद्रपुर	4,600-4730
सिंदोला (वणी)	4,650
वरोरा	4,625
आदिलाबाद	4,570
सौंसर	4,300-4,600
पांढुर्णा	4,400-4,600

कुल आवक (विदर्भ)
1,10,000

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 7 /12/2017 P.N.10

PRICE DIFFERENCE Landed cost of NMDC's ore at steel plants is about 20-30% cheaper than that of international ore

NMDC has Scope to Hike Iron Ore Prices Further

Jwalit.Vyas@timesgroup.com

ET Intelligence Group: NMDC, India's largest iron ore miner, is gaining pricing power once again due to the shutdown of some of the mines in Odisha due to rail line disruptions, rising international iron ore prices and higher demand in a seasonally strong part of the year.

The miner has raised prices by up to 13% for December deliveries, highest in the past two years. International iron ore prices too have gained 21%, thus giving comfort that the domestic iron ore prices would either remain stable or move up. Currently, the landed cost of NMDC's ore at the steel plants of its clients is 20-30% cheaper than that of international ore. This offers headroom for NMDC to increase prices further.

Apart from prices, ore volume is also expected to pick up. NMDC With mining capacity of 46 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) in Karnataka and Chhattisgarh, NMDC operates at 80% capacity utilisation. This may increase since its clients including JSW Steel, Essar Steel and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam are ramping up production. Analysts expect the incremental demand of 15-20 mtpa and NMDC is well placed to serve this given its high grade of iron ore and access to rail infrastructure.

Analysts expect NMDC to deliver around 48% growth in operating profit before depreciation (EBITDA) for FY18 and a 12-15% growth in FY19. In the first half of FY18, the company has delivered 64% EBIDTA growth.

In October, there was a disruption in the slurry pipeline in Chhattisgarh used by NMDC to supply ore. The pipeline is expected to be restored in two-three months. Analysts believe that the recent price increase will offset the loss caused by the pipeline disruption.

At Wednesday's closing price of Rs 128.4 on the BSE, NMDC's enterprise value was 5.8 times the FY18 expected EBIDTA. Given the future growth prospects, analysts have assigned a higher multiple of 6.5 to 7 times, which implies 12-20% increase in the stock price.

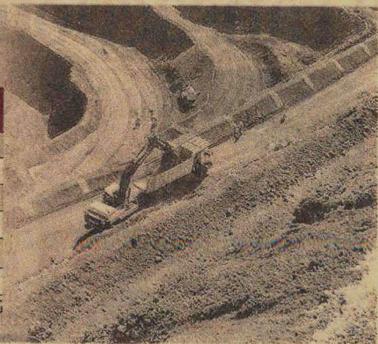
In addition, the company plans to set up three mtpa steel capacity as a part of its strategy to forward integrate. The value of this project is not yet captured by the current stock valuation. According to the management, the plant will be commissioned within two years.

Strong Show

NMDC Financials & Valuations

	FY18E (₹ Cr)	YoY Growth (%)
Revenues	11222	27.10
EBIDTA	5328	48
Net Profit	3587	41
P/E	10.7	-
P/B	1.7	-
EV/EBIDTA	5.8	-

Source: Bloomberg & ETIG



BUSINESS LINE DATE: 7 /12/2017 P.N.10

MCX Nickel: Downtrend gains momentum

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The Nickel futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) fell sharply in the past week breaking below the 100-day moving average support (₹725 per kg).

The contract has tumbled 4.7 per cent in the past week and is currently trading at ₹700. The sharp fall in the last week confirms the head and shoulders bearish reversal pattern on the charts.

The region between ₹720 and ₹725 will now act as a strong resistance and can limit the upside. A fall to ₹685 or ₹680 is likely in the coming days. Further break below ₹680 will increase the likelihood of the fall extending to ₹672 — the 200-day-moving average support.

If the contract manages to bounce from this support, a corrective rally to ₹700 or ₹710 is possible.

But if the contract breaks below the 200-day moving average support decisively, it will come under more selling pressure. In such a scenario, the contract can fall to ₹660 or even ₹650.

The level of ₹650 is a key medium-term support level for the contract. The current slide is likely to halt near this support. Traders can hold the short positions with the revised stop-loss at ₹715 for the target of ₹685. Move the stop-loss further lower to ₹695 as soon as the contract declines to ₹690.

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

THE HITAVADA
DATE: 8/12/2017 P.N.11

NMDC output in April-Nov at 21 million tonnes

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (PTI)

STATE-OWNED miner NMDC on Thursday said it produced 20.8 million tonne(MT) of iron ore in April-November period of the ongoing fiscal. The company produced 13 MT iron ore from its mines in Chhattisgarh and 7.86 MT from the mines in Karnataka, NMDC said in a filing to BSE.

NMDC also said it sold 22.4 MT iron ore during the said period. Iron ore is the main ingredient used in making steel.

NMDC is the country's single largest iron ore producer, producing about 30 MT of iron ore from three fully mechanised mines.

The company is involved in the exploration of wide range of minerals, including iron ore, copper, rock phosphate, lime stone, dolomite, gypsum, bentonite, magnesite, diamond, tin, tungsten, graphite, beach sands, etc.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 8 /12/2017 P.N.14

Sell gold if it touches $1,260-65/oz

GNANASEKAAR T

Comex gold futures slid to a four-month low on Thursday as a bounce in the dollar sparked by optimism over US tax reform plans pushed the metal out of its recent narrow trading range.

Traders are now awaiting further direction from US non-farm payrolls data later this week. Next week the Federal Reserve is also expected to announce another US interest rate hike, and to guide on the pace of further increases.

Comex gold futures have broken key supports pushing it lower. As mentioned earlier, there was a lot of choppiness and it typically tends to happen before a trending move begins and in this case most likely a down move.

The breaching of the $1,260 per ounce level opens the possibility of further slide.

Prices could grind initially lower to $1,245-50. Strong initial resistances are around $1,267 followed by $1,275/77. Only a close above $1,280 could suddenly open the upside again to $1,330-35 levels.

Direct fall below $1,240, on the other hand, could revive bearish expectations for $1,206/10 levels in the coming sessions. We still feel the $1,240 level to be supportive in the near-term.

The $1,240-45 is a very strong medium-term support and therefore, we can expect a strong bounce or a retracement from that level in the coming weeks. Failure to hold there can accelerate the fall in gold prices.

Wave counts: It is most likely that the fall from the record $1,925 to the recent low of $1,088 so far, was either a possible corrective wave "A", with a possibility to even extend towards $1,025-30 levels or a complete correction of A-B-C ending with this decline.

Subsequently, a corrective wave "B" could unfold with targets near $1,375 or even higher. After that, a wave "C" could begin lower again.

Alternatively, we can also expect wave "B" to extend to $1,476 levels. If the current decline as a whole from $1,920 can be considered as a fourth wave, then the fifth wave could begin and cross $1,700 in the long-term.

But, failure to follow-through above $1,355 has dashed any hopes of any impulsive up move. But a sustained move above $1200 has once again revived bullish hopes and will make the necessary adjustments to the wave counts, as the prices break key resistance above.

RSI is in the neutral zone now indicating that it is neither overbought nor oversold. The averages in MACD are still below the zero line of the indicator again, indicating a bearish reversal. Only a cross over again above the zero line could hint at a reversal in trend to bullish.

Therefore, sell Comex gold around $1,260-65 with the stop-loss at $1,278 targeting $1,240 followed by $1,210.

Supports are at $1240, 1,225 and 1,206. Resistances are at $1267, 1,278 and 1,297.

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

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 8 /12/2017 P.N.14

MCX Lead faces a key hurdle

YOGANAND D
BL Research Bureau

Last week, the Lead futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) gained 2.6 per cent breaching a key resistance at ₹160 per kg.

However, the contract encountered another resistance at ₹165 and witnessed a corrective decline. The contract found support at ₹160 on Wednesday and began to rally. It is currently trading at ₹162.5/kg.

It has breached its 21- and 50-day moving averages and hovers well above them. Corrective decline can find support at around ₹160 once again in the near-term. An emphatic breakthrough of the immediate resistance at ₹165 can push the contract higher to ₹170.

Further breach of the significant resistance level of ₹170 is required to strengthen the uptrend and take the contract higher to ₹175 in the medium-term.

Traders with a short-term perspective can consider initiating fresh long positions only if the contract moves beyond ₹165 levels with a fixed stop-loss at ₹162.

But if the contract fails to breach above ₹165 and falls below the immediate support level of ₹160, it can bring back selling pressure. In that case, the contract can decline to ₹157 and ₹155 levels in the short-term.

It can continue to move sideways in a broad range between ₹155 and ₹165 for some time.

A conclusive break out of this sideways range will decide its medium-term.

Key supports below ₹155 are pegged at ₹152 and ₹150 levels.

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

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 9 /12/2017 P.N.3

As NMDC turns 60, targets 100 mt iron ore output by 2030

KV KURMANATH

Hyderabad, December 8

As it turned 60, the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is targeting a production of 100 million tonnes by 2030 from 34 million tonnes.

NMDC, which launched its Diamond Jubilee year celebrations on Friday, plans to increase production capacity to 67 million tonnes by 2022, according to Chairman and Managing Director N Baijendra Kumar.

Scores of NMDC employees from its different unit locations attended the celebrations, which was inaugurated by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu.

The corporation made a record-breaking production of iron ore last year with a production of 35.6 mt in 2016-17, showing a turnover of ₹8,860 crore and a profit before tax of ₹4,239 crore.

Aruna Sharma, Secretary (Ministry of Steel), has said that the consumption of steel is growing significantly in the country. Stating that India could breach the 300-million-tonne production mark in steel against 126 mt now, she said the production could be in the range of 150 mt by 2020.

"Consumption of steel in a country is considered a reliable barometer of the economic health of a nation. We are currently the third largest steel producer globally and likely to become the second largest soon," she said.

Addressing the gathering, Venkaiah Naidu said the country produced 95 minerals.

"The mining industry in India typically contributes around 2.2-2.5 per cent of the GDP. This is far below our potential," he said.

Marking the occasion, some steel factories have won the national awards from the Vice-President. The Prime Minister's and Steel Minister's Trophies for the best-integrated steel plant were presented by the Vice-President.

The annual trophies carries a cash award of ₹2 crore and ₹1 crore, respectively, for the first two best steel plants each year.

Tata Steel was adjudged as the Best Integrated Steel Plant and JSW Vijayanagar the Runners-Up to the PM's Trophy (called the Steel Minister's Trophy).

JSPL(Jindal Steel & Power Ltd) Raigarh; Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd, AP, were recognised with a cash prize of ₹25 lakh each for the maximum improvement among the steel plants.

THE HITAVADA
DATE: 9/12/2017 P.N.11

JSW crude steel production up 11% at 13.6 lakh tonnes in Nov

NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (PTI)

SAJJAN Jindal-led JSW Steel on Friday said that it has achieved 11 per cent growth in crude steel production at 13.62 lakh tonne in November this year.

Its crude steel production stood at 12.27 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period, JSW Steel said in a BSE filing.

"JSW Steel reports crude steel production at 13.62 lakh tonnes for November, 2017, showing a growth of 11 per cent YoY," the filing said.

Among the rolled products, the flat products registered a jump of 8 per cent at 9.59 lakh tonnes and long products showed 35 per cent growth at 2.99 lakh tonnes in November.

BUSINESS LINE
DATE: 9/12/2017 P.N.3

JSW Steel crude steel output up 11%

New Delhi, December 8

Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel today said that it has achieved 11 per cent growth in crude steel production at 13.62 lakh tonnes in November this year. Its crude steel production stood at 12.27 lt in the year-ago period, JSW Steel said in a BSE filing. Among the rolled products, the flat products registered a jump of 8 per cent at 9.59 lt and long products showed 35 per cent growth at 2.99 lt in November. PTI

THE HITAVADA DATE: 9 /12/2017 P.N.11

Venkaiah launches diamond jubilee celebrations of NMDC

■ By E V Murli

HYDERABAD, Dec 8

Vice-President, M Venkaiah Naidu releasing the Postal Cover on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of NMDC Ltd., in Hyderabad on Friday. Union Minister for Steel, Birender Singh, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Raman Singh, Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana, Mohammad Mahmood Ali and others are also seen. (PTI)

GIVING a clarion call to Maoists to shun violence and join the main stream for the growth and prosperity of the nation, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu on Friday said that violence had not helped people in any way. If the Maoists were keen for implementing their ideology, they were free to do so but not through gun and unleashing a terror psycho. They should shun violence, join the mainstream and prefer ballot rather than taking up guns.

The Vice-President was addressing the diamond jubilee celebrations of the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) in Hyderabad. He said, "Banduk Chodo Ballot Ki Oar Badho" while urging the Maoists not to block development and growth of the region. Naidu, while praising the contributions of NMDC, said that the public sector undertakings in the country had immensely contributed in the nation-building and sustained development of the country. It created wealth of the nation by creating core infrastructures thus reducing the regional disparity. He said that NMDC had played a very crucial role in the creation of wealth for the nation, a wealth of manpower, a wealth of scientific temper and better life for the people. Renaming the NMDC in what is called the Venkaiah style, the Vice-President said that NMDC was Nation's Main Development Corporation and complimented the NMDC collectively for 60 better performing years.

He said that it was a memorable occasion to look back and also to look forward. In this sixty years, the company had created immense human values and helped in sustaining human growth. Therefore, the NMDC's celebration was at the national level. Praising the efforts of Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Dr Raman Singh for transforming the hinterland of Bastar into a vibrant and growing region, he said that this land which was once a hot bed for Naxal activities, had changed a lot. While stressing to focus on tribal and backward areas, Naidu said that the objective of the Government should be to take welfare and prosperity to the last man in the row.

He said that the Chhattisgarh State Government, in association with partner like NMDC, was ploughing the seeds for development and growth in the tribal and backward region. He also said that the Nagarnar steel plant coming up in the area will further boost the nation's economy and growth.

The Vice-President also stressed on the need for working together between the governments both at the Centre and State without getting much into politics so that it would create an ambience for growth.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, Dr Raman Singh, in his address, said that the State Government and NMDC were working together for greater strength and progress. He said that the association between NMDC and the State Government would go a long way. The 3 MT steel plant in Nagarnar was an example of better and strong coordination between the Government and the NMDC.

Singh said that 600 hectares of land required for the steel plant was provided in the most elegant manner by the villagers of Bastar which exemplified the development-oriented mentality of the people of Bastar and their strong commitments in nation-building. Praising the NMDC for its contribution in the field of health, employment generation, skill development and education, the Chief Minister said that NMDC would create new benchmark in future under its CMD, N Baijendra Kumar, whom he termed as an apt man for achieving the set targets by NMDC.

Union Steel Minister, Choudhary Birendra Singh, in his address, said that the consumption of steel and its production both were on the rise in the country. The Government, to boost the steel sector, had given preference to domestically manufactured steel.

Vishnu Deo Sai, MoS Steel, Dr Aruna Sharma, Secretary Steel, Y S Chowdhary, MoS Science and Technology also spoke on the occasion. Earlier, Chairman-cum Managing Director, N Baijendra Kumar, gave the welcome address.

PM's Trophy for best steel plant given

THE Prime Minister's Trophy for the best integrated steel plant was also given on the occasion by the Vice-President. Tata Steel won the trophy for the two consecutive years 2014-15 and 2015-16. The Steel Minister's trophy for the best integrated steel plant went to JSW Vijayanagar. JSPL Raigarh and RINL Visakhapatnam won the certificate of Appreciation award for the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively.

On this occasion, postal stamp and logo of the diamond jubilee year of NMDC was also released by the Vice-President.

Increase in ore price irks steel producers

Small and marginal players are hit

SANTOSH PATNAIK
VISAKHAPATNAM

Increase in the price of iron ore by domestic suppliers, mainly the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), has upset the steel producers.

Industry sources say the nominal increase at regular intervals in tune with the international price has impacted small and marginal producers who manufacture TMT bars.

The Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, needs 10 million tonne of iron ore per annum to produce 6.3 million tonne of steel.

As it is the only major producer without captive mines in the country, it depends mainly on the NMDC for meeting its raw material requirement by getting it by train from Bailadilla mines in Chhattisgarh.

Sources say, though compared to the other players, it may absorb the increase in raw material price without much difficulty, but it would certainly affect its finances.

The company is already facing working capital crunch.

Signs of recovery

Only consolation for the steelmakers is that the market is showing signs of recovery.

"It has picked up well and the steel market is also doing well. The steel price has also gone up in the past two weeks," Steel Exchange India Limited (SEIL) Director V.V. Krishna Rao told *The Hindu*.

He said the NMDC should not jack up the price based on some appreciation in the international market in the larger interest of small and marginal players in the industry.

He said they were producing 1,000 tonne of Simhadri TMT bars and the price of steel had also gone up by a few thousand rupees. He said the price was expected to pick up further going by the market sentiment.

With increased thrust on construction and conferring infrastructure status to logistics, the demand for steel is expected to register an impressive rise in demand. Now, premium quality steel is sold at ₹40,000 to ₹42,000 per tonne.

THE HINDU DATE: 10 /12/2017 P.N.8

GSI finds huge mineral deposits along A.P. coast

Comprehensive report to be submitted to Ministry of Mines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Large deposits of heavy beach minerals were found along the 974-km Andhra Pradesh coastline during a survey by Geological Survey of India (GSI).

The GSI, which deployed officials and equipment available at its marine wing in Hyderabad and at other centres during its 30 year survey, estimated that the minerals such as zircon, ilmenite, limonite and monazite would have a value of at least ₹46,000 crore.

Confirming this, GSI Director-General N. Kutumba Rao told reporters here on Saturday that he would submit a comprehensive report to the Ministry of Mines on December 15. He said details on 160 blocks identified by the agency would facilitate the auction of the areas containing 38.64 million tonnes of minerals.

According to Mr Rao, the 17th century Dutch township of Bheemunipatnam, Barua, Pudimadaka and Bowenpally contain vast deposits. The GSI has also identified 100 blocks in Odisha. The survey was conducted at one metre depth of sediment from the sea bed.

This apart, the GSI surveys using satellite data have found huge deposits of manganese in Vizianagaram, bauxite in north coastal Andhra and south Odisha and baryte in Kadapa district.

Pilot study

After signing an MoU with Geosciences Australia for assistance for three years, GSI made intensive search of minerals beyond 300 metres from the coast, ranging up to 1,000 metres. It will be carried out under the deep seismic reflection survey. A pilot project under the name 'Project Uncover' had been launched in Bundelkhand area of North India and Kadapa and Dharwad areas of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka last year.

Mr. Kutumba Rao said the GSI would procure a geotechnical vessel with drilling facility at a cost of ₹250 crore from Vietnam. It is expected to be inducted into GSI fleet of survey vessels by early 2019. GSI has already procured a high-end geoscientific research vessel Samudra Ratnakar and was phasing out its old ships.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 11 /12/2017 P.N.13

Axis, BoB Sell Part of Essar Steel's Loans to Hedge Fund at a Discount

Buyer Davidson Kempner-owned fund will now have a say in co's bankruptcy trials

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Axis Bank and Bank of Baroda disposed of a part of their foreign currency loans to Essar Steel, selling the debt at 30-40% discount with a foreign hedge fund acquiring it, three people familiar with the matter said.

Essar Steel has ₹49,000 crore of loans outstanding, including external commercial borrowings of ₹6,000 crore. The loans that Axis Bank and Bank of Baroda sold were part of the external commercial borrowings.

The two banks sold the debt to Deutsche Bank, which subsequently transferred it to a hedge fund owned by Davidson Kempner, said the people, all senior officials from the banking circle. The buyer will have a say in the bankruptcy proceedings of the metal maker, they said.

Axis Bank was the first to sell, bankers said. It sold $90 million (₹580 crore) at a little less than 60 cents to a dollar, they said.

State-run Bank of Baroda got a better deal at 71 cents to a dollar, but the amount of loan it sold wasn't immediately known.

In an email response, Axis Bank said: "As a matter of policy we do not comment on client-specific details." Bank of Baroda did not respond to an email seeking comment. Davidson Kempner could not be reached for comment.

Lenders including IDBI Bank and ICICI Bank are also contemplating to exit Essar Steel's foreign currency loans and are evaluating a few proposals, people in the know said. HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Indian Overseas Bank had sold their domestic loans to Essar Steel to Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company.

Essar Steel is struggling to arrange close to ₹7,000 crore to participate in insolvency resolution proceedings, after a recent amendment to the bankruptcy law states that defaulters will have to regularise loans to participate in a resolution plan.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE: 11 /12/2017 P.N.4

NETA ROLE? BJP MP Nalin Kateel & Congress minister Santosh Lad thanked at the beginning of the film

A Political Untouchable, Mining Baron Reddy Gets New Life After Biopic Mufti

Sowmya.Aji@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: A Kannada feature film that is doing very well at the box office has created a political flurry as it appears to glorify mining baron and former minister from the BJP G Janardhan Reddy who is out on bail in a ₹16,085 crore illegal mining case investigated by the CBI.

The film, Mufti, where top hero Shivrajkumar plays the role of Bhairati Ranagallu, modelled on Janardhan Reddy, has been released just six months ahead of the Karnataka state assembly elections. Political sources confirm that Reddy has been making moves in the last few months and was trying to get back into the political mainstream, which he ruled from 2004 to 2011, when he was arrested over the mining case.

"His negative image is ensuring that even his parent party, the BJP, is keeping away from him, though he was responsible for establishing their first government in the South under B S Yeddyurappa in 2008. The BJP doesn't need his money now and both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party president Amit Shah don't want damage to their image because of him," a politician who is closely watching Reddy's moves told ET.

A 2010 Kannada film Prithvi, with Shivrajkumar's brother Puneet in the lead, showed the deputy commissioner of Ballari as the hero who dismantled Reddy's mining empire. In contrast, Mufti, helmed by debutant director M Narthan, appears to be a direct attempt at improving Reddy's image. While the first half of the film shows the character Ranagallu only in references, as a vicious dictator,

FILE PHOTO

who instills fear, cares a damn for the government and is destroying the environment for his greed, the second half, where a poignant Shivrajkumar dominates the screen, paints him as a charitable do-gooder who suffered at the hands of the government in the past. Even the hero, a CBI officer, ends up in two minds about arresting him.

The references to Reddy and his lifestyle are glaringly clear all through: Rangallu supposedly lives in a room which has a golden bedstead and golden furniture, an indication of media reports of the gold taps in Reddy's bathroom; the fictitious town of Ronapura, where he rules, is dubbed the Republic of Ronapura, while the Justice Santosh Hegde report on illegal mining called Reddy's operations the Republic of Ballari; Rangallu's convoy of black SUVs is a clear copy of how Reddy travelled; the shots of the trucks carrying ironore could be stock shots from 2008-09 of Reddy's Obulapuram mining company's operations; and Ranagallu travels around in a Bell helicopter, just like Reddy did and to make it more clear, it has a G written on it, for Gali, Reddy's initial.

THE HITAVADA DATE: 11 /12/2017 P.N.11

Coal imports rise by 40% in Nov

NEW DELHI, Dec 10 (PTI)

COAL imports surged by 40 per cent to 19.18 million tonnes (MT) in November, mainly due to pick up in demand for winter restocking and low coal stock position in power plants.

"Coal import (all type of coals) in November 2017 stood at 19.18 MT (provisional), against 13.70 MT in November 2016 and 19.77 MT in October 2017," as per the latest data by m- junction services. Mjunction services is an online procurement and sales platform floated jointly by state-run SAIL and steel behemoth Tata Steel.

The higher volume of imports is mainly due to 4.18 MT increase in non-coking coal imports during the month under review, the data showed.

There was also a healthy growth in coking coal imports in November 2017 on a yearly basis.

"The demand for winter restocking and the low coal stock position at power plants led to the high volumes in non-coking coal import. Also, the uptrend in coking coal prices coupled with supply concerns saw the buyers taking fresh positions in that market," mjunction CEO Vinaya Varma said.

Of the 19.18 MT of coal imported in November, 13.15 MT was non-coking coal, followed by coking coal at 3.9 MT, among others. In April, the first month of the current fiscal, India's coal imports declined marginally to 19.08 MT as against 19.63 MT in the same month of 2016-17.

In May, it came down to 18.38 MT as against 19.38 MT in the same month a year ago.

In June the imports again dropped to 18.22 MT from 21.50 MT in the year-ago period. In July, it stood at 14.64 MT, down from 19.15 MT. In August, coal imports slipped to 18.80 MT compared to 19.75 MT same month of 2016-17. In September, it rose by 9.5 per cent to 18.33 MT), after having registered year-on-year decline for five months in a row, as some power plants faced fuel shortages.

However, in October, it was flat at 16.65 MT, underpinned by cautious buying of the fossil fuel by consumers due to high prices in the overseas market.

NAVBHARAT
DATE: 11/12/2017 P.N.9

कोयला आयात 40 प्रश बढ़ा

एजेंसियां

दिल्ली. देश का कोयला आयात नवंबर में 1.918 करोड़ टन रहा है. यह पिछले साल की इसी अवधि के आयात से 40 प्रश अधिक है. इसकी अहम वजह बिजली संयंत्रों में कोयले की कमी के चलते सर्दियों की मांग के लिए उसका फिर से भंडारण करना रही. एम-जंक्शन के नवीनतम आंकडों के अनुसार कोयला आयात नवंबर 2017 में 1.918 करोड टन रहा है. नवंबर 2016 में यह 1.37 करोड टन था जबकि अक्तूबर 2017 में यह 1.977 करोड टन रहा. एम-जंक्शन सर्विसेस एक ऑनलाइन खरीद-बिक्री पोर्टल है. इसे सरकारी इस्पात कंपनी सेल और टाटा स्टील ने मिलकर तैयार किया है.

आंकडों के अनुसार नवंबर में कोयले के आयात की मात्रा बढ़ने की अहम वजह गैर-कोक कोयले का आयात बढ़ना है. समीक्षावधि में गैर कोकिंग कोयले का आयात 41.8 लाख टन बढा है. एम-जंक्शन के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी विनय वर्मा ने कहा कि बिजली संयंत्रों में कोयला भंडार की कमी और सर्दियों में कोयला भंडार को फिर से पूरा करने के चलते कोयला का आयात बढा है और विशेषकर गैर-कोक कोयले की मात्रा ज्यादा आयात की गई है. नवंबर में आयातित कुल 1.918 करोड टन कोयला में 1.315 करोड टन गैर-कोकिंग कोयला और 39 लाख टन कोकिंग कोयला है.

DAINIK BHASKAR
DATE:11/12/2017 P.N.3

उप्र विधानमंडल का शीतकालीन सत्र 14 से

एजेंसी | लखनऊ

उत्तर प्रदेश विधानसभा के आगामी 14 दिसम्बर से शुरू हो रहे शीतकालीन सत्र में योगी आदित्यनाथ सरकार अनुपूरक बजट लाएगी। विधानमंडल का संक्षिप्त सत्र 14 से शुरू होकर 22 दिसम्बर तक चलने की उम्मीद है। इस सत्र में स्कूलों की फीस नियंत्रण को लेकर बिल भी सरकार इस सत्र में पेश करेगी। खनन नीति में संसोधन प्रस्ताव को भी सदन में पेश किया जायेगा। इसके अलावा कई और विधेयकों को सदन के पटल पर रखा जा सकता है। सबसे पहले अनुपूरक अनुमोदन की मांग करेगी। लगभग 15,000 करोड़ रुपये की अनुपूरक बजट विधानसभा में 18 दिसम्बर को पेश होने की संभावना है और 20 दिसम्बर को पारित होने की संभावना है। विधानसभा के प्रमुख सचिव प्रदीप कुमार दुबे ने आज यहां बताया कि सलाहकार समिति की बैठक 13 दिसम्बर को होगी ताकि एजेंडा तैयार की जा सके। उन्होंने कहा कि उसी दिन विधानसभा अध्यक्ष हृदय नारायण दीक्षित ने एक बैठक बुलाई है। 17वीं विधानसभा का यह दूसरा सत्र होगा।

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 11 /12/2017 P.N.11

It's action time for Indian mining

Thanks to recent policy initiatives, there are many opportunities to be tapped

ANJANI AGRAWAL

The domestic outlook for metals is expected to be robust. Demand growth is expected from all end-use segments.

The construction sector is expected to remain buoyant due to increased demand for real estate and infrastructure projects propelled by urbanisation. Initiatives launched by the government such as Housing for all and Smart Cities as well as schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana will help build momentum for all metals (for example steel-intensive structures, pre-fabricated and pre-cast steel structures, etc.) The bottlenecks that impede infrastructure development are being addressed.

Further, the Make in India policy will result in significant investments in the construction, shipbuilding, power, defence sectors, etc., entailing high usage of steel and base metals. The auto industry, already witnessing strong demand growth, is expected to maintain momentum for several years to come.

The national smart grid mission, to reduce transmission losses, inter regional power transmission projects sanctioned under the power system development fund (PSDF) and various other government projects are expected to drive demand for aluminium and copper. Growth in EV is expected to result in demand for copper consumed in batteries.

Thus several metals, both ferrous and non-ferrous, are expected to have strong demand growth in future which, in turn, will drive demand for minerals.

With the domestic market showing huge opportunities, the metal players/industry would like to ensure raw material availability in areas wher it is possible. The country is self-sufficient in iron ore and bauxite but needs to import coking coal, copper concentrate and many others. Investing in exploration and mining thereafter will help reduce dependence on imports and ring-fence the players from the increasing price volatility that global commodities have seen in the recent past.

The mining industry in India is undergoing significant change but yet waiting for transformation. Globalisation continues to define the overall business landscape with almost all countries being highly interdependent through investment, financial and physical flow of trade.

The Indian mining sector also is influenced by various global trends, prices, currencies and trade flows. However, purely on the domestic front, the mining industry has experienced negative/slow growth and shrinking margins largely arising out of governance challenges, production caps, fiscal measures, cost escalations, mine closures and demand slowdown.

The Central government, influenced by judicial pronouncements, initiated a complete trans-

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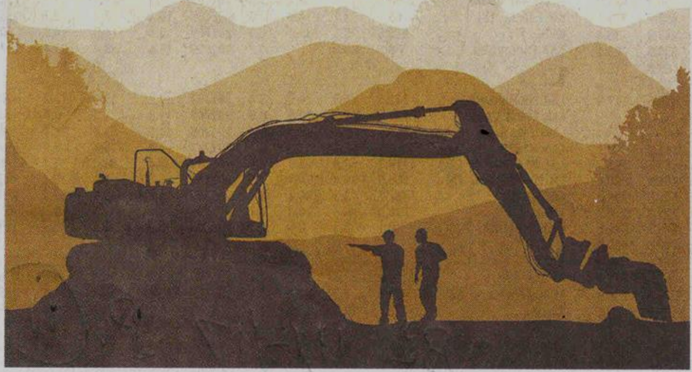


SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

formation in the mining sector with several legal and executive actions. There have already been multiple enactments and procedures since 2015. While the initial response to the coal mining leases auctions was characterised by exuberance on the part of the players, it has now translated into a cautious mood given the conditions prevailing on the ground.

The government is aware of the key challenges of the mining sector and is keen to generate growth in the mining sector. To get success in these ambitions, steps need to be undertaken around the following themes:

Exploration of minerals has considerably lagged the mineral potential of the country. The exploration activities need to be broadbased, engaging the experts who can supplement the domestic entities with expertise, technology and experience.

Quite often mining has been at a crossroads with the environmental responsibilities and has been facing production caps. If the significantly high levels of demand were to be met, the stakeholders would need to build consensus on achieving much higher production levels within the country to maintain resource security.

The margins in the mine to market value chain have shrunk significantly over the last few years. The high price environment earlier was an incentive to take significant risks.

However, with the competitive auction model for mining leases, the government (Central and States combined) are the largest beneficiaries of the financial flows, going forward.

That calls for an even more matching contribution by the State to create the enabling infrastructure, facilitate environment management and integrated sustainable development. This needs a change in mindset from several stakeholder groups.

The policy framework should also try and work on conserving access to the resources by clearly identifying high mineral potential zones, demarcating them for mining industry, creating the infrastructure and other investments for the business to succeed.

The presence of global mining players has been negligible — something the government should consciously strive to balance to bring in competitiveness, leading practices, etc.

Mining, like any other business, goes through cycles and transitions. Mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, restructuring are quite common in business, world over. Studies reflect that post these, the businesses generally emerge stronger or transition into stronger hands. Hopefully, the policy will move towards freely allowing such business needs to be fulfilled without a fiscal penalty.

The mining industry has immense future growth ahead but will need an enabling environment to be created through policy measures.

While the government and industry participation in this dialogue should continue, the industry also must impose upon itself stronger governance standards that make the business sustainable over the long run.

The writer is Partner and National Leader – Metals and Mining, EY. With inputs from Viraj V Manvatkar

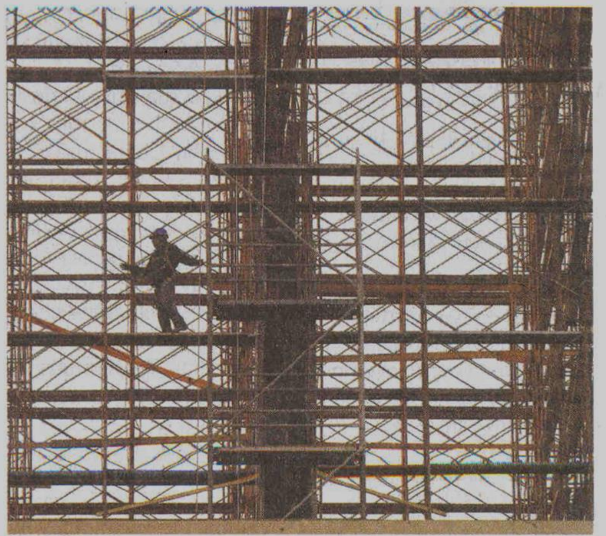
Steel is the answer to goals of smart cities

Alloy is material of choice for its long life, low overall costs

ARUNA SHARMA

Project Smart Cities is a visionary project of the Government of India for sustainable, high quality of life in terms of infrastructure, mobility and connectivity, technology, environment, availability of resources and overall living conditions and experience.

The government's Smart City initiative is an urban renewal and retrofitting programme to develop 100 such cities in the country. The move envisages a major facelift of the existing inadequate infrastructure, including roads, flyovers, airports, residential areas, city sewage systems, community areas, including parks, shopping centres, hospitals and schools. For structures that are intended to have at least a 100-year life cycle with minimal maintenance but are quick to complete, the answer lies in steel, whether it is underground, above ground or in buildings.



Promise of strength: For structures that must last long but need to be quickly finished, steel is a natural choice. ▪ REUTERS

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Underground or above

If made with steel, all sewage, drainage, water, casing for cable for Internet or transmission, will ensure zero wastage and maintenance. If roads are laid with concrete strengthened with steel, it translates to lesser damage over a period. Buildings across the globe are steel intensive.

Drinking water pipes made of stainless steel for transporting water after filtration are not only good for health but also stop leakage of potable water, a precious commodity today.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government's Bureau of Waterworks has used stainless steel to dramatically reduce the city's water loss.

Bridges, culverts and crash barriers of steel will protect valuable lives. Thus, stepping ahead with steel for smart cities will trigger development, with no debris and faster execution of projects. The assets thus created promise to be long lasting. Steel is also 100% recyclable, and thus, environment-friendly.

Steel, by virtue of its physical properties, emerges a strong component in and contributor to the fabrication of infrastructure required for smart cities. In many landmark buildings, such as the Lotus Temple in Delhi, stainless steel rebars used have a lifespan of about 300 years. Creating new smart cities or upgrading old cities is fastest and cost effective with steel structures.

Myth of high costs

There is a misconception steel works out to be expensive. The principle of life cycle cost has been included in Rule 136 (1) (iii) of the new General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017.

In many government projects relating to roads, bridges, buildings, construction of railways, shipping and rural roads, the principle of life cycle cost will play a decisive role in the sanctioning of the project design.

The use of steel has a major bearing on the life of the project. In the long run, it will reduce life cycle costs. There might be several projects that are steel-intensive may see higher initial costs. But, in the long run, their overall cost comes down – determined by factors such as material, quality, repairs needed, the time for execution of the projects, etc. All such projects will add to the inventory of national assets.

Across the globe, cities are marching towards becoming smart cities. In the attempt, they are either coming out with unique solutions using existing infrastructure or are adopting eco-friendly and sustainable models to solve problems of traffic, drainage, commuting, accommodation, and the like.

In Detroit, Michigan, in the U.S., dumped wartime steel sheds are being brought back to life. These are being converted into places of accommodation which look chic and provide low-cost living in an artful manner.

Smart cities will house cohesive societies with intensive steel use, and will include advanced architecture and city planning, buildings made with eco-friendly yet sturdy and durable materials, advanced technology for faster communication and transportation and adequate water resources, all being energy efficient as well.

(The writer is Secretary, Ministry of Steel. Views are personal)

THE HINDU DATE: 11 /12/2017 P.N.14

In search of a genuine hallmark

Imminent orders on mandatory BIS certification may make unscrupulous jewellers finally toe the line

OOMMEN A. NINAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

While the government is moving ahead to implement mandatory hallmarking (HM) of gold, which is likely to impart transparency to the jewellery sector, several in the trade are resisting its execution. For, the sector is still used by many as a conduit for unaccounted money.

Once the mandatory hallmarking regime arrives, likely to be from early 2018, the income from tax revenue could potentially be doubled. However, jewellers will get six months' time to obtain the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) licence and to also sell the existing non-hallmarked stock.

"Unaccounted funds from household income are usually routed to the jewellery trade," said James Jose, joint secretary, Hallmarking Centres' Association, adding, "a large number of jewellers are trying to resist mandatory hallmarking as they want to continue selling under-caratage jewellery and make more money."

A BIS hallmark certifies the purity of gold used. With mandatory hallmarking, consumers may tend to prefer trusted names that typically comply with the law, leading to higher sales volumes for such vendors.

'HM without licence'

Presently, a majority of the jewellery hallmarked in India is not accounted for and not reported to the BIS. Unaccounted hallmarking happens for several reasons: jewellers do not have BIS licence; hallmarking centres do not take samples or carry out testing, ie what happens is referred to as 'dabba' hallmarking and hence not recorded or invoiced; jewellers evade BIS royalty and service tax; jewellers and wholesalers are ready to pay only ₹10 per piece instead of the BIS HM rate of ₹35 per piece. Hence HM centres prefer to conduct business that is unaccounted in the books.

"Several thousands of jewellers all over India carry out hallmarking without any BIS licence [thus] cheating customers," said Sebastian Joseph, director, Chemmanur Jewellers of Trichur. According to him, "Small and marginal jewellers are are not interested in hallmarking."

In 2012, under the aegis of Prof. K.V. Thomas, the then Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, all 270 jewellery shops in Kerala's Idukki district obtained BIS licences. But after the hype of the campaign was over, a majority of the licensed jewellers discontinued hallmarking for various reasons. Finally, the only hallmarking centre in that district also closed down due to poor volumes.

All HM centres in India send their monthly business data to BIS office. The data shows that in 2015-16 and 2016-17, the country had hallmarked about 350 lakh pieces of jewellery articles.

However, Mr. Jose said if the average weight of each article is 8 gm, then the total quantity hallmarked is about 280 tonnes of jewellery a year, out of the about total 1,000 tonnes sold per annum in the country.

In south India, where major jewellery groups typically account for hallmarked jewellery sold, about 50% of the HM business takes place, whereas in the north, hardly 25% of hallmarking is accounted for, taking the all India accounted business to a maximum of 35% of the actual hallmarking done, said Haresh Acharya, an Ahmedabad-based bullion dealer.

'Data mismatch'

Thus, according to Mr. Acharya, the BIS figures of 350 lakh pieces per annum is not authentic and the reality may be 800 lakh pieces or about 640 tonnes of jewellery per annum, including illegally marked jewellery. Hence, presently, a little more than 50% of the jewellery sold in the country is hallmarked.

According to Mr. Jose, 500 tonnes of bullion comes to about 640 tonnes of jewellery; another 200 tonnes of bullion come through smuggling, while a further 200 tonnes come out of scrap jewellery and recycling, while the remaining 50 tonnes are accounted for by the auction of jewellery of defaulted gold loans from NBFCs etc.

Each of the existing 500 hallmarking centres have the capacity to hallmark 2,000 pieces or 20 kg of jewellery per day.

Some of these centres have the capacity to hallmark up to 100 kg per day. The capacity housed by all the 500 centres is adequate to hallmark 1,000 tonnes of jewellery a year.

These centres are located in close proximity to the jewellery manufacturing centres of Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Chennai, Coimbatore and Trichur, from where the jewellery is redistributed to the retailing towns. Also, the main cities have about 15-20 hallmarking centres, which is more than adequate.

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THE HINDU DATE: 11 /12/2017 P.N.14

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'Urban focus'

Mandatory hallmarking is expected to be introduced in a phased manner, starting from metro cities. Presently, the government offers ₹20-50 lakh subsidy for setting up a hallmarking centre. The monthly operational expense of a centre is about ₹2.5 lakh and it needs a business volume of 750 pieces per day for its financial viability. "Such being the case, we cannot expect HM centres to come up in smaller towns and villages, even when the subsidy amount looks attractive for an investor. Presently, several HM centres are operating at 30-40% capacity utilisation," said Mr. Jose.

'Carats galore'

Even though nine different caratages were permitted to be hallmarked from the year 2000 to 2015, the quantity of 20 kt and 21 kt hallmarked gold sold was miniscule as per BIS data. The precious metals committee that decides on the permitted caratages comprises of representatives from the ministry, technical experts, consumer organisations, jewellery manufacturers, retailers and other industry bodies.

Based on feedback, the committee has permitted three caratages of 14, 18 and 22 kt. Earlier, caratages of 19, 20, 23.5 and 24 kt were permitted, often misleading the consumer. Unscrupulous traders pushed lower caratage items for the price of 22 kt gold.

Based on monthly data submitted by HM centres, BIS ascertained that 99% of hallmarking done in the past 18 years was for the 22 kt category and that the other caratages of 19 kt and 20 kt showed insignificant volumes. These numbers were inadequate to substantiate jewellers' claims for permitting multiple caratages.

In Gujarat, 83.3 purity (20 kt) is hallmarked at HM centres by wholesalers and sold at different prices. Same is the case in Meerut in U.P., in Delhi and in Bangalore, where considerable quantities of 20 kt jewellery are hallmarked as belonging to the higher 22 kt category by many HM centres. For such reasons, said Mr. Acharya, consumer organisations appealed to the Ministry to reduce the number of caratages permitted.

THE TELEGRAPH
DATE:11/12/2017 P.N.8

Bid to speed up mines auction

New Delhi: The mines ministry is looking to set up special purpose vehicles (SPVs) that will acquire necessary project clearances, including environmental, for the mineral blocks before bidding, a move that may add pace to the auction process, an official has said.

It may be noted that 60 auction attempts have failed in two years from January 2015 to March 2017.

"We are mulling setting up SPVs for seeking clearances such as environment and forest before auctioning the mineral blocks," a mines ministry official privy to the development said.

At present, there are significant delays in seeking forest and environmental clearances and as a result a lot of companies are not keen to participate in the auction of mineral blocks, the official said, adding "that's why we are thinking to set up special purpose vehicles".

In the power sector, the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) — the nodal agency for the development of mega power projects — sets up separate SPVs to act as authorised representatives of the procurers (distribution companies of the power procuring states). PTI

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 12 /12/2017 P.N.16

Crucial supports likely to halt downtrend in MCX-Aluminium

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The Aluminium futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange extended its fall for the second week. The contract has tumbled 3 per cent in the past week. It is currently hovering around the key 200-day moving average support level of ₹129 per kg. Series of supports are poised in between ₹129 and ₹127. Though a fall to test ₹127 - the lower end of the support zone cannot be ruled out in the near-term - and an immediate break below ₹127 looks less probable. Since the contract has been falling continuously since the beginning of November, there is a strong likelihood of an upward reversal in the coming days from ₹127. Such a bounce-back move can take the MCX-Aluminium futures contract higher to ₹131 or ₹132. Short-term traders with high risk appetite can wait for dips and go long on an upward reversal from ₹127. Stop-loss can be placed at ₹125.5 for the target of ₹130. Revise the stop-loss higher to ₹128 as soon as the contract moves up to ₹129.

The contract will come under more selling pressure if it fails to reverse higher in the coming days from ₹127 and break further below this support. Such a break can take the contract lower to ₹125. Further break below ₹125 will then increase the likelihood of the contract tumbling to ₹120 levels thereafter.

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

LOKMAT DATE:12/12/2017 P.N.6

गौण खनिजांची चोरी वाढली

खापरखेडा : परिसरात रेती मुरुम या गौण खनिजांच्या चोरीचे प्रमाण वाढले आहे. याकडे महसूल व पोलीस विभागातील अधिकारी दुर्लक्ष करीत असल्याने शासनाचा लाखो रुपयांचा महसूल बुडत असून, पर्यावरणाचे नुकसान होत आहे. त्यामुळे या गौण खनिजांच्या चोरीला आळा घालण्याची मागणी परिसरातील नागरिकांची आहे.

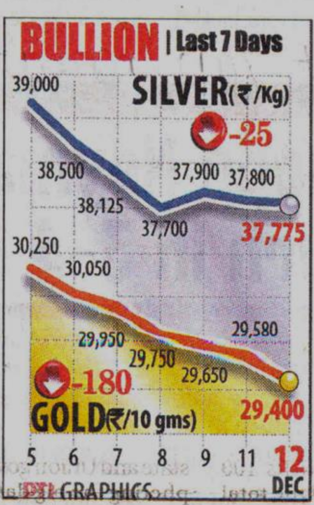
THE HITAVADA
DATE:13/12/2017 P.N.11

Gold hits 4-month low on overseas trend

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (PTI)

GOLD prices went down for the sixth straight day, plunging by Rs 180 to over a 4-month low of Rs 29,400 per 10 grams at the bullion market on Tuesday, hurt by a sluggish trend overseas and lower demand from jewellers.

Silver also shed Rs 25 to Rs 37,775 per kg due to reduced offtake by industrial units and coin makers.



Traders said that other than the weakness in demand from the local jewellers, a weak trend overseas on higher chances of a rate hike by the US Federal Reserve later this week diminishing appeal for the precious metals as a safe haven investment, led to the fall.

Globally, the yellow metal fell by 0.54 per cent to USD 1,241.40 an ounce and silver by 0.95 per cent to USD 15.67 an ounce in New York in yesterday's trade.

In the National Capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity tumbled by Rs 180 each to Rs 29,400 and Rs 29,250 per 10 grams, the lowest since August 5. It had lost Rs 670 in the last five days.

Sovereign, however, held steady at Rs 24,400 per piece of eight grams.

In line with gold, silver ready went down by Rs 25 to Rs 37,775 per kg and the weekly-based delivery slumped below the Rs 37,000-mark by falling Rs 215 to Rs 36,900 per kg.

Silver coins, too, plummeted by Rs 1,000 each to Rs 70,000 for buying and Rs 71,000 for selling of 100 pieces.

THE HITAVADA
DATE:13/12/2017 P.N.11

JK Cement plans to nearly double production capacity in 5 yrs

NEW DELHI, Dec 12 (PTI)

JK CEMENT is planning to add upto 8 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) capacity in the next five years, taking the total installed capacity to around 18 MTPA for grey cements, said a top company official. The company is planning to expand to 3.5 to 4 million tonnes in brownfield and greenfield projects separately.

The JK Organisation group firm would also invest around Rs 1,200-1,500 crore in brownfield expansion at its Mangrol facility in the State of Rajasthan in the next 24-30 months.

"We are looking, in the next 4-5 years to add at least 7-8 million tonnes to our capacity and go from 10.5 MTPA to 18 -19 MTPA," JK Grey Cement Business Head, Rajnish Kapur told PTI.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
DATE:13/12/2017 P.N.8

Diamond Exporters Expect Tax Reforms in US to Boost Demand

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Kolkata: India's diamond traders are eyeing an increase in business from the tax reforms in the United States that they believe will lead to an increase in the disposable income of Americans and consequently higher spending on lifestyle products including diamond jewellery.

Simultaneously, the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council has partnered with the Diamond Producers Association comprising leading diamond miners to embark on an international campaign to boost diamond consumption across the globe.

These twin factors have raised expectations among gems and jewellery exporters of a better 2018-19 than the current financial year.

Gems and jewellery exports in the first seven months of the current fiscal fell 13.18% in rupee terms over the previous year and 11% in dollar terms, although exports of cut and polished diamonds went up 7% in volume terms to 214.05 lakh carats.

"We are expecting that the $1.5 trillion tax bill of (President Donald) Trump will boost the US economy and increase the purchasing power of Americans," said Praveen Shankar Pandya, chairman of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

"This will help Indian diamond exports to the US, the biggest market for us. We expect 2018-19 to be a better year for us," he said.

According to Rapaport Weekly report published on December 7, diamond trading has been steady with a positive momentum ahead of the Christmas-New Year holiday season. It said that dealers are filling local and international orders, and retailers are capitalising on jewellery stacking and layering fashion trend this season.

BUSINESS LINE
DATE:13/12/2017 P.N.16

MCX-Zinc on an up-and-down path

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The Zinc futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange has fallen sharply since the beginning of this month.

The contract hit a high of ₹211.15 per kg on December 1 and has tumbled about 6 per cent since to a low of ₹198.55 on Friday. The contract has bounced slightly from this low, and is currently trading around ₹201 per kg.

The immediate outlook is mixed. The price action in the coming days will need a close watch, as that will be the key to determine the next move for the contract.

Traders can stay out of the market until a clear trend emerges.

The region between ₹198 and ₹199 is a crucial support. If the contract manages to sustain above this support zone and gains momentum, the downside pressure may ease. In such a scenario, a relief rally to ₹206 or ₹208 is possible in the coming days.

On the other hand, if the MCX-Zinc futures contract breaks decisively below ₹198, the selling pressure will increase. This can drag the contract lower to ₹195 or ₹193 thereafter. Such a fall might keep the contract under pressure for a prolonged period.

The region between ₹200 and ₹202 will act as a strong resistance and can cap the upside. In that case, there is a strong likelihood of the contract extending its downmove to ₹190 or even to ₹187 in the coming weeks.

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

BUSINESS LINE
DATE:13/12/2017 P.N.3

Iron ore lease shifted to NMDC JV

OUR BUREAU
Hyderabad, December 12

The Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit-13 lease in Kirandul village in Chhattisgarh's South Bastar Dantewada district has been registered in favour of NMDC-Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (NCL), a 51:49 joint venture between NMDC and CMDC Ltd.

This follows a Chhattisgarh government order transferring the mine lease to NMDC. The venture expects to begin work on the mine in 2018-19 and serve the sponge iron industries in the State as well as other domestic steelmakers.

The transfer of lease from NMDC to NCL was warranted under the joint venture terms.

BUSINESS LINE
DATE:14/12/2017 P.N.16

WEEKLY OUTLOOK

Resistances can cap the upside for MCX-Nickel

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

After falling for two consecutive weeks, the Nickel futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) got a breather in the past week.

The contract has managed to bounce higher after making a low of ₹692.8 per kg last Thursday. The contract has risen about 4 per cent from this low, and is currently trading at ₹720 per kg.

Resistances are at ₹723 and ₹730, which are likely to be tested. If the contract manages to breach ₹730, the current upmove can extend to ₹740 or ₹742.

A further break above ₹742 looks less likely at the moment.

The bias is bearish on the charts as the downtrend that has been in place since November remains intact. This leaves the possibility less of the contract breaking above ₹730 in the coming days. A subsequent downward reversal after testing ₹730 in the near-term can trigger a fresh leg of downmove in the contract. In such a scenario, a fall breaking below ₹700 to ₹670 or ₹665 is possible.

The contract has managed to bounce higher after making a low of ₹692.8 per kg last Thursday

High-risk appetite traders can go short at current levels and at ₹728. Stop-loss can be placed at ₹742 for the target of ₹680.

Revise the stop-loss lower to ₹710 as soon as the contract moves down to ₹695.

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

THE TELEGRAPH
DATE:14/12/2017 P.N.10

HCL mine in Ghatsila reopens

A STAFF REPORTER

Calcutta: Hindustan Copper (HCL) has reopened the Kendadih copper mine at Ghatsila in Jharkhand after over 16 years. The mine is key to the capacity expansion plan of the state-owned miner.

The copper mine was closed in February 2000 as operations became unviable.

HCL said considering the favourable market conditions now, the company has reworked the business plan.

After obtaining statutory clearances, such as environment and forest, and on the execution of the mining lease deed from the central and the state governments, the company has reopened the mine on December 11.

HCL officials told **The Telegraph** they started operations after removing water from the mine.

HCL had earmarked an investment of around Rs 70 crore towards the development of the mine and plans to invest more to ramp up capacity.

"Making the mine ready for operation was a big task but one that has been done successfully. We would gradually ramp up capacity, going forward. After March, we would be in a position to reach around 300 tonnes per day and before two years would be in a position to extract around 2.25 lakh tonnes of copper ore annually," a senior HCL officer said.

HCL has chalked out a strategy to expand its production capacity to 12.2 million tonnes per annum from 3.4 million tonnes per annum. The HCL scrip at Rs 92.65 was up 3.93 per cent over the previous close on the Bombay Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

During 2016-17, Hindustan Copper's sales volume was 28,888 tonnes against 24,112 tonnes during the previous year. The firm's operations are spread across Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.

THE HINDU
DATE:14/12/2017 P.N.15

DAINIK BHASKAR
DATE:14/12/2017 P.N.19

Copper PSU reopens Kendadih mine

May annually invest ₹100 cr. in project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Hindustan Copper Ltd. has reopened the Kendadih Copper Mine at Ghatsila in Jharkhand which had been closed since February 2000 due to economic reasons.

Considering the favourable market conditions, the company had reworked the business plan and re-opened the mine this week after obtaining all the statutory clearances, the company said in a regulatory filing.

An investment of about ₹100 crore is being proposed annually on this project. About ₹72 crore capital expenditure had already been incurred, a company official said.

After completion of mine development activities, Kendadih Mine is expected to produce 2.3 lakh tonnes of copper.

Santosh Sharma

HCL will also re-open another brownfield mine in the Singbhum copper belt and open a new mine. They were Rakha and Chappri-Siddheswari with a total ore capacity of 3 million tonnes, according to HCL chairman-cum-managing director Santosh Sharma.

अवैध रेत परिवहन करने वाले 151 वाहनों की धरपकड़

23.10 लाख रुपए वसूला गया जुर्माना

नगर संवाददाता | नागपुर

अवैध रेत उत्खनन करने वाले 151 वाहनधारकों से 23.10 लाख रुपए का जुर्माना वसूला गया है। साथ ही 149 वाहन चालकों की अनुज्ञप्तियां निलंबित की गई हैं। ऐसे 231 अवैध गौण खनिज वाहनधारकों की परमिट निलंबित करने का नोटिस जारी कर दिया गया है। यह जानकारी जिलाधिकारी सचिन कुर्वे ने दी है। जिलाधिकारी कार्यालय के छत्रपति सभागृह में प्रादेशिक परिवहन प्राधिकरण की बैठक आयोजित की गई थी। इस अवसर पर जिलाधिकारी कुर्वे ने गौण खनिजों का परिवहन करने वालों के साथ स्कूल बसों को लगाए जाने वाले जीपीएस यैंत्रणा का जायजा लिया। इस अवसर पर प्रादेशिक परिवहन अधिकारी शरद जिचकार भी मौजूद थे। इस समय जानकारी दी गई कि गौण खनिजों का परिवहन करने वाले 97 वाहनों व 327 स्कूल बसों पर जीपीएस यंत्र लगाए गए हैं। 115 दोषी स्कूल बसों पर कार्रवाई की गई है, जिनसे 35 हजार रुपए का जुर्माना वसूला गया है। इस दौरान चेतावनी दी गई है कि अगर गौण खनिजों का परिवहन करते समय जीपीएस यंत्र नहीं दिखाई दिया, तो वाहन का परमिट स्थायी रूप से रद्द कर दिया जाएगा।

THE INDIAN EXPRESS
DATE:14/12/2017 P.N.16

SAIL board gives nod to JV proposal with ArcelorMittal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

STEEL AUTHORITY of India Ltd (SAIL) on Wednesday said its board has approved the proposal to enter into a joint venture with the world's largest steelmaker ArcelorMittal for manufacturing high-end automotive steel.

"The Board of SAIL in its meeting held on December 12, 2017, has approved the proposal for signing of a legally non-binding term sheet with ArcelorMittal S.A for entering into a JV for automotive Steel Business," SAIL said.

However, definitive agreements in this regard will be finalised in due course subject to financial viability, the PSU said in a filing to the BSE. SAIL and ArcelorMittal had entered into an MoU in May 2015 to explore the possibility of setting up an auto-grade steel manufacturing facility under a joint venture in India.

Steel minister Chaudhary Birender Singh last week had said that the JV was likely soon and the proposed Rs 15,000-crore auto-grade steel plant project.

THE HITAVADA DATE: 15 /12/2017 P.N.9

Gold climbs on firm global cues, jewellers' buying

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (PTI)

GOLD prices surged by Rs 230 to Rs 29,665 per 10 grams at the bullion market on Thursday largely in line with a firming trend overseas amid increased buying by local jewellers.

Silver followed suit and recaptured the Rs 38,000-mark by rising Rs 680 to Rs 38,280 per kg due to increased offtake by industrial units and coin makers. Traders said sentiment bolstered after gold edged higher in global markets as the dollar was nearly unchanged after tumbling in the previous session following the US Federal Reserve's widely expected decision to raise interest rates. Globally, gold rose 0.17 per cent to USD 1,257.50 an ounce in Singapore.

In addition, increased buying by local jewellers to meet the wedding season demand at the domestic spot market supported the uptrend, they said.

In the National Capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity surged by Rs 230 each to Rs 29,665 and Rs 29,515 per ten grams, respectively.

The precious metal had gained Rs 35 yesterday. Sovereign went up by Rs 100 to Rs 24,500 per piece of eight grams.

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 15 /12/2017 P.N.14

Sell gold at $1,267/ounce

GNANASEKAAR T

Comex gold futures hit a week-high on Thursday, as the dollar was on the defensive after tumbling in the previous session following the US Federal Reserve's decision on interest rates.

Comex gold futures moved lower as expected. A good bounce looks likely to $1,267-75 per ounce range in the coming sessions. But it looks unlikely if prices can sustain and push higher from there. Prices could edge up to $1,260-67 , but could start declining below $1,230 again.

Only a close above $1,280 could suddenly open the upside again to $1,295/97 . A direct fall below $1,235 could revive bearish expectations for $1,206/10 in the coming sessions.

Wave counts: It is most likely that the fall from the record $1,925 to the recent low of $1,088 so far, was either a possible corrective wave "A", with a possibility to even extend towards $1,025-30 levels or a complete correction of A-B-C ending with this decline. Subsequently, a corrective wave "B" could unfold with targets near $1,375 or even higher. After that, a wave "C" could begin lower again.

Alternatively, we can also expect wave "B" to extend to $1,476. If the current decline as a whole from $1,920 can be considered as a fourth wave, then the fifth wave could begin and cross $1,700 in the long-term.

But failure to follow-through above $1,355 has dashed any hopes of any impulsive up move as prices have broken certain important supports and shows weakness targeting $1,100 .

Therefore, sell Comex gold around $1,267 with the stop-loss at $1,278 targeting $1,235 followed by $1,210. Supports are at $1,245, 1,225 and 1,206. Resistances are at $1,267, 1,277 and 1,297.

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

BUSINESS LINE DATE: 15 /12/2017 P.N.14

MCX Lead stuck in sideways range

GURUMURTHY K
BL Research Bureau

The Lead futures contract on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) has been stuck inside a sideways range over the last several weeks.

The contract has been range-bound between ₹155 and ₹168 per kg for about two months.

Within this range, the contract made a low of ₹155.65 on Friday last week and has bounced sharply from there.

Inability to break above ₹168 and a pull-back move will continue to keep the contract inside the sideways range for some time.

It is currently trading at ₹161/kg.

The sideways range remains intact. As long as the contract trades above ₹159, there is a strong likelihood of it moving higher to test ₹168 — the upper end of the range in the coming days.

Whether the contract breaks above ₹168 or not will decide the next move. Inability to break above ₹168 and a pull-back move will continue to keep the contract inside the sideways range for some time. In such a scenario, a fall to ₹160 and ₹155 is possible again.

But, if it manages to break above ₹168 decisively, it can gain fresh momentum.

Such a break can take the contract higher to ₹171 initially.

Further break above ₹171 will increase the likelihood of the up-move extending to ₹175.

However, the outlook for the contract will turn negative if it declines below ₹155.

Such a break can drag the contract lower to ₹150.

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

THE HINDU DATE: 15 /12/2017 P.N.9

Rebooting coal block auctions

We are auctioning them the wrong way. A design overhaul is necessary to draw players and ensure viable allotments

SATNAM SINGH

India's coal sector remains under stress despite a raft of policy changes in the past three years, including the introduction of e-auction for captive blocks in early 2015.

Of the five rounds of auctions held till date, response to three has been tepid, with the last one (or Tranche V) getting cancelled.

Also, of the 72 coal blocks auctioned and allotted so far, only a handful have started operations.

Of the mines allotted to government undertakings on nomination basis, many are still finalising mining plans and appointment of developers-cum-operators.

Many cases have also been filed in courts on the auction method, the compensation to be paid to prior allottees, and modification of auction rules after bidding.

So far, policy focus has been to get the allotted blocks on stream at the earliest, and increase production by allotting more coal blocks for both captive and commercial mining.

Wrong kind

The current design of coal-block auctions for the non-power sector is an ascending system where the government sets a floor price and bids escalate in line with the wholesale price index.

The first two auctions saw exorbitant bids and then the price of imported coal plunged, which rendered these mines unviable — even as the process of transferring the mines to new allottees ran into glitches.

Contrastingly, in the power sector, a reverse auction method was followed. It saw negative bidding whereby the allottee bears the mining cost and also pays a forward premium, which means that the energy charges at which power is sold to discoms do not allow for recovery of such costs.

Blended under-recoveries on that account are 50-80 paise per kWh. And this increases as mining costs and forward premiums rise along with the wholesale price index.

Yet another impediment has been the lack of power purchase agreements.

All this casts doubt on the Government's target of producing 1.5 billion tonne per annum (btpa) of coal by 2020. Of this goal, 1 btpa was to be produced by Coal India, 0.1 btpa by Singareni Collieries (SCCL), and the remaining by captive and commercial mines.

The Coal India factor

Coal India's production grew just 3 per cent to 554 million tonnes last fiscal, compared with 7 per cent and 9 per cent in 2015 and 2016, respectively, as inter-alia plant load factors (PLFs) at thermal plants plunged to 60 per cent last fiscal from 77 per cent in 2010.

To boot, the company was asked to increase supplies to tide over the alarming shortage at thermal plants between August and October 2017.

What that means is, while there are a number of variables shaping demand for thermal power — such as the push to renewables and falling tariffs thereof, increased electrification, and expansion in evacuation infrastructure — any increase in PLFs and capacity will put pressure on coal supplies.

If Coal India were to increase production by 10 per cent annually, it would end up producing ~700 mtpa, while SCCL can contribute 80-90, by 2020.

That means a huge chunk of the 1.5 btpa goal, after adjusting for imports, will have to come from captive and commercial mining.

This would require significant policy, pricing and institutional reforms.

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Need a reboot

Clearly, an overhaul of the current auction design is the first priority. As in the case of mineral auctions under the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, where premium is a percentage of the prices notified by the Indian Bureau of Mines, there should be a price index for coal, too, for such linkage.

There are many price benchmarks already available, including Coal India and SCCL prices, the spot e-auction and linkage auctions, from captive mines and from imported coal.

And as and when commercial mining fructifies, there will be another.

The Government can use all these and come up with an overall price index to link the auction premium for captive coal blocks for non-power sector and commercial blocks. Such a mechanism would ensure the bidder pays as per market conditions — a higher premium if the index price is high, and lower when it is low.

The assumption is that market conditions in the end-use sector will get reflected in the coal price index, so high demand for end-use products will push up demand for coal and the index, and vice versa.

Similarly, for the power sector, instead of a base price plus escalation method, the forward premium can be linked to such a coal price index.

In addition, clear guidelines are needed regarding preparation of coal blocks before bidding. Fully explored ones with clear demarcation of boundaries and all approvals in place will go a long way in attracting bidder interest.

And last but not the least, a nodal agency at the State level, with representation from all stakeholders, could be set up to facilitate land acquisition.

It must complete identification of land for compensatory afforestation, enumeration of trees and cost-benefit analysis before auctions begin.

The writer is Director, Energy, CRISIL Infrastructure Advisory