**KHANIJ SAMACHAR**

**Vol. 10, No-04**

**(As appeared in National/Local Newspapers Received in Central Library, IBM, Nagpur)**

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# खनिज समाचार

# KHANIJ SAMACHAR


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## INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

## VOL. 10, NO – 04, 16th – 28th FEBRUARY 2026

BUSINESS LINE DATE:17/2/2026 P.NO.8

## Copper softer on thin volumes

**London:** Copper prices softened on Monday due to a firmer dollar, a focus on rising inventories and weak demand prospects in holiday-thinned trading. Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange traded 0.1 per cent lower at $12,865 a tonne in the official ring. REUTERS

BUSINESS LINE DATE:17/2/2026 P.NO.8

# Lead: Retain long position at ₹187, stop-loss at ₹181

**Akhil Nallamuthu**
bl. research bureau

Lead futures recorded a lifetime high of ₹207.40 (per kg) on January 29. However, the contract has been on a decline since then. While the volatility has been higher, the price moderated and the contract is now hovering around ₹187.

## COMMODITY CALL.

As per the prevailing price action, there is a chance for lead to dip further. But there is a notable support at ₹184, and a decline beyond this level is unlikely.

A rally, either from the current level of ₹187 or after a dip to ₹184, could lift lead to ₹196, a notable resistance. After reaching this level, the contract could witness a decline in price.

On the other hand, instead of a rebound, if lead breaches the support at ₹184, it could find an immediate support at ₹182. But breaking down below ₹182 could turn the near-term outlook weak and possibly drag the contract to ₹176. Overall, the likelihood for a rally is high.

**TRADE STRATEGY**

Retain the long that we suggested to initiate at ₹187. Add long if the price dips to ₹185. Maintain stop-loss at ₹181. When the contract reaches ₹190, revise the stop-loss to ₹188. When the contract rises to ₹194, modify the stop-loss to ₹191. Exit at ₹196.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:18/2/2026 P.NO.10

# Aluminium: Go long at ₹306, stop-loss at ₹300

**Akhil Nallamuthu**
bl.research bureau


Aluminium futures is now quoted at ₹307 (per kg). The contract has not been trending since the beginning of the month.

## COMMODITY CALL.

After witnessing very high volatility in the second half of January, the bulls and the bears appear to be negotiating, and there has not been a real winner yet.

Since early February, aluminium has largely been consolidating between ₹302 and ₹318. Only a clear break of this sideways band will give us cues about the direction of next price swing.

That said, currently trading at ₹307, the contract is hovering near the lower boundary of the range. The 50-day moving average also lies at ₹307.

So, even though aluminium remains within a band, the likelihood of the contract rising on the back of the above-mentioned support is high. It could retest ₹318. So, traders could consider buying.

**TRADE STRATEGY**

Traders with high risk tolerance can buy aluminium futures at ₹306. Target and stop-loss can be ₹318 and ₹300 respectively.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:19/2/2026 P.NO.1

# IBM: Maha has 41% rare earth element resources in India

**Shishir.Arya**
@timesofindia.com

**Nagpur:** As rare earth elements (REEs) are a buzzword these days, the latest data compiled by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) shows that Maharashtra has the highest resources of the new-age mineral. REEs include 17 types of specialty metals and have a major use in the defence manufacturing sector, leading to sudden global focus.

Data compiled by the Nagpur-headquartered mining sector regulator, shows that India has over 29 lakh tons of estimated REE resources. Of this, over 12 lakh tons, which comes to 41% of the country's total resource, lie in Maharashtra, as per the data. Gujarat has the second-highest resources at 11 lakh tons after Maharashtra.

**WCL is exploring rare earth elements in the overburden**

In Vidarbha, public sector mining company, Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), is exploring RREs in the overburden — earth dug out for mining coal. Samples have been sent to the non-ferrous metals technology development centre at Hyderabad.

▶CIL doing exploration, P 5

CONT. TO PAGE NO. 5

CONT. FROM PAGE NO. 4

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:19/2/2026 P.NO.5

# IBM Drafts Rules For Upcoming Desi Mineral & Metal Exchange

## Proposed Exchange To Start With Spot Trading

Shishir.Arya@timesofindia.com

**Nagpur:** The govt's proposed mineral exchange, modelled on the London Metal Exchange (LME), is expected to launch soon. The Nagpur-headquartered Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the regulator for the mining sector, has submitted draft rules and regulations for the exchange's operations. Once approved by the ministry of mines, this will pave the way for a trading platform covering a wide range of minerals in India.

Initially, the draft proposes starting with spot trading, while derivatives may be introduced at a later stage.

In the first year, trading through the exchange will be optional, though it may become mandatory eventually, sources said. Yogesh Kale, chief controller of mines at IBM, confirmed that both the IBM and the ministry of mines are finalizing the rules.

The idea is to establish a price discovery mechanism for minerals, similar to the LME. Depending on the exchange's regulations, even retail investors could potentially participate in trading.

The ministry of mines first proposed mineral and coal exchanges last year. In October, IBM was made the regulating agency for the exchanges. For coal exchange, the controller of coal's office was made the regulator.

IBM expects clearance for the rules soon. The draft covers key operational aspects, including warehousing, delivery mechanisms, settlement systems, and compliance with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) regulations.

Officials indicated that all exchanges operating in India would eventually launch a mineral trading platforms. The exchanges are expected to reflect realistic prices based on demand and supply.

Currently, rates are derived from returns submitted by miners to the IBM, which then calculates a weighted average to set the base price for royalty calculations.

AI Image

### REVOLUTION IN MINERALS TRADING

- Govt's proposed mineral exchange is modelled on the London Metal Exchange (LME)
- Once approved, this will pave the way for a trading platform covering a wide range of minerals in India
- At the outset, the draft proposes starting with spot trading, while derivatives may be introduced at a later stage
- In the 1st year, trading through the exchange will be optional, though it may become mandatory eventually:Sources


- Depending on the exchange's regulations, even retail investors could potentially participate in trading
- The exchanges are expected to reflect realistic prices based on demand & supply
- Currently, rates are derived from returns submitted by miners to IBM, which then calculates a weighted average, to set base price for royalty calculations
- For coal exchange, the controller of coal's office was made the regulator

## CIL doing REE exploration in exclusive block near Ramtek

▶ Continued from P 1

WCL plans to issue tenders for exploration in other mines. Govt is stressing on exploration of rare earth elements (REE) in overburden, mining wastes. Sources say sizable part of resources mentioned in IBM data are from overburden.

Coal India Limited has also taken up an exclusive block near Ramtek for REE exploration. IBM data, which was submitted before a parliamentary committee recently, is based on inputs gathered from different agencies like Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL) and directorates of mining and geology, said sources.

According to IBM data, there are REE resources in 11 states, including north-east. Lowest find is in Jharkhand, otherwise mineral rich.

The data is bifurcated as REE ore and REE. Former includes earth and waste rock from where rare earths are to be extracted. The country has over 58 crore tons of REE, but extraction is yet to begin.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:19/2/2026 P.NO.12

# Copper: Go short at ₹1,170, stop-loss at ₹1,185

**Akhil Nallamuthu**
bl.research bureau

Copper futures are now trading at ₹1,165 (per kg). The contract has been on a decline since the beginning of the month. Extending the decline, it slipped below the support at ₹1,200 last week.


## COMMODITY CALL.

On Tuesday, it lost nearly 4 per cent and closed below another support at ₹1,180, indicating good downward momentum.

The recent price action shows a bearish bias. That said, for the near term, the downswing may not extend much as there is support ahead at ₹1,135, the 50 per cent Fibonacci retracement of the prior uptrend. Subsequent support is at ₹1,080. Overall, we expect copper to inch up to the ₹1,175-1,180 price band and then see another leg of fall to ₹1,135. This opens up a short-term trading opportunity.

**TRADE STRATEGY**

Short copper at ₹1,170. Place stop-loss at ₹1,185. When the contract slips to ₹1,150, tighten the stop-loss to ₹1,170. Book profits at ₹1,135.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:19/2/2026 P.NO.4

# India keen to diversify crude, coking coal sources: Goyal

India wants to diversify its sources of crude oil and coking coal and would "love" to source high-quality coking coal from the US, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday. He also said that the US can provide certain goods that India needs desperately for its economic growth. "We want to diversify our oil sources. I want to diversify the source of coking coal for example. I am dependent on two or three geographies (for that) and prices keep fluctuating. I would love to have American coking coal which is high quality coming to India," he said at an event in Mumbai. PTI

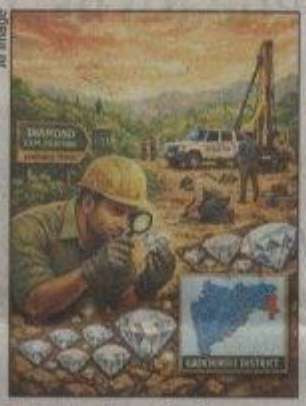
THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:20/2/2026 P.NO.1

# After iron ore, it's diamonds? Gadchiroli sheds its Red tag

Shishir.Arya@timesofindia.com

**Nagpur:** After iron ore, Gadchiroli which has now shed its Maoist tag, may be known for diamonds too if a proposed exploration succeeds. The Central govt has invited bids for taking up a diamond hunt in Kurkheda tehsil in the northern part of the district, which has emerged as a preferred destination for steel makers due to its rich iron ore reserves.

Bids for the second tranche of exploratory licences that cover a whole gamut of minerals includes Gadchiroli's Kurkheda block for diamond exploration. Currently, diamond mining is mainly concentrated in Panna district of MP, where National Mining Development Corporation (NMDC) carries out operations. If the exploration ends in a success, it would be the first major diamond find outside Panna and could change the socio-economic dynamics of Gadchiroli and eastern Maharashtra, sources said. The Kurkheda block is spread over 212 hectares.




AI image

**Central govt invites bids for exploration in Kurkheda tehsil**

The govt has offered blocks for exploration on the basis of data, including findings by Geological Survey of India (GSI). Data is the primary indication of a likelihood of any mineral in an area. A detailed exploration has to be carried out to ascertain the quantity of reserves mineable from a given block, a source explained.

Once proven, the block would be put up for auction again, and the entity that carried out exploration would get a share of revenue. The auction will take place under the reverse bid system. The bidders would have to quote the percentage share they would take, once reserves are proven and mining begins. The lowest bidder would bag the deal.

▶Auctions soon, P 5

## Auctions for critical mineral blocks soon

▶Continued from P 1

The second tranche of exploration licence bidding covers 11 blocks. These include critical minerals like titanium, vanadium, lead, zinc, and zirconium to be explored in blocks spread across states like Odisha, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

The rare earth element blocks up for exploration are in Telangana.

The govt is expected to come up with another tranche of auctions for critical mineral blocks soon. Nagpur-based Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) is providing technical consultancy to the ministry of mines. This tranche is separate from bids that have been invited for exploration of diamond and critical mineral deposits. Bids would be invited for mining as well as composite licences for a host of critical minerals, sources said.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:20/2/2026 P.NO.4

# Rare earth permanent magnet production to begin in India by year-end: Minister

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 19 February

India will begin domestic production of rare-earth permanent magnets (REPMs) by the end of this year and set up dedicated critical mineral processing parks in four states, Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy said on Thursday, signalling a sharper push to build a full domestic value chain in strategic minerals.

Speaking at a FICCI event, Reddy said permanent magnets, which are critical for electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, electronics and defence manufacturing, will be produced in India for the first time, reducing reliance on imports. The move is backed by a ₹7,280 crore REPM scheme approved by the Union Cabinet last November.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech for 2026-27, said the Centre would support dedicated rare-earth corridors in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, focusing on the mining, processing, research, and manufacturing of strategic minerals.

Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy announced plans for processing parks in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Gujarat

Reddy also announced plans to establish critical mineral processing parks in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Gujarat, with Gujarat having already initiated work.

The parks are intended to boost domestic refining capacity and ensure that critical minerals are not exported in raw form but processed within India.

"We put hard work to secure raw material and that raw material is exported. We have to stop this. We have to process it. This is a big challenge for us," Reddy said, adding that the centre is going to discuss the idea of processing plants with the chief ministers of Odisha and Maharashtra soon.

He emphasised that raw materials should not leave India without value addition and underscored the need to diversify supply chains and avoid excessive concentration of critical minerals in any single geography. The policy momentum follows China's move last year to curb exports of REPMs.

Speaking at the same event, Ed Jager, Minister (Commercial) at the High Commission of Canada in India, said Canadian companies are actively seeking joint ventures and investment partnerships with Indian firms across the critical mineral value chain. He said Ottawa is willing to match foreign investments through its C$2 billion Critical Minerals Sovereign Fund, creating an opportunity for Indian companies exploring upstream assets in Canada.

Jager also highlighted that Canada exported over $2 billion worth of minerals and metals to India in 2024 and pitched long-term metallurgical coal supply partnerships to support India's expanding steel sector.

He invited Indian companies to engage with Canadian firms at the upcoming convention of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) in Toronto, positioning it as a platform to deepen bilateral collaboration.

"PDAC is the world's premier mining investment event and a gathering point for companies, financiers, governments, and innovators among the critical mineral value chain. Canada will be showcasing major critical mineral opportunities, and we look forward to welcoming a strong Indian presence," he said.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:20/2/2026 P.NO.4

# CoalMin proposes revised timelines to speed up mine operationalisation

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 19 February

The Ministry of Coal has proposed revisions to the existing timelines under commercial and captive coal mining agreements as part of its push to accelerate coal mine operationalisation.

In a notice, the ministry said that it drafted amendments to the efficiency parameters under the Coal Mine Development and Production Agreement and Coal Block Development and Production Agreement.

The draft provided a structured milestone framework from allocation to mine opening, with total operationalisation timelines of 40 months for fully explored mines, and 52 months for partially explored mines requiring preparation of a geological report (GR).

Delays in key milestones remained linked to appropriation of performance security. Under the proposal, delays in GR preparation for partially explored mines could trigger cumulative appropriation of up to 50 per cent of performance security.

Performance security in coal mining is a financial guarantee, usually a bank guarantee or fixed deposit receipt, submitted by a successful bidder to the government to ensure adherence to contractual obligations, including timelines for mine development and production. It acts as a safeguard against non-performance or delays.

Delays in approval of the mining plan and environment clearance might attract a 10 per cent appropriation of this security, while delays in execution of the mining lease and mine opening permission could result in appropriation of 25 per cent each. However, the framework retained a provision allowing the refund of appropriated performance security if the final milestone such as mine opening permission or board approval was completed within the overall stipulated timeline.

India produced over 1 billion tonnes of coal in FY25, with imports declining 8.4%. The review followed a series of regulatory reforms introduced since the launch of commercial coal auctions in 2020, aimed at expediting coal mines operationalisation.

Among the measures highlighted by the ministry was removal of mandatory GR approval permitting accredited private agencies to undertake exploration without requiring a prospecting licence. The ministry also eliminated the need for mandatory mine opening permission and recently identified coking coal as a critical and strategic mineral.

Critical minerals receive exemptions such as waiver of public hearing for environmental clearances ensuring faster operationalisation of such mines.

The proposed changes followed recommendations of a committee of industry experts constituted to review existing milestones and timelines. Stakeholders have been given 15 days to submit suggestions.

## New recommendations

- The total operationalisation timelines are 40 months for fully explored mines, and 52 months for partially explored mines
- Delays in GR preparation for partially explored mines could trigger cumulative appropriation of up to 50 percent of performance security
- Delays in approval of the mining plan and environment clearance may attract a 10 percent appropriation of this security

THE HINDU DATE:20/2/2026 P.NO.13

# Rare-earth permanent magnet production to commence within this year: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India will commence production of rare-earth permanent magnet within this year, Union Minister for Mines G. Kishan Reddy said on Thursday.

The Union Cabinet had given nod to a scheme for rare-earth permanent magnet manufacturing of about 6,000 metric tonnes per annum, in November last year.

This had a financial outlay of ₹7,280 crore. At a critical minerals summit of the industry body FICCI, Mr. Reddy also announced the government's plan to set up dedicated parks for critical mineral processing plants in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:20/2/2026 P.NO.10

# Buy zinc futures at ₹322 with a stop-loss at ₹314

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau


For about two weeks now, zinc futures (currently trading at ₹324/kg) have been in a sideways crawl. That is, since the beginning of this month, they have been oscillating between ₹318 and ₹332.

## COMMODITY CALL.

On Wednesday, the contract gained nearly 2 per cent after rebounding from the lower boundary of the range, i.e., ₹318. A trendline coincides with this base, making it a strong support.

Going ahead, there is a chance for zinc futures to rally past the upper boundary of the range at ₹332 and attempt to move towards ₹340 and ₹350.

On the other hand, if the bears gather more strength and lead to a breach of the support at ₹318, the near-term outlook will turn bearish. Notable support below ₹318 is at ₹300, although ₹312 is a minor one.

**TRADE STRATEGY**

Buy zinc futures at ₹322 and place a stop-loss at ₹314. When the contract reaches ₹332, trail the stop-loss to ₹322. Book profits at ₹340.

THE HITAVADA DATE:20/2/2026 P.NO.9

# India to begin permanent magnets production this year: G Kishan Reddy

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (PTI)

INDIA will begin production of Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs) this year itself, Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy said on Thursday, marking a key step towards self-reliance in critical minerals for electric vehicles and renewable energy sectors.

Speaking at a conference organised by FICCI and Ministry of Mines here, Reddy highlighted the Government's push under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative to reduce import dependence on rare earth elements. "In this year itself, permanent magnets production will begin in India," Reddy asserted. The announcement comes amid India's focus on securing supplies of neodymium, praseodymium and other rare earths, with the mines ministry auctioning exploration blocks and approving recycling facilities.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS
DATE:21/2/2026 P.NO.JACKET

# Saudi Arabia may start uranium enrichment under deal with US, warn experts

**Associated Press**
*February 20*

SAUDI ARABIA could have some form of uranium enrichment within the kingdom under a proposed nuclear deal with the United States, congressional documents and an arms control group suggest, raising proliferation concerns as an atomic standoff between Iran and America continues.

US Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden both tried to reach a nuclear deal with the kingdom to share American technology.

Nonproliferation experts warn any spinning centrifuges within Saudi Arabia could open the door to a possible weapons program for the kingdom, something its assertive crown prince has suggested he could pursue if Tehran obtains an atomic bomb.

Already, Saudi Arabia and nuclear-armed Pakistan signed a mutual defence pact last year after Israel launched an attack on Qatar targeting Hamas officials. Pakistan's defence- minister then said his nation's nuclear program "will be made available" to Saudi Arabia if needed, something seen as a warning for Israel, long believed to be the Middle East's only nuclear-armed state.

"Nuclear cooperation can be a positive mechanism for upholding nonproliferation norms and increasing transparency, but the devil is in the details," wrote Kelsey Davenport, the director for nonproliferation policy at the Washington-based Arms Control Association.

The documents raise "concerns that the Trump administration has not carefully considered the proliferation risks posed by its proposed nuclear cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia or the precedent this agreement may set."

BUSINESS LINE DATE:21/2/2026 P.NO.2

# India joins US-led Pax Silica to secure chips, critical minerals

**DEEPENING TIES.** Coalition aims to cut supply chain risks by reducing dependence on 'one nation'

Our Bureau
New Delhi

India and the US on Tuesday signed the Pax Silica declaration at the India AI Impact Summit, formally marking New Delhi's entry into a strategic partnership to secure resilient supply chains for semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI) and critical minerals. Both sides projected it as an initiative to curtail over-dependence on "one country", the oblique reference presumed to be to China.

The pact was signed by IT Secretary S Krishnan and US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg, in the presence of Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor.


The pact was signed by IT Secretary S Krishnan (right) and the US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg (left) in the presence of Minister for Electronics & IT Ashwini Vaishnaw and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor (centre) ANI

## SECURING SUPPLIES

Pax Silica was launched in December with Australia, Greece, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates, besides the US and the latest entrant India as members.

Pax Silica, literally 'Peace through Silicon', is being positioned as a technology compact aimed at securing semiconductor supply chains and AI infrastructure among trusted democratic partners. The broader geopolitical subtext of Pax Silica is unmistakable in the face of China's predominant role in rare earth processing, advanced manufacturing inputs and much of the global semiconductor value chain.

While no country was named in the formal remarks, US Under Secretary Helberg flagged challenges arising out of "massively over-concentrated" supply chains for critical minerals and "threats of economic coercion and blackmail".

Though Helberg did not name any country, it was clear that his remarks were pointed at China.

Helberg described Pax Silica as a commitment to economic and national security that rejects "weaponised dependency" in global supply networks.

"For too long, we have allowed the foundations of our economic security to drift. We find ourselves grappling with a global supply chain that is massively over-concentrated," he said. The Trump administration official spoke of cities plunged into darkness "by a keystroke from across the border," underscoring concerns about cyber and infrastructure vulnerabilities.

"So, today, as we signed the Pax Silica declaration, we say no to weaponised dependency, and we say no to blackmail," Helberg said.

## STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

For India, the move signals a calibrated deepening of technological alignment with the US and its partners.

Vaishnaw highlighted India's expanding capabilities in chip design and the growing pool of skilled technology professionals, positioning them as assets not just for domestic growth, but for collaborative global value chains under the Pax Silica framework.

Ambassador Gor said India brings strength to the coalition. "Peace doesn't come from hoping adversaries will play fair. We all know they won't. Peace comes through strength. India understands this. India understands strong borders," said Gor.

Industry leaders, including Google CEO Sundar Pichai, said that alongside the recent interim trade agreement, this will lay a strong foundation for a robust US-India tech partnership.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:21/2/2026 P.NO.12

# Hindalco to supply aluminium to Embraer

**Aneesh Phadnis**
Mumbai

Plane maker Embraer has signed an MoU with Hindalco to explore sourcing of aerospace grade aluminium from India.

This agreement builds upon Embraer's existing product supply partnership with Hindalco's US-based subsidiary Novelis and is a part of its strategy to widen its supply chains.

**LOCAL PARTNERS**

"This joint action reinforces our focus on identifying local partners that can become our suppliers and, in doing so, accelerate the development of the Indian industrial base," said Roberto Chaves, Executive Vice-President of Global Procurement and Supply Chain at Embraer.

"The initiative enhances Embraer's engagement to advancing the aerospace ecosystem in India, creating long term value across the entire supply chain," he added.

Embraer's manufactured planes are flown by airlines, corporates and air forces around the world.

It has manufacturing facilities in Brazil and the US and is also looking to widen it's manufacturing and supply chain footprint. This includes recent MoUs with Adani and Mahindra groups to explore manufacturing commercial and military aircraft in India. "India represents a strategic market for Embraer across all its business units," it said.

NAVBHARAT DATE:22/2/2026 P.NO. JACKET

# अरबों का कारोबार : दुर्लभ खनिज-रक्षा क्षेत्र में सहयोग

## भारत-ब्राजील के बीच कई समझौते

■ दिल्ली, एजेंसियां. ब्राजील के सरकारी बैंक बैंको डो ब्राजील की अध्यक्ष टार्सियाना मेडेरोस ने कहा है कि उनका बैंक भारत-ब्राजील व्यापार को बढ़ाकर 100 अरब डॉलर तक पहुंचाने में रणनीतिक भूमिका निभाने के लिए तैयार है. दिल्ली में आयोजित भारत-ब्राजील बिजनेस फोरम में उन्होंने कहा कि दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापार तेजी से बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन इसमें अभी और बहुत संभावनाएं हैं. भारत और ब्राजील कई मामलों में एक जैसे हैं- दोनों बड़े, विविधता वाले देश हैं और दोनों का लक्ष्य लंबी अवधि का आर्थिक विकास है. मेडेरोस ने भारत की डिजिटल पेमेंट, फिनटेक और वित्तीय समावेशन में वैश्विक नेतृत्व की भी तारीफ की और कहा कि इन क्षेत्रों में दोनों देश मिलकर काम कर सकते हैं. कृषि, ऊर्जा, खनिज, दवा, तकनीक और मैन्युफैक्चरिंग ऐसे सेक्टर हैं जिनमें सहयोग बढ़ाकर व्यापार को तेजी से बढ़ाया जा सकता है. साथ ही ग्रीन फाइनेंस, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और ऊर्जा संक्रमण जैसे क्षेत्रों में साझेदारी दोनों देशों को जिम्मेदार वैश्विक ताकत के रूप में मज़बूत बना सकती है. उनका बैंक कंपनियों को जोड़ने, विदेशी मुद्रा सेवाएं देने और वित्तीय संरचना बनाने में मदद करेगा ताकि भारत-ब्राजील व्यापार को नई गति मिल सके. इस बीच प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और ब्राजील के राष्ट्रपति लुइज इनासियो लूला डा सिल्वा की मौजूदगी में हैदराबाद हाउस में भारत और ब्राजील के बीच कई समझौतों का आदान-प्रदान हुआ.

## भारत आना खुशी की बात- लूला

ब्राजील के राष्ट्रपति लुइज इनासियो लूला डा सिल्वा ने कहा कि मेरे प्यारे दोस्त प्रधानमंत्री मोदी, छठी बार इस देश में वापस आना मेरे लिए खुशी की बात है. भारत और ब्राजील के बीच मीटिंग बहुत बढ़िया मीटिंग है. हम सिर्फ ग्लोबल साउथ की दो सबसे बड़ी डेमोक्रेसी नहीं हैं. यह एक डिजिटल सुपरपावर और एक रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी सुपरपावर की मीटिंग है. हम दोनों ही बहुत अलग-अलग तरह के देश हैं और कल्चरल इंडस्ट्री के हब हैं और हम दोनों ही मल्टीलेटरलिज्म और शांति की रक्षा करते हैं.

## भारत सबसे बड़ा भागीदार

पीएम मोदी ने कहा, 'ब्राजील लैटिन अमेरिका में भारत का सबसे बड़ा व्यापार भागीदार है. हम अगले पांच वर्षों में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को $20 बिलियन से आगे ले जाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं. हमारा ट्रेड सिर्फ एक आंकड़ा नहीं है, यह भरोसे की झलक है. राष्ट्रपति के साथ आया बड़ा व्यापार प्रतिनिधिमंडल इसी भरोसे को दिखाता है.

## एनर्जी कोऑपरेशन हमारे रिश्ते का एक मजबूत स्तंभ- PM

पीएम मोदी ने कहा कि एनर्जी कोऑपरेशन हमारे रिश्ते का एक मजबूत स्तंभ रहा है. हाइड्रोकार्बन के साथ हम रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी, इथेनॉल ब्लेंडिंग और सस्टेनेबल एविएशन फ्यूल जैसे कई एरिया में भी कोऑपरेशन बढ़ा रहे हैं. ग्लोबल बायोफ्यूल अलायंस में ब्राजील का एक्टिव पार्टिसिपेशन ग्रीन एनर्जी के लिए हमारे साझा प्रतिबद्धता को दिखाता है. ब्राजील ने डिजास्टर रेजिलिएंट इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के लिए कोएलिशन की को-चेयर करने का भी प्रस्ताव दिया है. मैं इस पहल के लिए राष्ट्रपति लूला को बधाई देता हूं. इस क्षेत्र में ब्राजील का बड़ा अनुभव सीडीआरआई को और मजबूत करने में काफी मदद करेगा.

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# To lower China dependence, India signs rare earths deal with Brazil

## Sets Bilateral Trade Target Of $30bn By 2030

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Modi and Lula focused on energy transition, defence and security cooperation

**New Delhi:** An agreement for cooperation on rare earths and critical minerals, bilateral trade target of $30 billion by 2030 and Global South solidarity in technology that, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, must be inclusive and act as a bridge for shared progress were among the highlights of Modi's bilateral meeting with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Saturday.

Modi said the critical minerals agreement, which could potentially lower dependence on China, was a major step towards building resilient supply chains. Significantly, the leaders discussed the US Supreme Court judgment striking down President Donald Trump's global tariffs and agreed that both sides needed to study its implications.

"So, we will essentially be in wait-and-watch mode to see how the administration responds to this judgment, whether any further steps are taken and to study the implications for our trade," said MEA secretary (east) P Kumaran at a media briefing.

Lula mentioned trade unilateralism in his remarks and also said that in a turbulent world, both sides were required to strengthen and deepen their strategic dialogue. "India and Brazil are crucial voices at the UN, at the WTO and G20," he said, while also underlining the significance of cooperation under BRICS.

Modi and Lula focused on energy transition and defence and security cooperation that the PM said was a perfect example of mutual trust and strategic harmony. "We will continue to strengthen this win-win partnership further," the PM said.

In all, India and Brazil signed nine agreements, including one in the field of mining for steel supply chain, and also announced that Brazil would extend business visas for ordinary Indian passport holders to 10 years.

Modi said that the expansion of India's trade agreement with Mercosur, a South American trading bloc, will further strengthen economic cooperation and that bilateral cooperation in the field of technology and innovation was important for both countries as well as the Global South.

"We are also prioritising our cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, supercomputers, semiconductors and blockchain," he said, adding that energy cooperation too had been a strong pillar of the relationship and there was now increasing cooperation in renewable energy, ethanol blending and sustainable aviation fuel.

"As democratic countries, we will continue to advance the priorities and aspirations of the Global South. When India and Brazil work together, the voice of the Global South becomes stronger and more confident," said the PM.

Lula said that the meeting was one between a digital superpower and a renewable energy superpower.

Brazil joined India in strongly condemning cross-border terrorism, along with the Pahalgam terrorist attack and the Red Fort blast. According to a joint statement, the leaders reaffirmed defence as an integral pillar of the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership and underscored the potential for co-design and co-production by linking India's Atmanirbhar Bharat with Brazil's defence industrial base.

As expected, there was a strong focus on UN reforms, particularly in the Security Council, including its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent membership categories, for which both countries have been working under the G4 framework that also includes Japan and Germany. The joint statement said that the leaders reaffirmed their commitment for mutual support for permanent membership of the two countries in an expanded UNSC and India welcomed Brazil's support for India's candidature for a non-permanent seat for the 2028-29 term.

THE HITAVADA DATE:23/2/2026 P.NO.9

# Adani Ports join NMDC and Vale Brazil to develop SEZ-based ecosystem for iron ore

AHMEDABAD, Feb 21 (IANS)

ADANI Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), through its subsidiary Adani Gangavaram Port Limited (AGPL), has signed a strategic memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Government-run NMDC Limited and Vale Brazil, it was announced here on Saturday.

The MoU, signed at the India–Brazil Business Forum Summit, establishes a strategic framework for the development of an iron ore blending facility and a dedicated Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Gangavaram Port.

The agreement was signed during the official visit of Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and in the presence of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, underscoring the deepening India–Brazil strategic partnership.

"This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to building resilient, future-ready infrastructure that strengthens India's position in global supply chains," said Ashwani Gupta, Whole-time Director and CEO, APSEZ.

By integrating high-quality mineral logistics with advanced port capabilities, "we are supporting industry requirements while contributing to the country's broader economic growth," he added.

Under this collaboration, the parties will jointly develop, operationalise, and manage an integrated SEZ-based ecosystem for the blending, value addition, and commercialisation of iron ore.

This initiative is designed to strengthen iron ore export value chain on India's east coast while enhancing efficiency, scale, and global competitiveness in mineral processing and trade.

THE HITAVADA (CITYLINE) DATE:25/2/2026 P.NO.2

# PIL in High Court against proposed iron ore mining near tiger corridor

■ HC notice to Centre over Lohadongri iron ore project

■ Staff Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL activists have moved the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court against a proposed iron ore mining project at Lohadongri in Chandrapur district, claiming it poses a serious threat to tigers and forest biodiversity.

The public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed by Eco-Pro President Bandu Dhotre and Dr Yogeshwar Dudhapachare. The matter came up before Justice Anil Kilor and Justice Raj Wakode, who issued notices to the Central Government and other respondents and directed them to file their replies within four weeks.

According to the petition, the mining project belongs to Sunflag Iron and Steel Company and is proposed over 35.94 hectares of reserved forest land in compartment (Room) No 439 under the Brahmapuri forest division. The site is considered ecologically sensitive as it falls in a crucial tiger corridor connecting the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve with the Ghodazari Wildlife Sanctuary.

FROM THE COURT

## Felling of 18,000 trees

THE petitioners have stated that the project could lead to the felling of around 18,000 trees and cause irreversible loss to biodiversity in the region. They also pointed out that a three-member expert committee appointed by the State Wildlife Board had earlier opposed the project. The committee had warned that the mining activity could increase human-wildlife conflict in nearby areas.

Despite these concerns, the State Wildlife Board approved the proposal on January 6, 2026, the petition said.

## Violations of Forest Conservation Act

THE PIL further claims that the project violates provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; the Wildlife (Conservation) Act, 1972; and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The petitioners have also alleged that mandatory clearance from the National Wildlife Board has not been obtained.

The petitioners argued that the environmental cost of the project is extremely high compared to the benefits. They pointed out that the project is expected to generate only 32 permanent jobs, while causing large-scale ecological damage.

Advocates Asim Sarode and Smita Singalkar appeared for the petitioners and urged the court to cancel the project. The matter will be heard after the respondents file their replies.

NAVBHARAT DATE:25/2/2026 P.NO.7

## खदान की अपशिष्ट रिसाइक्लिंग

# खनन कंपनियों को बड़ी राहत

■ दिल्ली, न्यूज एजेंसियां. खनन क्षेत्र को बड़ी राहत देते हुए सरकार ने मौजूदा खनन पट्टों के भीतर टेलिंग्स के पुनर्चक्रण को नई पर्यावरण मंजूरी (ईसी) की अनिवार्यता से छूट दे दी है. सूत्रों के अनुसार, इस फैसले का उद्देश्य टिकाऊ खनन प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा देना और नियामकीय बाधाओं को कम करना है. नई व्यवस्था के तहत खनन कंपनियां अब अयस्क निष्कर्षण के बाद बचने वाले अपशिष्ट पदार्थ, यानी टेलिंग्स, को उसी स्वीकृत खनन क्षेत्र में दोबारा प्रोसेस कर उपयोगी खनिज, पानी या अन्य संसाधन निकाल सकेंगी, बिना अलग से पर्यावरण मंजूरी का इंतजार किए. इससे संसाधनों का बेहतर उपयोग होने के साथ पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव भी कम होने की उम्मीद है.

### उद्योग विशेषज्ञों की राय

उद्योग विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि पहले स्वीकृत खदान क्षेत्रों के भीतर भी टेलिंग्स रीसाइक्लिंग जैसी गतिविधियों के लिए अलग से पर्यावरण मंजूरी लेनी पड़ती थी, जिससे परियोजनाओं में देरी होती थी और लागत बढ़ती थी. वेदांता समूह की कंपनी हिंदुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड के मुख्य परिचालन अधिकारी किशोर कुमार एस ने इस कदम का स्वागत करते हुए कहा कि इससे उद्योग को अधिक स्वतंत्रता के साथ काम करने में मदद मिलेगी और परिचालन दक्षता बढ़ेगी. यह फैसला ऐसे समय में आया है जब देश ऊर्जा संक्रमण की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखते हुए खनन गतिविधियों को तेज कर रहा है और संसाधनों के सतत उपयोग पर जोर दिया जा रहा है.

THE HITAVADA (CITYLINE) DATE:26/2/2026 P.NO.3

# Centre to decide on fate of Lohardongri iron ore project: Forest Minister

■ Staff Reporter

LOHARDONGRI iron ore project is yet to get State Government's nod and the final decision will be made by National Board of Wildlife (NBWL), informed State Forest Minister Ganesh Naik in the Legislative Assembly during Budget Session in Mumbai, on Wednesday.

Lohardongri iron ore mining project in Brahmapuri division of Chandrapur district has faced significant controversy due to its location in a critical tiger corridor connecting to the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR). Wildlife lovers, environment activists and villagers opposed the project as it comes under the tiger corridor in TATR.

MLAs including Dr Nitin Raut, Vijay Wadettiwar, and Aslam Sheikh raised question over the permission given by the Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's to the project in wildlife corridor.

While replying the starred question, Naik said, "We have pushed the matter to NBWL and the fate of the project will be decided by the Central Government and the Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court as the matter is *sub judice*."

Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) constituted a three-member committee to assess the forest area under the iron ore project. The committee also recommended that the project will impact the tiger corridor. Concerns intensified after the SBWL, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, granted wildlife clearance to the iron ore opencast mining project near Lohardongri village. Following the Board's approval, proposal will now be forwarded to the NBWL for further scrutiny and a final decision.

The proposed mining site lies in reserved forest compartment No 439 in Brahmapuri taluka in Chandrapur district and covers an area of 35.94 hectares. Official records confirm that this site falls within a vital wildlife corridor linking the TATR with the Brahmapuri-Gadchiroli forest landscape.

Wildlife experts say that such corridors are essential for safe movement and genetic exchange of animals, especially large carnivores like tigers and leopards.

Blocking or disturbing these forest links can trap animals in small areas, leading to overcrowding, lack of food and rising conflict with humans, they caution.

NAVBHARAT DATE:26/2/2026 P.NO.9

## एसईसीएल : खनन अवशेषों के सात 'डंप' किए गए चिन्हित

# रेयर अर्थ खोज की तैयारी में कंपनी

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड की अनुषंगी कंपनी साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड (एसईसीएल) ने दुर्लभ खनिजों के संभावित निष्कर्षण के लिए खनन अवशेषों के 7 ढेरों (डंप) की पहचान की है. यह जानकारी कंपनी के एक शीर्ष अधिकारी ने दी. खदान 'डंप' से तात्पर्य खदान के कचरे या खनन अवशेषों के ढेर से है. एसईसीएल की यह पहल कोयला खदान अपशिष्ट से मूल्य सृजन को बढ़ावा देने की सरकार की पहल के अनुरूप है. प्रमुख कोयला क्षेत्रों में खनन अवशेषों के 'ओवरबर्डन' ढेर में दुर्लभ खनिजों (रेयर अर्थ एलिमेंट्स) के अंश पाए गए हैं जिससे आयात निर्भरता कम

करने में मदद मिल सकती है. 'ओवरबर्डन डंप', उस बेकार सामग्री के ढेर को कहते हैं जो मुख्य खनिज तक पहुंचने के लिए हटाई जाती है. एसईसीएल के चेयरमैन एवं प्रबंध निदेशक हरीश दुहन ने कहा कि अन्वेषण के लिए निविदा प्रक्रिया शुरू हो चुकी है और अगले एक वर्ष के भीतर इन ढेर का वैज्ञानिक आकलन कर व्यवहार्य स्थलों की पहचान करने की योजना है. दुहन ने कहा कोयला मंत्रालय के मार्गदर्शन में हमने दुर्लभ खनिजों के निष्कर्षण के लिए 7 खदान अवशेषों के ढेरों (डंप) की पहचान की है.

हमने निविदा प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है और एक वर्ष के भीतर हम यह पहचान कर लेंगे कि दुर्लभ खनिज मौजूद है. कंपनी इन स्थानों पर दुर्लभ खनिजों की उपस्थिति और आर्थिक व्यवहार्यता का निर्धारण करने के लिए विस्तृत वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन करेगी. इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा एवं रक्षा जैसे उच्च-प्रौद्योगिकी उद्योगों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण दुर्लभ खनिज, चीन के प्रभुत्व वाली वैश्विक आपूर्ति शृंखला संबंधी चिंताओं के बीच भारत के लिए एक रणनीतिक प्राथमिकता बन गए हैं.

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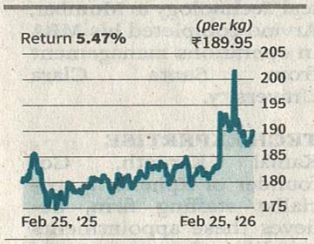
## Copper momentum slows on inventory overhang

**London:** Copper eased after touching a two-week high in the previous session as rising inventories and a firmer dollar tempered optimism about a revival in demand from China, the world's top consumer of the metal. Benchmark three-month copper on the LME was down 0.1 per cent to $13,304 a tonne as of 1036 GMT. REUTERS

BUSINESS LINE DATE:27/2/2026 P.NO.10

# Go for longs in lead futures

**Akhil Nallamuthu**
bl. research bureau




Lead futures, which saw considerable volatility between the final week of January and mid-February, have been trading flat for more than a week now. The February contract is currently trading at ₹187 (per kg), and the March futures is now around ₹190 (per kg).

## COMMODITY CALL.

Since the February contract is nearing expiry on February 27, we are considering the March contract for analysis and trade recommendation.

The March lead futures has formed a base at ₹188, per the recent price action.

The chart shows some positive bias and so, although there might not be a sharp rally, we might see the price gradually moving up to ₹194 in the short term. A breakout of ₹194 will open the door for a rally to ₹200.

On the other hand, if lead futures breach the support at ₹188, they might decline to ₹180. Overall, it has a support at ₹188, and there is a chance for a rebound in price.

**TRADE STRATEGY**

Go long on lead futures (March) at ₹189.50. Target and stop-loss can be ₹194 and ₹187.50, respectively.

THE HINDU DATE:27/2/2026 P.NO.12

# The shift of critical minerals to India's strategic centre

**Rishabh Jain**
is Fellow at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Three years ago, and at the start of India's G-20 presidency, critical minerals barely featured as a strategic topic in policy thinking. As recently as August 2023, several critical minerals, including lithium, were still classified as atomic minerals, effectively barring private exploration and mining. But the latest Union Budget shows that something critical has shifted in India's thinking.

The government has now signalled that critical minerals have moved to the mainstream, and must become a core pillar of India's industrial, energy, and geopolitical strategy. The emphasis on 'critical minerals' in the Budget speech is revealing. The focus is no longer on whether India needs a critical minerals policy but on whether India can now execute while building expertise at scale, speed and depth.

**Clear policy drive**

There is clear policy momentum. India now has a list of 30 critical minerals and has eased mineral exploration for junior miners while also rationalising the royalty rates. In January 2025, the government launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with a budgetary outlay of ₹16,300 crore. Today, India is among a small group of countries with a comprehensive and ambitious policy framework for critical minerals.

Yet, ambition alone will not deliver mineral security. Execution will. It takes years – often decades – to discover and mine minerals, but extraction is not the only bottleneck. China controls up to 90% of global mineral processing capacity for several critical minerals. However, analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) suggests that India already has the capabilities to process a few minerals to high purity levels.

For instance, Indian industries already produce high-purity copper, graphite, rare earth oxides, tin and titanium – often exceeding 99.9% purity. However, existing production is largely geared towards conventional uses and limited volumes. Meeting the requirements of clean tech and defence will require further technological upgrading, deeper refining, and capacity expansion. Skills from established sectors such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals and textiles could be leveraged to process raw minerals to higher purity and scale.

The Union Budget has highlighted India's new 'mineral resolve'

**Priority areas**

In this context, Budget 2026 begins the harder work of implementation. To sustain this momentum, India must double down on three priorities: First, create demand avenues for processed minerals. The Budget rightly removes import duties on capital goods used in the processing of critical minerals. Given high capex requirements, this improves the competitiveness of upcoming refineries. However, the biggest constraint investors face is not just cost but also the lack of assured domestic demand for processed minerals. While government initiatives support domestic manufacturing of batteries, solar modules, wind turbines, and electric vehicles, delays in backward integration continue to create uncertainty for midstream processors. Boosting the deployment of locally-made electric vehicles, batteries, solar, and wind would have powerful third-order effects, strengthening processing, mining, and exploration ecosystems. Demand creation remains the most decisive industrial policy lever.

Second, adopt an Artificial Intelligence (AI) -first approach to mineral exploration. The NCMM targets 1,200 exploration projects by FY2031. The Budget strengthens project viability by making exploration expenditure for nine critical minerals eligible for tax deductions. Interestingly, four of these minerals (beryllium, tantalum, lithium and niobium) were on the restricted atomic minerals list just three years ago. To truly de-risk exploration, leveraging technology will be critical. India should mandate an AI-first approach to mineral exploration, backed by coherence across the IndiaAI Mission, the National Geospatial Policy, and Mission Anveshan. Today, Mission Anveshan focuses on hydrocarbon discovery using seismic AI tools. Extending such capabilities to the National Geoscience Data Repository could significantly improve prospectivity analysis and aid new site discoveries.

Third, leverage geopolitical disruption to build technological sovereignty. In 2025, the weaponisation of rare earth magnets and battery supply chains exposed the fragility of global industrial and clean energy policies. The government's response – announcing rare earth corridors across coastal States and reducing import duties on monazite sands – is timely. States should now leverage existing infrastructure and manpower to serve global demand, creating jobs and boosting regional growth.

**International partnerships are key**

But beyond local action, India should accelerate institutional and industrial partnerships with Australia, the European countries, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Many of them possess advanced minerals processing or complex component manufacturing capabilities but remain cautious about technology transfer. These firms should be nudged and encouraged to set up their facilities in India to service global markets. While the ₹7,280 crore scheme for sintered rare earth permanent magnets is a start, regulatory certainty, water-tight legal frameworks, market access and research collaboration will be equally important. Strengthening links between centres of excellence in India to their global counterparts – such as through the UK-India Critical Minerals Supply Chain Observatory – should be prioritised, including under the recently concluded India-European Union Free Trade Agreement.

In a turbulent world, 2026 can be a year of accelerated ambition if approached with speed, confidence and caution. India's leadership in critical minerals hinges on coordinated action supported by inter-ministerial coordination, proactive state leadership, and global partnerships.

*The views expressed are personal*

LOKMAT TIMES DATE:28/2/2026 P.NO.1

LOKMAT TIMES ● Anchor

# WCL finds eight rare earth elements and critical minerals in 6 Maha mines

BALAJI DEVARJANKAR
LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK / NAGPUR

Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), headquartered in Nagpur, has achieved a major breakthrough in exploration of rare earth elements and critical minerals after it found eight significant strategic minerals in its six mines in Maharashtra.

WCL found these minerals in its six Open Cast (OC) mines -- Adasa UG (underground) to OC (open cast), Makardhokra-III, Durgapur OC, Gauri-Pauni, Mungoli-Nirguda, and Yekona I & II -- recently.

The analysis found economically significant concentrations of rare earth elements (REEs) and critical minerals of Potash (K), Tellurium (Te), Titanium (Ti), Lanthanum (La) and Cerium (Ce), Rhenium (Re), Selenium (Se) and Zirconium (Zr), he said.Potash (K) has strong potential for fertiliser and agro-chemical applications and Tellurium is essential for solar photovoltaic cells, semiconductors, and thermoelectric devices.

Telurium

Potash

Titanium has huge potential for aerospace, defence, pigments, and advanced alloy applications.Similarly, Lanthanum and Cerium is critical for EV motors, permanent magnets, catalysts, optics and electronics.

Rhenium is valuable for superalloys, jet engines, and defence components.

- Critical minerals are a subset of minerals considered crucial for the manufacturing and technological needs of industries, while REEs are a subset of critical minerals.
- Studies were conducted through accredited agencies, and reports have been shared with Non-Ferrous Materials Technology Development Centre (NFTDC) in Hyderabad for further technical evaluation, the official said.
- These findings indicate that WCL's overburden (rock or soil layer) and mine rejects (waste material left over after mineral/coal extraction) contain high-value strategic minerals.

LOKMAT TIMES DATE:28/2/2026 P.NO.3

Nagpur, Saturday, 28.2.2026

LOKMAT TIMES

# Gadchiroli collector to start land acquisition for JSW steel plant

ASHISH ROY
LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK
NAGPUR

A major hurdle in the way of setting up the world's largest steel plant in Gadchiroli district has been cleared with the head office of Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) issuing a notification for land acquisition. The document has been sent to the district collector of Gadchiroli. Collector Avishyant Panda told 'Lokmat Times' on Friday that the process to acquire 9,100 acre land would begin soon.

JSW Group has decided to establish a massive 25 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) integrated steel plant in Chamorshi tehsil of Gadchiroli district with an investment of ₹1 lakh crore. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) for this plant had been signed with the Maharashtra government in February 2025. Since then the Gadchiroli district administration was facing hurdles in land acquisition.

JSW wanted land in Wadsa tehsil because it wanted to source iron ore from the adjoining Armori tehsil. Secondly, Wadsa town has railway connectivity. However, farmers of Wadsa opposed the proposed acquisition because they have two crop land. Collector Panda then decided to acquire land in Chamorshi tehsil, where the land is mostly used for a single crop. Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited (LMEL) already has some plants in the tehsil.

JSW top bosses agreed to the Chamorshi site and then the state government decided to acquire it under MIDC Act. MIDC head office issued the notification in this regard a few days ago and forwarded the proposal to Gadchiroli collector. Now, the district administration will start negotiating with farmers for acquiring their land.

ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:28/2/2026
P.NO.1

# Andhra Pradesh Opens Coast for Sand Mining of Rare Earths

Andhra Pradesh is set to open its long coastline for beach sand mining of rare earths and titanium-based minerals to help reduce dependence on China-dominated supply chains while creating a new downstream manufacturing hub. **Nidhi Sharma** reports. ▶▶ 3

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ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:28/2/2026 P.NO.3

WITH 25% OF INDIA'S BEACH SAND MINERALS

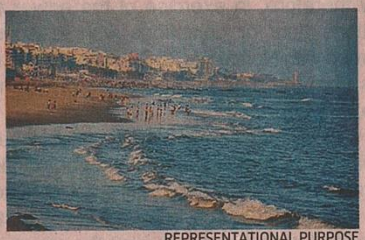
# Andhra Pradesh Charts Rare Earth Play to Cut China Dependence

Nidhi Sharma

**New Delhi:** Andhra Pradesh is set to open its long coastline for beach sand mining of rare earths and titanium-based minerals – a move aimed at reducing India's dependence on China-dominated global supply chains while creating a new downstream manufacturing hub along the state's coastline.

Andhra Pradesh government is also finalising a policy for rare earth mining and processing. According to sources, Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) has secured approvals from Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) for 10 major beach sand deposits across coastal districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Kakinada and Krishna, covering thousands of hectares. Several additional blocks are under development and in advanced clearance stages, sources said.

Apart from mining of rare earth minerals, the state is also exploring the possibility of developing processing capacity in collaboration with Indian Rare Earth Limited (IREL). According to a detailed presentation by the state-run mining major APMDC, accessed exclusively by ET, Andhra Pradesh hosts the second-highest beach sand mineral reserves in India, accounting for nearly 25% of national resources, with particularly high concentrations of ilmenite, rutile, zircon and monazite — the last being a key source of rare earth elements (REEs). Beach sand minerals are critical inputs across a range of high-value industries — from paints and aerospace components to nuclear fuel and permanent magnets used in electric vehicles and wind turbines. Ilmenite and rutile are processed into titanium dioxide pigment and titanium metal, while monazite yields rare earth oxides essential for electronics and clean energy technologies.



REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

**CHINA DOMINANCE**

**China currently dominates more than half of global titanium mineral production and controls over 90% of rare earth processing capacity**

The timing of Andhra Pradesh's move is strategic. China currently dominates more than half of global titanium mineral production and controls over 90% of rare earth processing capacity. India already imports over 75% of its titanium dioxide pigment requirements, with nearly two-thirds sourced from China, despite having some of the world's largest titanium mineral reserves. With Andhra opening up its beach sand mining, India could greatly reduce its dependence on imports gradually. The move is also in sync with the Centre's push to rare earth mining. In budget 2026-27, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced dedicated rare earth corridors in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

LOKMAT (MARATHI) DATE:28/2/2026 P.NO.1

# विदर्भाच्या 'काळ्या सोन्या'त उगवली चक्क 'रत्ने'; ५०० नमुन्यांतून उलगडणार पृथ्वीचा गुप्त खजिना

लोकमत विशेष

बालाजी देवर्जनकर
लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

**नागपूर :** विदर्भातील वेस्टर्न कोल्ड फिल्ड्स (डब्ल्यूसीएल)च्या खाणींमध्ये जणू पृथ्वीने स्वतःचा गुप्त खजिनाच उघडला आहे. कोळशाच्या काळ्या थरांआड लाखो वर्षे लपून बसलेले दुर्मीळ आणि धोरणात्मक धातू आता विदर्भाच्या भवितव्याला हिरेजडित तेज देण्यासाठी समोर येत आहेत. इथे सापडलेले रेनिअम, टायटॅनियम, पोटॅश आणि टेल्युरियम यांसारखे मौल्यवान धातू भविष्यात देशाच्या संरक्षण, अवकाश, शेती आणि हरित ऊर्जा क्षेत्रांसाठी 'गेमचेंजर' ठरणार आहेत, यामुळे 'डब्ल्यूसीएल'चे महत्त्व आता जागतिक नकाशावर वाढणार आहे.

केंद्र सरकारच्या 'क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स' उपक्रमांतर्गत विविध कोलफिल्ड्समध्ये दुर्मीळ घटकांच्या शोधाला सध्या वेग आला आहे. 'डब्ल्यूसीएल'ने आपल्या विविध क्षेत्रांतील ६ उघड्या खाणींमधून सुमारे ५०० नमुने गोळा केले होते. या नमुन्यांचे 'एलिमेंटल अनालिसिस' (घटक विश्लेषण) केले असता, त्यात या मौल्यवान धातूंचे अस्तित्व आढळून आले. पुढील सखोल चाचण्यांसाठी नागपूर जिल्ह्यातील अदासा (युजी ते ओसी) आणि मकरधोकडा-थ्री खाणींचे नमुने हैदराबाद येथील प्रगत प्रयोगशाळेकडे पाठविण्यात आले आहेत. प्रमाण, शुद्धता आणि आर्थिकदृष्ट्या उत्खननाची व्यवहार्यता निश्चित झाल्यानंतर कंपनी व्यावसायिक उत्खनन व मार्केटिंगचा (पान ४ वर)

## टायटॅनियम : भविष्याचा धातू

पोलादाइतका मजबूत पण वजनाने अत्यंत हलका आणि गंजरोधक असा टायटॅनियम आधुनिक तंत्रज्ञानाचा आधारस्तंभ आहे. इस्रोच्या रॉकेट्सपासून विमान उद्योग आणि वैद्यकीय इम्प्लांट्सपर्यंत त्याचा व्यापक वापर होतो. अवकाश, संरक्षण आणि आरोग्य क्षेत्रात याचे महत्त्व अनन्यसाधारण आहे. जागतिक स्तरावर त्याला उच्च मागणी असून देशांतर्गत उपलब्धता वाढल्यास आयात खर्च कमी होऊन उच्च तंत्रज्ञान उद्योगांना मोठी चालना मिळेल.

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LOKMAT (MARATHI) DATE:28/2/2026 P.NO.3

# विदर्भाच्या 'काळ्या सोन्या'त उगवली चक्क 'रत्ने'

(पान १ वरून) आराखडा आखणार आहे. यानंतर कोळसा-केंद्रित कंपनीपासून 'मल्टी-मिनरल' महामंडळाकडे वाटचाल हा पुढील टप्पा असेल. नंतर दुर्मीळ धातूंच्या उत्खननासाठी तांत्रिक भागीदारी, प्रक्रिया-उद्योग आणि जागतिक बाजारपेठेतील नेटवर्किंगवर भर दिला जाईल. यामुळे विदर्भात पूरक उद्योग उभे राहून रोजगारनिर्मितीला चालना मिळू शकेल, अशी माहिती उच्चस्तरीय अधिकाऱ्यांनी दिली.

महानंदी कोलफिल्ड्स लिमिटेड (ओडिशा) आणि साऊथ ईस्टर्न कोलफिल्ड्स लिमिटेड (छत्तीसगड) येथे लिथियम, व्हॅनेडिअम आदी घटकांच्या शक्यता तपासल्या जात आहेत; झारखंडमध्ये कोळशाच्या राखेतून 'रेअर अर्थ एलिमेंट्स' वेगळे करण्याचे प्रयोग सुरू आहेत. मात्र विदर्भात एकाच वेळी रेनिअम आणि टायटॅनियमचे अंश सापडणे ही दुर्मीळ घटना मानली जात आहे. त्यामुळे देशपातळीवर हा शोध महत्त्वाचा ठरणार आहे.

## पोटॅश : बळीराजाचा हिरा

पोटॅश हे शेतीसाठी अत्यावश्यक खनिज असून खतनिर्मितीतील मुख्य घटक मानले जाते. पिकांची रोगप्रतिकारशक्ती वाढवणे, उत्पादन क्षमता सुधारणे आणि जमिनीची सुपीकता टिकवणे यासाठी ते महत्त्वाचे आहे. भारत मोठ्या प्रमाणावर पोटॅश आयात करतो, ज्यावर हजारो कोटींचा खर्च होतो. विदर्भात त्याचे साठे उपलब्ध झाल्यास शेतकऱ्यांना स्वस्त खत मिळू शकेल.

## टेल्युरियम : ऊर्जा क्रांतीचा दीपस्तंभ

टेल्युरियम हा आधुनिक सेमीकंडक्टर आणि सौर ऊर्जा तंत्रज्ञानातील कळीचा घटक आहे. 'थिन फिल्म' सोलर पॅनेल्स, मेमरी चिप्स आणि हरित ऊर्जा उपकरणांमध्ये त्याचा वापर होतो. जागतिक ऊर्जा संक्रमणात त्याचे स्थान वाढत आहे. भारताच्या 'नेट झिरो' उद्दिष्टासाठी स्वदेशी टेल्युरियम उपलब्धता अत्यंत महत्त्वाची ठरू शकते. तंत्रज्ञान आणि ऊर्जा क्षेत्रात दीर्घकालीन आर्थिक व रणनीतिक मूल्य असलेला हा धातू भविष्यात निर्णायक भूमिका बजावणार आहे.

## रेनिअम : दुर्मीळतेचा सम्राट

**जगातील** सर्वाधिक दुर्मीळ धातूंमध्ये गणना होणारा रेनिअम अत्यंत उच्च उत्कलनबिंदूमुळे ओळखला जातो. जेट इंजिन, क्षेपणास्त्रे आणि सुपर-अलॉयज निर्मितीत तो अपरिहार्य मानला जातो.

**संरक्षण** आणि एरोस्पेस क्षेत्रासाठी हा रणनीतिक संपत्तीचा भाग आहे. विदर्भात त्याचे अंश सापडणे म्हणजे संरक्षण स्वावलंबनाकडे मोठी झेप असून जागतिक बाजारातही याला प्रचंड आर्थिक मूल्य आहे.

## दुर्मीळ खनिजांच्या साठ्यात महाराष्ट्र देशात प्रथम; विदर्भात उत्खननावर भर

'इंडियन ब्युरो ऑफ माइन्स'च्या ताज्या आकडेवारीनुसार, देशातील दुर्मीळ खनिजांच्या साठ्यात महाराष्ट्राने प्रथम क्रमांक पटकावला आहे. भारताच्या एकूण २९ लाख टन खनिज साठ्यापैकी १२ लाख टन (४१ टक्के) साठा एकट्या महाराष्ट्रात आहे, तर गुजरात ११ लाख टनांसह दुसऱ्या क्रमांकावर आहे. देशातील एकूण ११ राज्यांमध्ये हे साठे आढळले असून झारखंडमध्ये याचे प्रमाण सर्वात कमी आहे. या पार्श्वभूमीवर, विदर्भात 'वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड' कोळसा खाणींमधील ओव्हरबर्डनमधून (मातीचा ढिगारा) या खनिजांचा शोध घेत आहे. तसेच, 'कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड'ने नागपूर जवळील रामटेक येथे स्वतंत्र ब्लॉक घेऊन संशोधनास सुरुवात केली आहे. संरक्षण क्षेत्रातील वाढत्या वापरामुळे या १७ प्रकारच्या विशेष धातूंना सध्या जागतिक स्तरावर महत्त्व प्राप्त झाले आहे.

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# WCL finds eight rare earth elements, critical minerals in its 6 mines in Mah

**CITY-BASED** public sector enterprise Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) has achieved a major breakthrough in exploration of rare earth elements and critical minerals after it found eight significant strategic minerals in its six mines in Maharashtra, an official said on Friday.

Talking to PTI, a senior official said the WCL found these minerals in its six Open Cast (OC) mines -- Adasa UG (underground) to OC (open cast), Makardhokra-III, Durgapur OC, Gauri-Pauni, Mungoli-Nirguda, and Yekona I & II - recently.

The analysis found economically significant concentrations of rare earth elements (REEs) and critical minerals of Potash (K), Tellurium (Te), Titanium (Ti), Lanthanum (La) and Cerium (Ce), Rhenium (Re), Selenium (Se) and Zirconium (Zr), he said.

Potash (K) has strong potential for fertiliser and agro-chemical applications and Tellurium is essential for solar photovoltaic cells, semiconductors, and thermoelectric devices. Titanium has huge potential for aerospace, defence, pigments, and advanced alloy applications. Similarly, Lanthanum and Cerium is critical for EV motors, permanent magnets, catalysts, optics and electronics. Rhenium is valuable for superalloys, jet engines, and defence components, while Selenium which is used in glass manufacturing, electronics and renewable energy and Zirconium (Zr) is important for nuclear, ceramics, refractories and aerospace applications. Critical minerals are a subset of minerals considered crucial for the manufacturing and technological needs of industries, while REEs are a subset of critical minerals.

**Economically significant concentrations of rare earth elements (REEs) and critical minerals of Potash, Tellurium, Titanium, Lanthanum, Cerium, Rhenium, Selenium and Zirconium found**

Studies were conducted through accredited agencies, and reports have been shared with Non-Ferrous Materials Technology Development Centre (NFTDC) in Hyderabad for further technical evaluation, the official said.

These findings indicate that WCL's overburden (rock or soil layer) and mine rejects (waste material left over after mineral/coal extraction) contain high-value strategic minerals, transforming waste material into potential revenue-generating resources, he said.

"The discovery of REEs and associated critical minerals opens multiple diversification pathways for WCL. Extraction of REEs offers the opportunity to a commercial mineral resource, improving mine economics and sustainability," he said.

WCL can expand beyond coal into critical mineral mining, beneficiation and processing, downstream material supply for EVs, renewable energy, electronics and defence sectors, he said.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been executed between Coal India Ltd (CIL) and the NFTDC to develop applied R&D projects, pilot plants, and demonstration-scale commercial technologies for mineral extraction and value addition.

In collaboration with NFTDC and CIL, the WCL can establish pilot extraction plants and commercial demonstration units, positioning itself as a technology leader in REE recovery. As coal demand moderates in the long term, REEs provide a future-ready alternative revenue stream, reducing dependence on thermal coal markets, he said.

"With these strategic findings, WCL in its future roadmap will work

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on a detailed resource estimation and techno-economic feasibility studies, process development for REE extraction and beneficiation, establishment of pilot plants and commercial scale projects partnerships with PSUs, private industry, and technology providers," he added.

The findings from WCL's multi-mine elemental analysis demonstrate strong technical and economic potential for REEs and critical minerals, positioning WCL to emerge as a strategic contributor in India's critical mineral ecosystem, the official said.

He said that by leveraging existing mining infrastructure, PSU partnerships, R&D collaborations, and national policy support, WCL can transform REEs into a high-value diversified business vertical, ensuring long-term sustainability, profitability, and national strategic relevance. *(PTI)*