



## **KHANIJ SAMACHAR**

**Vol. 10, No-11**

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# खनिज समाचार

## KHANIJ SAMACHAR



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**INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES**

**VOL. 10, NO – 11, 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026**

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:1/6/2026 P.NO.06

ODISHA'S SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINING PROJECT

# Road to mineral block gets forest clearance

**HEMANT KUMAR ROUT**  
Bhubaneswar, 31 May

In a major development for the controversial Sijimali bauxite mining project, the Centre has approved Stage-II (final) clearance for diversion of 4.91 hectares of forest land for the construction of an approach road connecting the mineral block in Odisha.

The block was auctioned to Vedanta, which plans to use the ore primarily for feeding its alumina refinery operations in Odisha. The 3.4 km road to the mineral block was mired in controversy. It led to clashes between the police and agitat-



The 3.4 km road was at the centre of controversy and had led to clashes between police and locals

ing locals in two villages in Rayagada, leaving around 70 people, including 58 police personnel, injured on April 7.

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has granted statutory clearance for diversion of forest land for construction of the road that would connect the bauxite mine hill-top with State Highway-44 in Rayagada. The road is considered crucial for transportation of bauxite from one of the state's largest untapped mineral deposits.

Local tribal groups and activists have been opposing mining activities in the ecologically sensitive and predominantly tribal region, alleging inadequate consultation and threats to their traditional livelihoods.

The final clearance was issued by the MoEFCC's regional office in Bhubaneswar after the Odisha government and Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation, the project proponent for the road, complied with conditions stipulated under the stage-I approval granted in January.

Subsequently, the Odisha Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department formally permitted diversion of the forest land on May 27. The ministry also imposed an extensive set of environmental safeguards as part of the approval. These include compensatory afforestation of over 6.07 hectares of gov-

ernment non-forest land identified at Tingarjhola village in Rayagada district and additional compensatory afforestation of over five hectares of degraded forest land in Pedakonda reserve forest. The user agency will bear the entire cost of afforestation and maintenance.

"The conditions also require plantation of indigenous tree species along both sides of the road to mitigate dust pollution from future mining traffic," stated the order, reviewed by *Business Standard*. The order also called for adequate wildlife crossings and underpasses and installation of speed-regulating signages across stretches.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS DATE:1/6/2026 P.NO.01

LLOYDS METALS PROJECT IN GADCHIROLI

# Maharashtra clears mine project, says not in tiger area; maps show otherwise

**Jay Mazoomdaar**  
New Delhi, May 31

THE MAHARASHTRA government on May 13 exempted an iron ore mining and processing project in Gadchiroli from wildlife clearance by claiming — incorrectly — it was not located in any tiger corridor, official communications reviewed by *The Indian Express* show.

The project proposal involves diverting 9.4 sq km of forest land in Gadchiroli for iron ore extraction and processing by Lloyds Metals & Energy.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Project site overlaps Tadoba-Indravati tiger corridor



- ➔ **Proposed project site**
- **Forest compartments**  
196, 197, 273, 274, 275, 276, 298, 300 and 301 cited as part of the project

- **Forest compartments**  
196, 197, 273, 274, 275, 276, 298 and 301 marked on Tadoba-Indravati corridor in the NTCA-approved TCP

SOURCE: PARTIVESH MOEF AND NTCA

THE INDIAN EXPRESS DATE:1/6/2026 P.NO.02

# Maharashtra project

## •TIMELINE

**DEC 12, 2023:** Applied for Forest clearance

**MARCH 20, 2024:** Applied for Wildlife clearance

**APRIL 28, 2024:** Applied for Environment clearance

**MAY 12, 2024:** In-principle FC approved

**SEPT 20, 2025:** EC approved

**OCT 6, 2025:** Applied for amended EC

**APRIL 15, 2026:** Final FC approved

**MAY 12, 2026:** Amended EC approved

**MAY 13, 2026:** Exempted from Wildlife clearance and cleared for handover of forest land

It received forest clearance on April 15 and environment clearance on May 12, a day before it was exempted from obtaining wildlife clearance.

According to the project site map submitted by Lloyds to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the area falls in forest compartments 196, 197, 273, 274, 275, 276, 298, 300 and 301. All but one (300) of these compartments are identified as part of the Tadoba-Indravati tiger corridor in the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)-approved Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP) of the Tadoba Andhari tiger reserve.

Tiger corridors are vital wildlife pathways that connect tiger habitats, enabling animal movement, gene flow, and long-term survival. Under the Wildlife Act, development projects involving land in or around tiger reserves or corridors require statutory clearance from the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife. A TCP is a 10-year roadmap for every tiger reserve approved by NTCA.

Under 'Category of Area Required', Lloyds itself identified the project site as a "Tiger

Corridor" in its wildlife clearance application submitted in March 2024.

Yet, records show that on May 13, Maharashtra Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) M Srinivasa Reddy exempted the project from obtaining wildlife clearance and recommended handover of forest land to the company, stating that the project area was not within or near any national park, sanctuary, tiger reserve or corridor identified in any TCP.

When contacted, Reddy said: "That information was provided by a senior officer of the rank of conservator of forests. Now I will have to check if it is incorrect."

As reported by *The Indian Express*, the issue of tiger corridors became contentious when the NTCA did a volte-face in August 2025. Within a month of telling the Bombay High Court that tiger corridor identification should consider multiple scientific studies and parameters, it narrowed the scope to only 32 "least cost pathways" identified in 2014 and corridors listed in approved TCPs.

On March 9 this year, rec-

ords show, the nodal officer of the Maharashtra forest department sought further relaxation, writing to the MoEF that only 32 forest links "should be treated as recognised legal corridors" and that inclusion of corridors identified in TCPs "may create ambiguity."

On April 24, Reddy cautioned that the nodal officer's contention "does not appear to be legally correct." In a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary (Forests), he pointed out corridors identified in TCPs by the NTCA under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, "carry statutory relevance" for scrutiny of project proposals.

Reddy further requested the state government to "issue suitable clarification" that tiger corridor scrutiny in the state should include those identified in TCPs, as well as "scientifically justified additional corridors... to ensure legally sound scrutiny of diversion proposals."

In less than a month, Reddy withdrew the letter on May 21.

Asked if there was a rethink on factoring in corridors identified in TCPs, Reddy said the question should be addressed to the NTCA.

When contacted, NTCA member secretary Sanjay Kumar said: "Like tiger reserve buffers, corridors identified in approved TCPs are meant for ecologically compatible land uses which generally exclude activities such as mining and industries."

Last July, the NTCA told the Bombay High Court that it was "in the process of the refinement of tiger corridors" based on the all-India tiger estimation data. That process remains incomplete, even as decisions on project clearances continue to hinge on how tiger corridors are defined.

THE HINDU DATE:1/6/2026 P.NO.10

# Odisha govt. clears key road for Vedanta's mining project

**Satyasundar Barik**  
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has granted permission for the construction of a road connecting State Highway 44 and Sijimali hilltop to facilitate the transportation of bauxite in Kashipur block of Rayagada district.

Sijimali, with an estimated 311 million tonnes of bauxite, was allocated to Vedanta in March 2023. The mineral is crucial for the Vedanta Group to keep its alumina refinery at Lanjigarh running. However, the project has since been facing resistance from local people, who fear that mining activity could dry up streams and adversely impact their livelihood.

For several months, villagers have been living in makeshift shelters atop the hill, keeping a round-the-clock watch to prevent the construction of the road from Bichhapinda along SH-44 to Sijimali hilltop.



Vedanta's Sijimali project has faced resistance from locals fearing that mining may adversely affect their livelihoods. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The State-run Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) had applied for the diversion of 4.911 hectares of forest land for the construction of an access road from Sijimali bauxite mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation.

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change granted Stage-I (in-principle) approval for diversion of the forest land in January 2026. Subsequently, consi-

dering the compliance with the conditions laid down under the 'Stage-II in-principle' approval, the Ministry granted Stage-II approval (final) under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for non-forestry use of 4.911 hectares of forest land in favour of the IDCO on May 6.

Following the final approval, the State has now allowed non-forestry use of 4.911 hectares for road construction.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:1/6/2026 P.NO.03

CEPA TALKS: TERMS OF REFERENCE SIGNED; TALKS ENTER DECISIVE PHASE

# Chile Rolls Out Mining Red Carpet for India Inc to Tap Its Mineral Wealth

Seeks to build long-term value chains in critical minerals; over 20% copper, 30% lithium reserves up for grabs

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

**New Delhi:** Chile, which is in the decisive leg of negotiations for CEPA with India, is providing India with major mining opportunities in critical minerals — copper, lithium and cobalt — that would power India's growth, semiconductor industry and green transition.

Chile possesses over 20% of the world's copper reserves, 30% of global lithium reserves (the world's second-largest producer) and a substantial amount of cobalt, offering significant opportunities for Indian companies looking to secure access to these minerals through greenfield and brownfield mining projects. ET has learnt that Santiago is extremely keen that Indian companies get involved in the mines of the Latin American country and create a long-term value chain to power In-



**CHILE PITCHES 'SILICON VALLEY' DREAM TO INDIAN TALENT**



Chile is also positioning itself as the Silicon Valley of South America and is keen to invite Indian talent for the industry

dia's economic growth.

Both nations are aiming to conclude CEPA in the third or fourth quarter of this year, with India se-

eking favourable, long-term access to critical mineral exploration blocks (such as lithium and copper) to secure its EV and advanced electronics supply chains. Earlier this month, India and Chile signed the Terms of Reference for CEPA.

Chile is also positioning itself as the Silicon Valley of South America and is keen to invite Indian talent for the industry. "Chile has strong digital infrastructure, high penet-

ration of the internet and a US time zone with which Indians are familiar. India produces talented engineers every year and the USA alone cannot absorb all the engineers, and Chile can provide another option," a senior Chilean government official told ET.

Chile, which has FTAs across the Pacific region, can also be India's gateway to the region, the above-mentioned official pointed out.

These issues figured high on the agenda when Chile's new Foreign Minister made a week-long trip to India recently.

Known for its political and economic stability, Chile has one of the highest per capita incomes in the Latin American region and is well entrenched in the global financial architecture.



THE HITAVADA DATE:2/6/2026 P.NO.03

# Fresh drilling uncovers larger critical miner

■ By Mukesh S Singh  
RAIPUR, June 1

FRESH drilling at the Bhalukona critical minerals prospect in Mahasamund district has significantly expanded the scale of a nickel-copper-platinum group elements (PGE) discovery, potentially positioning Chhattisgarh at the centre of India's emerging critical minerals strategy amid an intensifying global race for resource security.

Speaking exclusively to The Hitavada over telephone from Bengaluru on Monday noon, Deccan Gold Mines Limited (DGML) Managing Director Dr Hanuma Prasad Modali said the latest results had substantially strengthened confidence in the scale, continuity and commercial potential of the Bhalukona mineralised system.

Deccan Gold Mines Limited (DGML), India's only listed gold and critical minerals mining company, believes the discovery could eventually evolve into the country's first Nickel-Copper-PGE mining project.

The development traces its origin to April 1, 2025, when Deccan



Gold Mines Limited (DGML) secured a 30 sq km Composite Licence for the Bhalukona-Jamnidi block in Basna Tehsil of Mahasamund district. The licence was among the first critical minerals licences granted in India following the Centre's strategic push to accelerate domestic exploration of minerals considered vital for clean-energy technologies, electric mobility, advanced manufacturing and long-term national



(L) Drill rigs at Bhalukona continue probing a fast-expanding critical minerals system that could place Mahasamund on India's strategic mining map. (C) Sulphide-rich drill core samples validate the geological promise of the Bhalukona discovery, confirming widespread nickel, copper and platinum group element mineralisation across the emerging target zone. (R) DGML MD Dr Hanuma Prasad Modali

resource security.

The latest drilling programme has confirmed a broad corridor of potentially economic nickel, copper and palladium mineralisation with localised platinum occurrences extending across a strike length of approximately 430 metres and to depths exceeding 200 metres. Importantly, the mineralised corridor remains open, with ongoing drilling indicating possible continuation across a much larger target zone

extending up to 1.3 kilometres.

The results build upon Deccan Gold Mines Limited's May 18, 2026 announcement that first confirmed significant nickel-copper-PGE sulphide mineralisation at Bhalukona. Taken together, the drilling outcomes are reinforcing the project's potential to emerge as one of India's most significant critical minerals discoveries in recent years.

Deccan Gold Mines Limited

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CONT. FROM PAGE NO. 7

THE HITAVADA DATE:2/6/2026 P.NO.03

## als system in C'garh



has completed approximately 1,200 metres of core drilling through nine exploration drill holes spread across the prospective corridor. Assay results from additional drill holes are still awaited. Key intersections reported include 15 metres grading 0.31 per cent Nickel Equivalent (NIEq) in drill hole BJD-02, 36 metres grading 0.23 per cent NIEq in BJD-03 and six metres grading 0.39 per cent NIEq in BJD-04, with high-grade zones returning up to 1.29 per cent NIEq. Microscopic geological studies have confirmed the presence of pentlandite, chalcopyrite and pyrrhotite sulphides, widely regarded as important indicators of potentially significant nickel-copper sulphide systems.

The drilling programme has also confirmed widespread sulphide mineralisation containing nickel, copper and platinum group elements, including palladium and platinum.

Dr Moda'li said the discovery had emerged at a pivotal moment when critical minerals were becoming central to economic competitiveness, energy transition and resource security worldwide. He pointed to the growing focus of the Quad nations and the India-US Critical Minerals Partnership as evidence of the strategic importance of securing reliable and diversified mineral supply chains.

Appreciating the support extended by the Central and State Governments, local authorities and communities, Dr Moda'li said Deccan Gold Mines Limited was accelerating exploration activities to define a mineable resource and move towards mining lease applications at the earliest. Low-impact geophysical surveys, soil sampling and target-generation programmes will continue during the monsoon period, while aggressive drilling is scheduled to resume after the rains.

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:2/6/2026 P.NO.03

## Coal India e-auction sales fetch 36pc premium in May; allocates 84.2 lakh tonnes

■ Business Reporter

**T**HE State-owned Coal India Ltd allocated 84.20 lakh tonnes of coal through its Single Window Mode Agnostic (SWMA) e-auction platform in May, against an offer of 257.42 lakh tonnes, achieving an allocation rate of 33 per cent, the company said in an exchange filing on Monday.

The coal sold through e-auction fetched an average premium of 36 per cent over the notified price during the month, it said. The premium, however, eased compared to the 45 per cent achieved in the consolidated April-May period.



Among subsidiaries, Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) achieved 100 per cent allocation through e-auction in May. Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL) recorded a 54 per cent allocation rate, while South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) logged 76 per cent.

During April-May, CIL offered 562.93 lakh tonnes of coal through the e-auction route and allocated 201.94 lakh tonnes, translating into an allocation rate of 36 per cent, it said.

Earlier in the day, the mining major reported an 11.6 per cent on-year fall in coal production in May, with output slipping to 56.1 million tones.

BUSINESS STANDARD  
DATE:2/6/2026 P.NO.04

## Coal India's production declines 11.6% in May

State-owned Coal India (CIL) reported an 11.6 per cent on-year fall in coal production in May, with output slipping to 56.1 million tonne (mt) even as the country's power demand surged to an all-time high.

CIL, which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, had reported coal production of 63.5 mt in May last year.

However, the company did not share the reason for the decline in production.

According to industry analysts, the timing of the drop coincides with a sharp spike in electricity demand putting pressure on coal stocks at power plants.

PTI

BUSINESS LINE DATE:2/6/2026 P.NO.03

# India, Myanmar to boost ties in critical minerals, rare earths

Asian News International  
New Delhi

India and Myanmar on Monday agreed to maintain close engagement on matters related to critical minerals and rare earths, with both countries aiming to take bilateral cooperation forward in these strategic sectors.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, in a special briefing on the visit of Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing to India, said that issues related to critical minerals and rare earths were discussed between the two sides during the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Myanmar President.

"Issues related to critical



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing in New Delhi on Monday PTI

minerals and rare earths did come up during the discussion today. This has been a subject of bilateral discussion for some time. Today as well, there was an understanding that the two governments will continue to stay in touch on these issues

and take forward cooperation in these areas," Misri said.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

On defence collaboration, the Foreign Secretary highlighted that India's partnership with Myanmar has largely focused on training, capacity building, and institution strengthening. He noted that the training of Myanmar troops is dedicated to UN Peacekeeping.

"This has been a focus for several years now, and mostly the defence cooperation with Myanmar focuses on training, capacity building, and institution building. A very important part of the training is in the context of UN Peacekeeping," Misri said.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:3/6/2026 P.NO.10

## Hold the longs in aluminium

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Aluminium futures (₹395.50/kg) are on an uptrend. On Monday, it surpassed a hurdle and the price action shows that the bulls continue to run the show.

The June futures, which were consolidating in the narrow band of ₹382-388, broke out of ₹388, opening the door for further rally. We expect the contract to hit ₹400 soon.

### COMMODITY CALL.

The outlook is expected to stay bullish as long as the contract remains above the 21-day moving average, which is now at ₹382.

On the other hand, in case the price declines and aluminium June futures slip below the support at ₹382, the near-term outlook can turn bearish.

In such a case, the price



can quickly decline to ₹370 — its 50-day moving average. Subsequent support is at ₹365.

Nevertheless, as it stands, the bull trend is intact and even if there is a reversal or a corrective decline, we expect aluminium futures to hit ₹400 before seeing such a price dip. So, traders can retain the long position.

### TRADE STRATEGY

Last week, we suggested initiating a long position in aluminium June futures at ₹386 with a stop-loss at ₹375. Retain this trade but revise the stop-loss higher to ₹382. Book profits at ₹400.

THE HINDU DATE:4/6/2026 P.NO.13

## NMDC raises prices of iron ore; third hike this fiscal

NMDC, effective June 3, increased iron ore prices by ₹200 a tonne for Baila Lump and by ₹150 for the same quantity of Baila Fines. The new per tonne prices have been set at ₹5,700 for Baila Lump and ₹4,850 for Baila Fines. These prices are freight on road/rail (FOR) prices that are exclusive of royalty, DMF, NMEDT, Cess, Forest Permit Fee, transit fee, GST, environmental cess and other taxes, it said in a filing. This is the third revision by NMDC in as many months this fiscal.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:4/6/2026 P.NO.06

# NMDC plans up to ₹50K cr investment amid diversification

## Miner pursuing overseas mineral acquisitions worth ₹3,000 crore; core strategy focuses on rare earths

**SAKET KUMAR**  
New Delhi, 3 June

State-run iron ore miner NMDC plans to invest ₹40,000 crore-50,000 crore over the next three years as it ramps up production capacity, expands into coal mining and pursues critical mineral opportunities in India and abroad.

"We have to spend this ₹40,000 crore to ₹50,000 crore within the next three years to reach our desired capacity level of 100 million tonnes," NMDC Chairman and Managing Director Amitava Mukherjee said at an analyst call.

The company expects capital expenditure of around ₹6,000 crore in financial year 2027 (FY27), rising to ₹9,000 crore-10,000 crore annually thereafter, as expansion projects move into peak execution.

NMDC, which produced more than 53 million tonnes of iron ore in FY26, has set a production target of 60 million tonnes for FY27, and remains confident of reaching 100 million tonnes by the end of the decade. The miner is pursuing overseas mineral acquisitions and expects to spend ₹2,000 crore-3,000 crore on acquiring assets abroad during the current financial year, Mukherjee said.

"A few of them are in very advanced stages of acquisition," he said, adding that details could not be disclosed because of confidentiality



**“WE HAVE TO SPEND THIS ₹40,000 CRORE TO ₹50,000 CRORE WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS TO REACH OUR DESIRED CAPACITY LEVEL OF 100 MILLION TONNES”**

Amitava Mukherjee  
Chairman and managing director, NMDC

agreements. As part of its diversification strategy, NMDC has operationalised the Tokisud coal block in Jharkhand and expects to begin coal extraction during the second quarter. The company is also targeting the opening of the Rohne coking coal block by the end of the third quarter, subject to pending approvals.

Within three years, the coal business could generate annual revenue of ₹5,000 crore-8,000 crore, according to Mukherjee. The company has also established a dedicated subsidiary

focused on rare earths and critical minerals and is actively scouting opportunities overseas. Management said it has entered into an agreement with Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation for a rare earth project and is evaluating additional assets globally.

In a separate initiative, NMDC's board has approved an investment of around ₹3,000 crore to develop a blending yard in Visakhapatnam that will enable the company to supply branded iron ore with consistent specifications.

Mukherjee described the project as a potential "game changer" for the Indian iron ore market, saying no company in the country currently sells branded iron ore comparable to products offered by major global miners.

The company is also advancing infrastructure projects linked to its expansion plans. A 15 million tonne slurry pipeline from Bachel to Nagamar, along with associated facilities, is expected to be commissioned by the end of June, or in July after completion of pre-commissioning trials.

NMDC opened Bailadilla Deposit-4 during FY26, its first new iron ore mine in about 50 years, and expects commercial mining to commence during the second quarter.

It is also targeting the opening of Deposit-13 during the current financial year.

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE:4/6/2026 P.NO.04

निर्णय। तमिलनाडु के भूविज्ञान एवं खनन विभाग ने लिया फैसला

## खनन स्थलों की निगरानी के लिए ड्रोन का होगा इस्तेमाल

एजेंसी। चेन्नई। तमिलनाडु के भूविज्ञान एवं खनन विभाग ने राज्य में खनन स्थलों के निरीक्षण के लिए उन्नत तकनीक से लैस ड्रोन का इस्तेमाल करने का फैसला किया है। आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बुधवार को यह जानकारी दी। सूत्रों के अनुसार, यह निर्णय पिछले सप्ताह अधिकारियों द्वारा किए गए भौतिक निरीक्षण के बाद लिया गया, जिसमें 155

खदानों में नियमों के उल्लंघन का पता चला था। प्राकृतिक संसाधन मंत्री टीके प्रभु ने पिछले सप्ताह तेनकासी, कन्याकुमारी, विरुधुनगर और मद्रुरै जिलों की खदानों का औचक निरीक्षण किया था। इसके अनुसार निरीक्षण के दौरान नियमों का उल्लंघन करते हुए संचालित पाई-गई खदानों को तत्काल निलंबित करने के निर्देश दिए गए।

### 155 खदानों में नियमों का उल्लंघन किया

कुल 431 खदानों का निरीक्षण किया गया, जिनमें से 155 में नियमों का उल्लंघन पाया गया। 155 खदानों ने नियमों का उल्लंघन

किया। विभाग ने अवैध खनन और खनिजों को वाहनों के जरिए अनधिकृत रूप से निकालने पर रोक लगाने के लिए अस्थायी रूप से निलंबित खदानों के खिलाफ अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई करने का निर्णय लिया है।

NAVBHARAT

DATE:4/6/2026 P.NO.05

### NMDC ने अयस्क की कीमतें बढ़ाई

दिल्ली, सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र खनन कंपनी एनएमडीसी ने लौह अयस्क की कीमतें 200 रुपये प्रति टन और फाइन की कीमतें 150 रुपये प्रति टन बढ़ा दीं। यह बढ़ोतरी तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू हो गई है, मौजूदा तिमाही में यह तीसरी बढ़ोतरी है। देश की सबसे बड़ी लौह अयस्क खनन कंपनी एनएमडीसी ने एक नियामकीय सूचना में बताया कि उसने बेला लंप अयस्क की कीमत 5,700 रुपये प्रति टन और फाइन की कीमत 4,850 रुपये प्रति टन तय की है।

THE HINDU DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.12

# India, U.K. launch observatory for critical minerals

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Seeking to expand cooperation and technology-sharing in the realm of critical minerals, India and the United Kingdom on Thursday formally launched the Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO).

The platform – to be jointly operated by India's Technology Innovation in Exploration & Mining Foundation (TEXMiN), Indian Institute of Technology (ISM) Dhanbad and U.K.'s University of Cambridge – will institute a data-driven platform to monitor and analyse global critical mineral supply chains.

In a social media post, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy wrote, "This is a major step towards strengthening critical mineral supply chains, supporting clean energy transitions, and building resilient global supply chains through the India-U.K. partnership."



Union Minister for Coal Kishan Reddy with U.K. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper.

India and the U.K. were well-positioned to construct a mutually beneficial partnership on the back of their newly firmed-up comprehensive trade deal and the defence industrial road map, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Thursday. He made the remarks during a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper.

Ms. Cooper stated the observatory could also serve "as a foundation for broader cooperation across the critical minerals sector and related strategic industries."

*(With PTI inputs)*

BUSINESS LINE DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.09

## India-UK minerals observatory unveiled

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

The India-UK critical minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO) was formally launched on Thursday by Coal & Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy and Yvette Cooper, UK's Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

The launch marks a milestone in the growing India-UK partnership on critical minerals and supply chain resilience, reinforcing co-

operation in securing the resources essential for clean energy, advanced manufacturing and electric mobility.

### CRUCIAL BACKBONE

Addressing the gathering, Reddy emphasised that critical minerals are the backbone of modern economies and indispensable for clean energy technologies, advanced manufacturing, electric mobility and strategic sectors.

He noted that the Observatory would strengthen India's capabilities in critical mineral supply chain intelli-

gence, support evidence-based policymaking, and advance the objectives of the National Critical Mineral Mission.

Cooper underscored the importance of India-UK collaboration in developing resilient, diversified and sustainable critical mineral supply chains.

She stated that greater access to critical minerals and improved information-sharing are in the mutual interest of both nations and can contribute significantly to economic growth and supply chain security.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.10

## Stay long on lead futures

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Lead futures (₹207/kg) have been range-bound for nearly three weeks. Nevertheless, the broader uptrend stays valid and the likelihood of another leg of uptick is high.

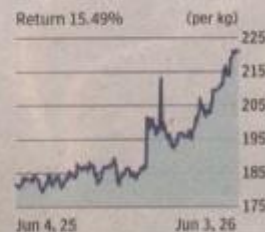
The June futures have been oscillating between ₹205 and ₹208 recently.

But the outlook will remain bullish as long as the price stays above the support at ₹203.

### COMMODITY CALL.

We expect lead futures to break out of the resistance at ₹208 soon and rally to ₹212. Resistance above ₹212 is at ₹215.

But if the contract declines and slips below the support at ₹203, the near-term outlook might turn bearish. In such a case, it could fall to ₹198. Support below ₹198 is at ₹196.



THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.07

# Tata Steel Eyes 9% India Sales Growth This Fiscal

Kalinganagar output to aid guidance; co also targets clearing all outstanding overseas bonds by FY28

## Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** Tata Steel is targeting a near 9% rise in steel sales in India this fiscal year, aided by additional production from its facility in Kalinganagar, Odisha, which is currently ramping up. The company commissioned an additional five million tonne capacity at this facility last year, taking the total to five million tonne.

The fresh capacity will come at a time when demand for steel is seen growing by 8-9% in 2026, largely driven by greater spending on infrastructure and urbanisation. Tata Steel sold a record 22.53 million tonne of steel in India in FY26.

Tata Steel, among the world's top producers of the commodity, has manufacturing operations in the Netherlands, UK, and Thailand, besides its home market of India.

The company is also targeting fully repaying outstanding bonds issued by its overseas subsidiaries by this fiscal year-end, according to senior executives.

"For the last few years, we have been focusing on the onshoring of overseas debt to mitigate the rupee depreciation risks," said chief executive officer TV Narendran and chief financial officer Koushik Chatterjee in the company's

## Fire Breaks Out at UK's Port Talbot Plant



**Mumbai:** Tata Steel said that a fire broke out at its plant at Port Talbot in the UK late on Wednesday and that all

personnel at the site had been evacuated from the area safely. The fire broke out at one of the processing lines at Port Talbot, the company said on Thursday.

"The incident is not related to the safe and successful demolition of the empty, redundant gas holder earlier yesterday evening," Tata Steel UK said, adding that the Mid and West Wales Fire Service attended to the site while emergency services were working with local teams to completely extinguish the fire. — **Our Bureau**

FY26 annual report.

Tata Steel's overseas debt stood at 18% of its total debt last fiscal, declining from 50% in FY21, per the company. "Without this proactive onshoring, our gross debt would have been higher by ₹12,500 crore due to rupee depreciation alone," the executives said.

A strengthened balance sheet is helping Tata Steel retain financial flexibility required to fund investments in growth, value-added upstream and downstream assets, as well as new technologies and decarbonisation through the business cycle, the management said.


THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.08

# India and UK launch initiatives for minerals, maritime cooperation

**New Delhi:** As UK foreign secretary Yvette Cooper visited India Thursday, both sides announced the launch of a Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory, marking, as an Indian readout said, a significant milestone in their growing partnership on critical minerals and supply chain resilience. In another sig-

nificant takeaway, India and UK also signed an MoU for setting up a Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence, which will help Indian Ocean states build capacity to address non-traditional maritime security threats. Cooper also met her counterpart S Jaishankar and called on PM Modi. The two sides reviewed on-going progress in bilateral cooperation focusing on trade, technology, supply chains, defence, climate, education and people to people ties. Jaishankar told Cooper that the two countries are well-positioned to construct a new future-oriented partnership. **TNN**

NAVBHARAT DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.05



## भारतीय खान ब्यूरो

भारत सरकार के खान मंत्रालय के अधीन एक अधीनस्थ कार्यालय

### विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस

पर्यावरण संरक्षण के प्रति संकल्पित

5 जून 2026

आज हरियाली, कल समृद्धि।

#### उपक्रम

**संयोजित कार्यक्रम :** स्टार रैलिंग प्रणाली के माध्यम से 'पुरातन' को बढ़ावा देने हुए भारतीय खनिज उद्योग में परिवर्तन कर नेटवर्क

**खनिज पट्टा प्रणाली :** डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी के व्यापक उपयोग द्वारा खनिज विद्यमानता में पूर्ण पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करना।

**भविष्य में निगरानी :** खनिज गतिविधियों की निगरानी के लिए ड्रोन एवं उपग्रह प्रौद्योगिकी का सक्रिय उपयोग।

**खनिज निगरानी प्रणाली :** जलवायु खतरा पर अनुसंधान करने हेतु अन्तर्गत निगरानी तंत्र का उपयोग।

**समता निर्माण :** केंद्र एवं राज्य स्तर पर नियामक तथा विकासोन्मुख कार्यों के लिए संस्थागत समता को सुदृढ़ करना।

**खनिज उपरत भूमि का पुनः उपयोग :** सामाजिक हित एवं जनकल्याण के लिए खनिज उपरत भूमि के वैकल्पिक उपयोग को प्रोत्साहित करना।

**जलवायु परियोजना के अंतर्गत**

**पर्यावरण को रक्षा**      **प्राकृतिक**      **सामूहिक**

संसाधनों का संरक्षण      तंत्र के कार्य

महानियंत्रक

### भारतीय खान ब्यूरो

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हमें रक्षा करने के लिए

LOKMAT (MARATHI) DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.05



# भारतीय खान ब्यूरो

भारत सरकार के खान मंत्रालय के  
अधीन एक अधीनस्थ कार्यालय

## विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस

पर्यावरण संरक्षण के प्रति संकल्पित

### 5 जून 2026

आज हरियाली,  
कल समृद्धि।



### उपक्रम

संबंधित खनन : स्टार रेटिंग प्रणाली के माध्यम से 'सुरासन' को बढ़ावा देते हुए भारतीय खनिज उद्योग में परिवर्तन का गेतुत्व।

खनन पट्टा प्रणाली : डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी के व्यापक उपयोग द्वारा खनिज सियायता में पूर्ण पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करना।

भविष्य में निगरानी : खनन गतिविधियों की निगरानी के लिए ड्रोन एवं उपग्रह प्रौद्योगिकी का सक्रिय उपयोग।

खनन निगरानी प्रणाली : अवैध खनन पर अंकुश लगाने हेतु उन्नत निगरानी तंत्र का उपयोग।

क्षमता निर्माण : केंद्र एवं राज्य स्तर पर नियामक तथा विकासवादी कार्यों के लिए संस्थागत क्षमता को सुदृढ़ करना।

खनन उपरोक्त भूमि का पुनः उपयोग : सामाजिक हित एवं जनकल्याण के लिए खनन उपरोक्त भूमि के बेहतर उपयोग को प्रोत्साहित करना।

पर्यावरण  
की रक्षा

प्राकृतिक  
संसाधनों का संरक्षण

जलवायु  
परिवर्तन  
से प्रतिरोध

सामूहिक  
रूप से कार्य


महानियंत्रक

## भारतीय खान ब्यूरो

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हमें यहां फॉलो करें: [F](#) [X](#) [A](#) [V](#) [G](#)

THE HITAVADA DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.07




# INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

A sub-ordinate office under the  
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THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.06

## Cement demand growth to moderate in FY27 amid inflation, El Nino risk: Ind-Ra

**CEMENT** demand growth is expected to moderate to mid-single digits in FY27 from about 8 per cent in FY26 amid inflationary pressures and the possibility of an El Nino weather event, according to a report by India Ratings and Research.

However, the sector is also likely to witness nearly 100 million tonnes (MT) of fresh capacity addition over FY26 and expects the capacity utilisation to be around 68-69 per cent in FY27, the ratings agency said.

"While the sector will witness a significant input cost inflation given the increase in fuel costs, the moderate demand environment, coupled with continued capacity additions, can restrict the increase in cement realisations to low-to-mid single digits," said the report, quoting its Director Khushbu Lakhota.

Moreover, as companies are expected to pass on only part of



the higher input costs, EBITDA per tonne may decline about 15 per cent year-on-year in FY27.

"With only a partial pass-through of input cost increase, the EBITDA/MT could decline around 15 per cent year-on-year, after a similar recovery in FY26," it said, adding that this will impact small companies (tier-2 players) more.

Large Tier 1 players have adequate balance sheet headroom and financial flexibility to absorb the impact without impacting the credit profile, but tier-2 players could witness stress, given their concentrated geographical

presence and limited financial headroom. This will also "create potential inorganic expansion opportunities" in the cement sector, which is already witnessing consolidation.

However, "the pace of sector consolidation could taper as players concentrate on ramping up acquired assets and executing announced capex".

The agency added that competitive intensity in the sector is likely to remain elevated in the near term, although early signs of capital expenditure rationalisation by some leading players are a positive development for the industry.

Cement demand from the infrastructure segment will be supported by a higher growth in central capex and a continued growth in state capex, though execution of the budgeted capex in the current environment will be a critical factor.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.02

# Ambuja Cement Q4 profit up 79% on volume growth

**Our Bureau**  
Ahmedabad

Ambuja Cement, part of the Adani Group reported a 78.5 per cent year-on-year jump in consolidated net profit to ₹1,830 crore for the fourth quarter of FY26, supported by strong volume growth and better realisations, though the base remains partly non-comparable due to recent acquisitions. Revenue from operations rose 10 per cent to ₹10,892 crore, driven by 8.6 per cent growth in cement sales and a sharp 37 per cent increase in the ready-mix concrete segment.

The company reported its highest-ever quarterly sales volume of 19.9 million tonnes, up 10 per cent. Operating EBITDA stood at ₹1,464 crore, with margins at 13.4 per cent, translating to EBITDA of ₹735 per tonne.

For FY26, net profit rose 10 per cent to ₹4,728 crore,

## Q4 scorecard (in ₹ cr)

	Q4 FY25	Q4 FY26	Change
Revenue from operations	9,894	10,892	10.0
Profit	1,025	1,830	78.5

### FACTSHEET

- Revenue from operations rose 10% to ₹10,892 crore
- Highest-ever quarterly sales volume of 19.9 mt
- Operating EBITDA at ₹1,464 crore, margins at 13.4%

while revenue grew 19 per cent to ₹40,446 crore. Annual EBITDA stood at ₹6,539 crore, with the company achieving its highest-ever annual volume of 73.7 mt and EBITDA of ₹887 per tonne. However, the company cautioned that year-on-year comparisons are not strictly like-to-like due to acquisitions.

"FY25 does not have Orient Cements, while Penna was acquired and consolidated from August 16, 2025, which is only 7.5 months of

FY25 as against 12 months of FY26. While Orient is only for 11 months of FY26 and was not there in FY25," said Vinod Bahety, Whole-time Director and CEO, Ambuja Cement.

He added that despite sectoral headwinds, the company delivered a resilient performance, aided by higher share of premium products, improved realisations and better utilisation of assets, alongside progress on its "one cement platform" strategy, following the integ-

ration of Sanghi and Penna Cement.

### CONSOLIDATION PHASE

The company said FY26 marked a transition from expansion to consolidation. Ambuja also remained debt-free, supported by strong liquidity and high credit ratings.

However, it flagged persistent cost pressures from fuel, diesel, packaging material shortages and rupee depreciation, which are expected to continue into H1FY27. The company is addressing these through fuel mix optimisation, higher renewable energy adoption, logistics efficiency improvements and disciplined production planning.

On the outlook, Ambuja expects cement demand growth of around 5 per cent in FY27, citing geopolitical uncertainties and expectations of a below-normal monsoon.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.02

## Jindal Stainless net profit up 41% in Q4 on lower base

Our Bureau  
Mumbai

Jindal Stainless reported a strong performance for the March quarter, with net profit rising 41 per cent year-on-year to ₹834 crore, compared with ₹509 crore in the same period last year, aided partly by a favourable base. However, it flagged a cautious outlook, noting that uncertainty is likely to persist in the coming months amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Revenue for the quarter grew 11 per cent to ₹11,337 crore ( ₹10,198 crore), reflecting steady demand conditions despite global volatility. The board has recommended a final dividend of ₹3 per share for FY26. The company has achieved 37 per cent increase in EBITDA at ₹1,455 crore ( ₹1,061 crore).

For the full year, it recor-



Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless

ded sales growth of 8 per cent, falling short of its 9.5 per cent target, primarily linked to the West Asia war.

### CHALLENGING TIMES

Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, said despite challenging times, the company has managed to post an encouraging profit, as it focused on value-added products and improved cost efficiencies. The domestic stainless steel industry continues to operate in a challenging environ-

ment caused by the West Asia crisis and India's liberal trade policies, he said.

Concerns over cheap and substandard imports remain even as the industry continues to advocate implementation of quality control order to curb unfair imports and safeguard the long-term interests of the domestic stainless steel industry, he said.

Jindal Stainless has set a capex of ₹2,600 crore in FY27 with the focus to complete the ongoing projects. It has expressed serious concern over cheap imports even as its domestic capacity utilisation hovers around 60 per cent.

Tarun Khulbe, CEO, Jindal Stainless, said the cost of propane had gone up almost three times to ₹1.90 lakh a tonne; a similar trend was seen in LPG due to short-supply.

### COST RISE IMPACT

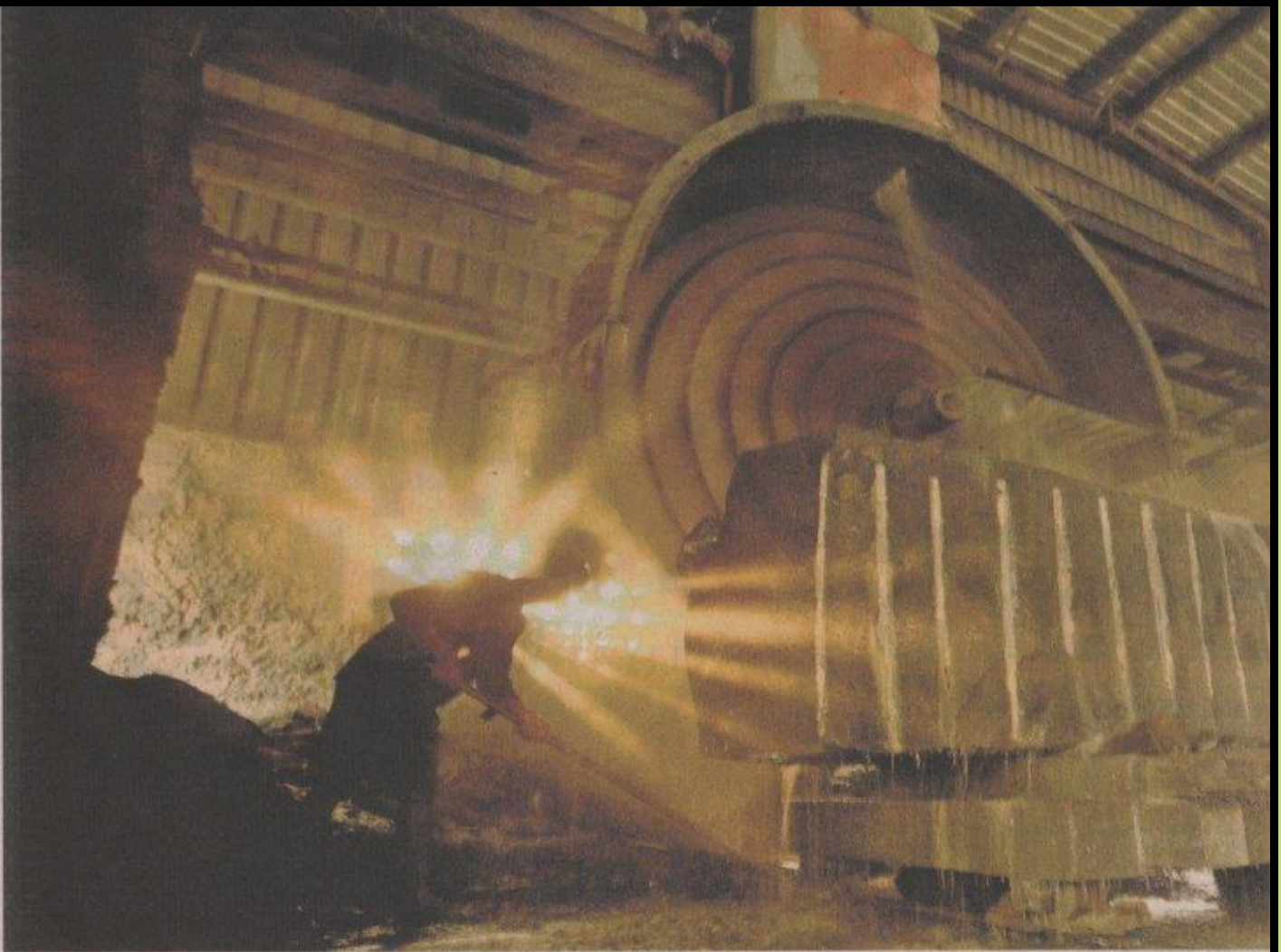
The real impact of the cost

rise will be felt in the coming days also, as the company used the inventory in March quarter, he added. When prices rise sharply, he said many of the buyers are delaying fresh order on hopes that prices will come down soon with daily signals of war coming to an end soon.

The company expects EBITDA per tonne to fall to ₹18,000-20,000 tonne in the first half of this fiscal against ₹21,700 a tonne achieved in FY26. It has given sales guidance of 2.8 mt in FY27 against 2.5 mt achieved in FY26. Given the fluid market condition, it will review the guidance after the first half of this fiscal.

On Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism roll-out in Europe, Jindal said the delay in appointment of validators for green energy utilisation is the missing link, but the company is making its mark in new markets in Japan and South Korea.

THE HINDU DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.06



**Stone under strain:** A worker oversees a granite block being cut at a processing unit in Khammam, where many factories are operating below capacity amid a

# Growing cracks in the granite trade

Telangana's once-thriving granite industry is showing signs of stress as export markets shrink and input costs soar. In Karimnagar and Khammam districts, quarry owners, factory operators and migrant workers are all feeling the impact of a prolonged downturn, report **P. Sridhar and P. Laxma Reddy**

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THE HINDU DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.06

**F**or years, Rajendra Mohanty believed granite would guarantee him a steady livelihood. Today, cooking over a firewood stove outside his room on a factory campus in Kamanpur near Karimnagar, the 42-year-old migrant worker from Odisha is unsure what lies ahead. A slowdown triggered by geopolitical tensions in West Asia, rising fuel costs and weakening export demand has begun to ripple through Telangana's granite industry, affecting everyone from quarry owners and factory operators to truck drivers and migrant labourers.

Karimnagar, often referred to as the 'city of granites', has long been a key driver of industrial activity in north Telangana. Home to around 250 quarries and over 290 granite cutting and polishing units, the district built its reputation on strong international demand for its signature Tan Brown variety. Today, however, the industry is struggling with supply-chain disruptions, escalating transportation costs and a slump in demand from key markets such as China and the Middle East.

According to official sources, only around 25% of the licensed quarries are currently fully functional. "We faced hard times during the COVID-induced lockdown in 2020 and are now experiencing a crisis-like situation," says Mohanty, who has worked in Kamanpur for the past 12 years after migrating from Balasore in Odisha.

"Rising fuel prices have pushed up transportation costs while demand in international markets has slowed," he adds, pointing to stacks of unsold granite slabs.

The crisis has seeped into everyday life. Mohanty says workers have switched to the *chulha* (firewood stove) due to LPG shortages and rising prices. Of the 30 migrant workers employed at the factory where he is employed, 13 have already returned to their native States since the latest downturn gripped the industry, he explains.

Factory owners are grappling with rising production costs due to the increase in prices of imported raw materials, even as demand for granite blocks and polished slabs weakens. Across Telangana's granite belt spanning Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam districts, many units have scaled down production and even reduced manpower, leaving thousands of workers facing an uncertain future.

Telangana is one of India's leading granite-producing States, with Karimnagar renowned for globally recognised varieties such as Tan Brown, Coffee Brown, Maple Red, Red Rose and Blue Brown while Khammam and Warangal are known for premium black granite deposits, including the sought-after Jet Black variety. The wide range of commercially valuable granite found across the State has supported a vast network of quarries, processing units and export-oriented industries, with processed granite shipped to markets including China, Japan, Taiwan, the UAE, USA and Europe.

Karimnagar's granite industry is heavily dependent on overseas markets. The district's signature Tan Brown granite, once buoyed by strong international demand, is now facing demand volatility amid the fallout of the West Asia conflict.

According to industry figures, Karimnagar ex-



While 170 units have completely shut down and 200 are running in a single shift, only around 100 are functioning at full capacity. Lack of availability of the raw material is the main cause behind the decline of business.

**PATIBANDLA YUGANDHAR**, President, Khammam Granite Factory Owners Association

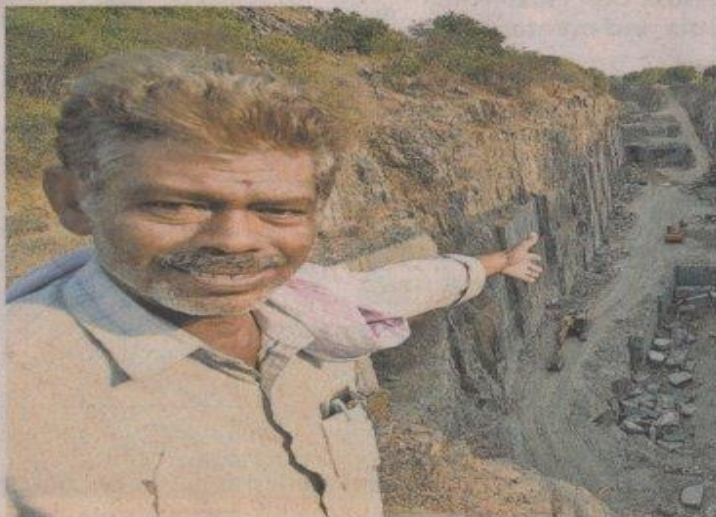
ported 56,730 cubic metres of granite blocks between April 1 and May 31, 2026, compared to a little over 3.35 lakh cubic metres during the whole of 2025-26. Demand for Tan Brown granite peaked in the late 2000s, especially around the Beijing Olympics, and it remains popular among buyers in China because of its affordability, availability and durability. Industry stakeholders, however, say current market conditions have impacted exports.

#### An industry in retreat

For decades, the deep black granite quarried from Khammam's rocky landscape symbolised prosperity. Renowned for its uniform colour, durability and premium finish, Khammam Black Granite found its way into luxury homes, commercial complexes, hotels and monuments across India and overseas markets. The industry once generated an annual business volume of nearly ₹1,000 crore and provided direct and indirect employment to around one lakh people. Today, however, it is struggling for survival.

Across the industrial belts of Khanapuram Haveli, Mudigonda, Arempula, Pallegudem, Gopalapuram and Nelakondapalli, where granite processing units once buzzed with activity, silence has replaced the hum of cutting and polishing machines. Industry representatives say the downturn began around 2018-19 and deepened during the pandemic, driven by a combination of policy changes, rising costs, shrinking quarry activity and weakening international demand.

According to Khammam Granite Factory Owners Association president Patibandla Yugandhar, only a fraction of the industry remains fully operational. "While 170 units have completely shut down and 200 are running in a single shift, only around 100 are functioning at full capacity," he says, referring to the nearly 470 slab units located within a 20-km radius of Khammam city. The shortage of raw granite blocks remains the biggest challenge. "Non-availability of the raw material is the main cause be-

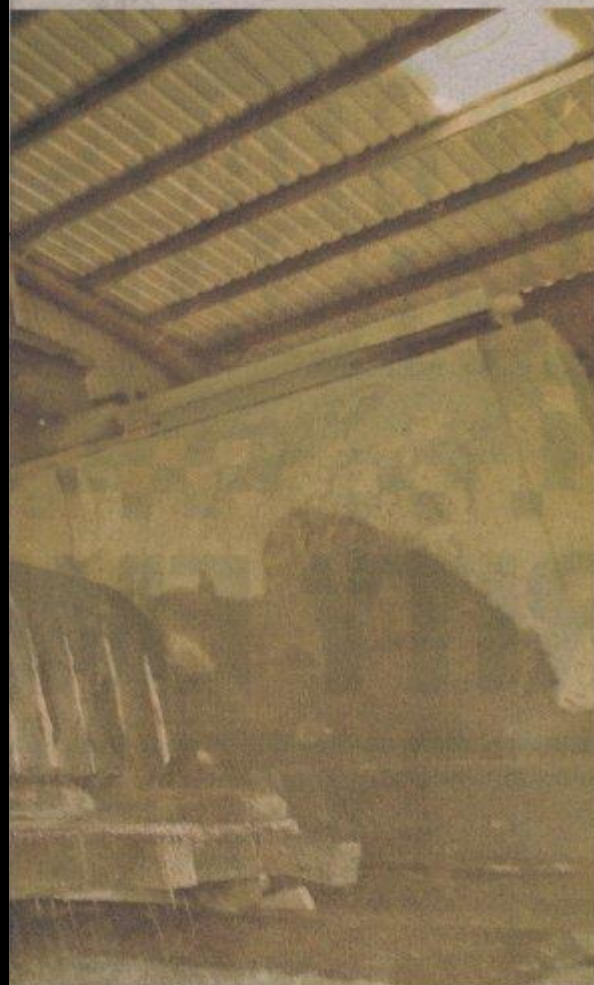


A worker pointing to a black granite quarry at Pindiprolu village in Khammam dis

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CONT. FROM PAGE NO. 24

THE HINDU DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.06



n industry downturn. NAGARA GOPAL

hind the decline of business," Yugandhar adds.

Industry estimates suggest that around 3,000 workers have already lost their jobs due to unit closures and downsizing.

Entrepreneurs also point to changes in quarry lease allotment policies. The earlier system, Yugandhar says, encouraged exploration by allowing prospectors to identify deposits and obtain leases through a phased process: "But now open auction is in implementation for the sanction of leases. This is hurting prospective miners."

Industry leaders contend that auction-based allotments and stricter eligibility norms have discouraged exploration and reduced the number of operational quarries. The district, which once had more than 200 quarries, now has fewer than 100 active operations. Government officials, however, maintain that lease allotments are governed by prescribed regulations and environ-

har, Odisha and Jharkhand while quarry labour is largely local.

#### The cost of decline

Workers in quarries and polishing units generally earn between ₹15,000 and ₹25,000 a month, but shrinking operations have reduced employment opportunities. "A fellow villager returned home due to non-availability of work," says Sandip Mandal, a 21-year-old polishing machine operator from a village near Bishnupur in West Bengal.

Industry veterans say the sector is caught between rising input costs and weakening demand. While the price of raw granite has increased over the past 15 years, demand in some export markets has softened. At the same time, unit owners continue to bear fixed expenses regardless of production levels. "Whether you run the factory or not, the owner must pay the minimum power bill and prescribed fees," says senior industry leader Narender. Some entrepreneurs argue that intermediaries and brokers often earn more than manufacturers, further squeezing profit margins.

Industry representatives believe one avenue for revival lies in better utilisation of granite waste. Quarrying generates large quantities of rejected blocks, slurry and earth, much of which is discarded despite its potential to be converted into value-added products.

Venkat Reddy advocates greater investment in research and development. "We can use the waste blocks of granite, slurry and earth for different by-products. But the government is collecting taxes on the waste," he says.

Experts say granite waste can be processed into manufactured sand and other construction materials. One enterprise in Khanapuram Haveli has already demonstrated its commercial potential by producing artefacts, premium tiles, sanitaryware and bath fittings from discarded granite blocks. Despite the industry's troubles, Khammam Black Granite continues to enjoy demand in domestic markets, particularly north India. However, that demand has also spawned regulatory challenges. Recently, authorities uncovered an alleged tax-evasion network involving the transportation of black granite through fake firms and fabricated e-Way bills. Investigations are continuing.

#### China demand dries up

Telangana Small Scale Granite Industries Association president Rayala Nageswara Rao says the sector has suffered huge losses following the disruption of exports to China since the COVID-19 pandemic. He notes that nearly 70% of quarries in the erstwhile Karimnagar district have shut down due to lack of demand from China.

Rao says applicants are now required to pay around ₹25 lakh per hectare to secure quarry leases. Black granite has a recovery rate of only about 10%, compared with more than 50% for coloured varieties such as Tan Brown, he adds.

According to him, Khammam district has

CONT. ON PAGE NO. 26

CONT. FROM PAGE NO. 25

THE HINDU DATE:5/6/2026 P.NO.06

verned by prescribed regulations and environmental safeguards.

For many entrepreneurs, the granite business has become financially unsustainable. Nallamothu Venkat Babu, who shut down his polishing unit two years ago, says the shortage of raw material forced him to exit the industry. "Since I am an agriculturist, I am now focussing on commercial crops," he adds.

The impact extends beyond unit owners. A polishing unit equipped with four cutters can employ around 10 semi-skilled and unskilled workers,



We can use the waste blocks of granite, slurry and earth for different by-products. But the government is collecting taxes on the waste.

**K. VENKAT REDDY,**  
Owner of a granite quarry

and closures have sharply reduced employment opportunities.

K. Venkat Reddy, who operates a unit exporting granite tiles to the US and Europe, says prolonged uncertainty has discouraged the younger generation from entering the business.

"Our next generation is not showing interest to take up the reins from us due to losses mainly caused by the non-availability of raw material in sufficient quantities," he rues.

Industry participants say financial distress is becoming widespread. Paramesh Reddy, treasurer of the association, points to rising diesel prices triggered by West Asia tensions as a major challenge. "Since quarrying, transportation and processing depend heavily on fuel, higher diesel costs have increased operational expenses for both quarry owners and polishing units, further eroding already thin margins," he explains.

The crisis has also affected thousands of workers, particularly migrants who form the backbone of the polishing industry. According to Yugandhar, most workers in polishing units come from West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bi-



istrict. NAGARA GOPAL

According to him, Khammam district has around 700 slab and tile units, of which nearly 200 have closed. Welcoming the release of ₹20 crore towards pending subsidies and the revival of the old measurement method, he urges the government to liberalise lease rules and provide further support to the sector.

Government officials acknowledge the industry's difficulties. Assistant Director of Mines and Geology, Khammam, R. Sainath says polishing units are under severe stress due to sluggish market conditions, rising production costs and inadequate availability of granite blocks. He estimates that around 130 polishing units in the district have shut down, but notes that the government has refrained from increasing royalty and seigniorage charges in an effort to support the industry. For Amit, a polishing worker from Betul in Madhya Pradesh employed at a granite factory near Bavpet in Karimnagar, rising fuel prices and reduced production have taken a direct toll on household finances. "Earlier, I used to send ₹15,000 to my family. Now, I hardly send ₹10,000 back home," he says, adding that even firewood has become costlier amid LPG shortages that have forced many workers to return to the traditional *chulha*.

"We pray that the geopolitical tensions ease so that supply chains are restored and our factory runs at full capacity," he says.

The crisis reflects the export-dependent nature of Karimnagar's granite industry. Raw granite blocks are largely shipped to China while polished slabs are exported to markets in the Middle East through Kakinada port in Andhra Pradesh. Industry stakeholders say bottlenecks in shipping routes and cargo delays linked to the West Asia conflict have led to increased freight costs and disrupted exports.

J. Praneeth Rao, president of the Karimnagar District Granite Industries Association, says rising shipping charges, a stronger US dollar and higher prices of imported cutting and polishing tools have forced many units to scale down operations. "The increase in transport charges due to fuel price hikes is taking a toll on our business, compelling us to operate only a single shift," he says. Road transport costs have risen from around ₹2,800-₹2,900 per tonne to ₹3,300-₹3,600 per tonne while unit owners continue to struggle with bank loan repayments and electricity charges. Praneeth Rao says the industry directly and indirectly supports 30,000 to 40,000 families and argues that the 18% GST on granite places it at a disadvantage compared to tiles, which attract 5% GST.

Assistant Director of Mines and Geology, Karimnagar, S. Venkat Reddy says inflated ocean freight costs arising from the West Asia conflict have adversely affected granite exports from the district. A quarry owner from Bavpet, requesting anonymity, says the price of taper bits and other imported inputs used in drilling operations had increased three-fold, pushing up production costs by 10-15%. He also calls for improved rail-based logistics between Karimnagar and Kakinada port to reduce transportation costs.

Industry representatives have urged the government to encourage the use of locally produced Tan Brown granite in public infrastructure projects to support the sector's revival.

THE HITAVADA DATE:6/6/2026 P.NO.07

## Coal India steps up supply to non-regulated sector

NEW DELHI, June 5 (PTI)

COAL INDIA Ltd (CIL) on Friday announced a series of measures to boost coal availability for non-regulated sector (NRS) consumers and improve operational flexibility, as part of efforts to reduce import dependence and meet rising industrial demand.

The State-run miner in a statement said it will offer a record 35 million tonnes of coal under its linkage auction window scheduled for June 12, targeting high-grade coal consumers such as the sponge iron sector. The move is expected to curb imports of high gross calorific value coal.

CIL has also allowed steel producers in the coking coal segment to sell coal middlings a byproduct of washed coal in the open market if not used for captive power generation. The provision has been enabled under the ongoing Tranche-X linkage auctions that began on June 3.

The company said it has offered 13.75 million tonnes of coal to the steel.



THE ECONOMIC TIMES  
DATE:6/6/2026 P.NO.04

## Hindustan Zinc Plans ₹50k-cr Capex Pipeline for Next 5 Years

Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** Hindustan Zinc is likely to spend ₹40,000 – 50,000 crore on capital expenditure in the next five years as it doubles its refined metal capacity and ore production, while amping its metal reserves by more than three-fold.

The country's largest producer of zinc, lead and silver has already approved a 250,000 tonne integrated zinc smelter, a tailings re-processing plant, and an exploration programme.

These three projects will collectively cost close to ₹17,000 crore.

**For the current fiscal, co has guided for a capital expenditure of \$500-600 m for growth projects**

For the current fiscal, Hindustan Zinc has guided for a capital expenditure of \$500-600 million for growth projects, and around \$400-450 million as maintenance capex, taking its total spend for the year north of \$1 billion. It had generated a free cash flow of ₹13,337 crore in fiscal 2026.

Over the next five years, Hindustan Zinc plans to increase refined metal capacity to 2 million tonne from 1.1 million tonne currently, while raising the capacity for silver refining to 1,500 tonne from 800 tonne currently.



## CIL offers more coal, operational flexibility to non-regulated sector

Our Bureau  
Kolkata

State-run coal behemoth Coal India on Friday said it is offering more coal and greater operational flexibility to non-regulated sector (NRS) consumers in a series of business-friendly initiatives.

In a bid to reduce import dependence of high GCV coal, normally consumed by the sponge iron sector, CIL has put on offer an all-time high of 35 million tonnes (mt) of coal under the linkage auction window to be held on June 12, the company said in a stock exchange filing. Bookings by these units is expected to lower imports in this grade of coal.

Agreeing to the demand of the steel (coking) sub-sector, Coal India has allowed them to sell coal middlings in the open market. For those quantities which are not used, this sub-sector has been permitted for its sale.

"This provision was enabled under the ongoing tranche-X linkage auctions

that began on June 3. CIL has offered 13.75 mt of coal to the steel (coking) sub-sector in the current tranche, while also permitting the change of consortium partners over the duration of the linkage period," the company said, adding that earlier it had the option of changing the partners twice during the contract, which is now increased to five.

### UPCOMING PROJECTS

NRS consumers planning to establish a greenfield or brownfield project are allowed to secure coal linkages even as the projects are yet to be commissioned. They can source coal within three years after the participation in the linkages, which enables them to secure bank loans as fuel sourcing is tied to this. Alongside, the requirement of linkages for the power sector under different auction windows are being met. From January till May, a total of 57.8 mt of coal was offered under window-II for short-term, while the long/medium term offer under window was 69.2 mt.

THE HINDU DATE:7/6/2026 P.NO.11

# Prime Minister flags 'national interest' in Sterlite's 'green copper' project in TN

## NEWS ANALYSIS

M. Kalyanaraman

The Sterlite Copper plant in Thoothukudi has been shut for eight years. Around the time of police firing on protesters in 2018 that left 13 dead and about 100 injured, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) withdrew consent for the unit to operate. The State government later ordered its closure.

Citing repeated environmental violations and holding the firm responsible for sulphur dioxide leak in 2013, the Madras High Court upheld the closure order. The Supreme Court later endorsed the ruling. For many in Tamil Nadu, Sterlite seemed a closed chapter.

Yet, on May 10 this year, PM Narendra Modi invoked the Sterlite issue, lamenting the closure and seeing a conspiracy behind it. "There was a time when India used to export copper. But today, India has to import copper. In our country, strikes and protests led to copper plants being shut down," he said.

Sterlite Copper had a capacity of 4 lakh tonnes of refined copper annually, meeting about 40% of India's local demand and contributing to exports. Its closure made India a net importer of refined copper from being an exporter.

Importing 4 lakh tonne of refined copper instead of ore for domestic smelting entails a foreign ex-



Green idea: A guard stands in front of the Sterlite Industries copper plant in Thoothukudi, TN. REUTERS

change outgo at about \$3.5 billion. The smelter supplied almost 350 downstream firms, many in MSME sector, and its shutdown disrupted supply chains and contributed to price increases.

Copper is increasingly viewed as a strategic metal due to its role in electric vehicles, renewable energy systems and power transmission infrastructure. The closure also hit operations at the Thoothukudi port, which handled copper concentrate imports, with wider repercussions for the local economy.

### Prolonged protests

However, the Sterlite plant faced prolonged protests ever since it started operations in the mid-90s. Fishermen initially protested over fears effluents would affect marine life and livelihoods. Later, townspeople and environmental activists took the lead. Concerns ranged from groundwater contamination and hazardous solid waste dis-

posal to air pollution, which were documented in court judgments. The 2013 gas leak remains a particularly sensitive issue.

The final round of protests in 2018 was triggered by the firm's plans for capacity expansion and was led largely by villagers living around the plant. The agitation drew support from across political parties and activist groups and gathered momentum as it approached 100th day. Veteran CPI leader and ex-MP M. Appadurai later remarked he had rarely seen such broad-based participation in any public movement. The protests culminated in the police firing on May 22, 2018.

Despite the closure, Vedanta has continued efforts to restart operations. The company proposed a revamped manufacturing process to produce what it called "green copper". As per Sterlite, the new process would reduce environmental impacts through cleaner technology, renew-

able energy use, improved sulphur dioxide emission controls, greater water recycling and a shift towards desalinated seawater as a source. It also proposed shutting down the phosphoric acid unit that generated gypsum waste.

### Application to TNPCB

Vedanta submitted an application to the TNPCB on January 9 of this year seeking Consent To Operate the proposed green copper plant at the Thoothukudi site but the board rejected application on January 27.

Sterlite approached the Madras High court saying its application had been rejected in an arbitrary manner without providing advance notice or an opportunity for hearing. Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava and Justice G. Arul Murugan directed Tamil Nadu Additional Advocate General to get instructions from the State government regarding the constitution of an expert committee to study the

possibility of permitting the 'green copper' facility.

It is against this backdrop that Mr. Modi's remarks assume significance. In Hyderabad, he said, "I would also appeal to the courts that whenever such situations arise, efforts should be made to find solutions keeping national interest foremost."

### Not for all time

Commenting on the legal route taken by Sterlite, Sanjay Hegde, senior advocate at the Supreme Court of India, said while closure of the original project acquired judicial finality, the verdicts don't bind things for all times to come. Sterlite is within rights to try with a different process.

### New dimension

"The courts should check to see whether there is a new dimension to what is being propounded or is it just a ruse to revive the old project with only cosmetic changes," he said.

Mr. Hegde added that the Prime Minister may well be right that having another smelter is in national interest. But the question is whether national interest can be to the detriment of all environmental concerns.

"What is happening is a broader agenda which says that environmentalism can be totally ignored and is antithetical to growth. When national interest is raised, the courts should take it into account but ask for particulars. How exactly is it in national interest?"

BUSINESS LINE DATE:8/6/2026 P.NO.02

# As iron ore imports surge, India emerges as a new force in global dry bulk shipping

**T E Raja Simhan**  
Chennai

India's growing appetite for imported iron ore is giving a boost to global dry bulk shipping market, which is seeing its strongest first-half performance since 2023.

Data compiled by Greece-based shipping analytics firm Signal Ocean shows that India imported a record 5 million tonnes (mt) of iron ore in the January-March quarter of 2026.

## HOGGING CAPACITY

Iron ore imports were up 127 per cent from 2.2 mt in the corresponding period last year, and more than four times the 1.1 million tonnes imported in the first quarter of 2024. The growth also continued on a sequential basis. Imports rose 38.9 per cent from 3.6 mt in the October-December quarter of 2025, bucking the seasonal



slowdown typically seen after the year-end holiday period. India-bound iron ore cargoes, particularly from Brazil, are starting to absorb global vessel capacity and emerging as a driver of freight rates in the coming months, the report said.

Brazil emerged as India's largest supplier, accounting for 1.8 mt or about 36 per cent of total imports during the quarter. Oman supplied around 735,000 tonnes, while Australia contributed

164,000 tonnes. New Mangalore, Visakhapatnam, Hazira and Jaigarh are among the ports handling imported iron ore, industry sources said.

India's installed crude steel capacity crossed 220 mt in 2025-26. Concerns over the reliability of some pellet supply flows from West Asia have also encouraged Indian buyers to diversify sourcing and rely more heavily on established long-haul suppliers, including Brazil, according to the report. Indian steelmakers with coastal operations have been among

the strongest drivers of import growth, as imported seaborne ore became increasingly viable relative to inland sourcing costs. JSW Steel, one of India's largest steel producers, has expanded capacity at both Vijayanagar and Dolvi, increasing requirements for premium-grade imported ore, said the report.

Aruna Sharma, former Steel Secretary, said that import of higher-grade iron ore from Brazil and Oman containing 62-65 per cent iron, are on the rise due to their superior quality.

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE:8/6/2026 P.NO.JACKET

## भारत और इंडोनेशिया रक्षा, व्यापार और क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स में सहयोग बढ़ाएंगे

**नई दिल्ली** | 8वाँ भारत-इंडोनेशिया संयुक्त आयोग की बैठक रविवार को दिल्ली में हुई। इसमें इंडोनेशिया के विदेश मंत्री सुगियोनो और भारतीय विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने दोनों देशों में रणनीतिक साझेदारी पर चर्चा की। बैठक में राजनीति, रक्षा, सुरक्षा, व्यापार, निवेश, क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स, स्वास्थ्य, पर्यटन, शिक्षा में सहयोग बढ़ाने पर चर्चा हुई। सुगियोनो ने कहा कि इंडोनेशिया भारत का उभरता रणनीतिक साझेदार है।

NAVBHARAT DATE:8/6/2026 P.NO.02

## 100 करोड़ का AI सेंटर खोजेगा खजाना खनिजों की खोज के लिए बड़ी पहल

■ दिल्ली, एजेंसियां. भारत अब आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस और आधुनिक तकनीक के सहारे जमीन के अंदर गड़े खनिजों के खजाने की खोज करने जा रहा है. देश की खनिज सुरक्षा को मजबूत बनाने के उद्देश्य से भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण बंगलुरु में 100 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से एक अत्याधुनिक डेटा प्रोसेसिंग, इंटरप्रिटेशन एंड इंटीग्रेशन सेंटर स्थापित करेगा. माना जा रहा है कि यह केंद्र आने वाले वर्षों में देश में महत्वपूर्ण और रणनीतिक खनिजों की खोज का प्रमुख केंद्र बनेगा. दुनिया भर में स्वच्छ



ऊर्जा, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, सेमीकंडक्टर और रक्षा उत्पादन के लिए जरूरी खनिजों की मांग तेजी से बढ़ रही है. ऐसे समय में भारत भी अपने घरेलू संसाधनों की खोज को तेज करने की दिशा में काम कर रहा है. इसी रणनीति के तहत यह नया केंद्र स्थापित किया जा रहा है.

इन तकनीकों की मदद से वैज्ञानिक ऐसे क्षेत्रों की पहचान कर सकेंगे जहां खनिज मिलने की संभावना अधिक है. इससे महंगे और समय लेने वाले फील्ड सर्वे शुरू करने से पहले ही संभावित क्षेत्रों का चयन किया जा सकेगा. इस परियोजना का उद्देश्य केवल डेटा को संग्रहित करना नहीं है, बल्कि उसे उपयोगी जानकारी में बदलना है. इससे नए खनिज भंडारों की खोज आसान होगी खोज की सफलता दर बढ़ेगी और संभावित क्षेत्रों को तेजी से खनन परियोजनाओं में बदला जा सकेगा.

अधिकारियों के अनुसार, अगले पांच वर्षों में यह केंद्र लगभग 8.5 लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र के भू-वैज्ञानिक आंकड़ों का विश्लेषण करेगा. सरकार का मानना है कि इससे देश में खनिज खोज की प्रक्रिया पहले की तुलना में कहीं अधिक प्रभावी और तेज हो सकेगी.

LOKMAT TIMES DATE:8/6/2026 P.NO.04

## Bihar mining portal hacked, sand worth ₹350 cr sold illegally

Police keeping a close watch on 100 licence holders

VIBHASH JHA/SP SINHA  
PATNA

In a major security breach, fraudsters hacked Bihar

mining department's software and illegally sold sand worth Rs 350 crore.

More than 100 valid licence holders across 17 districts have come under the police radar.

An FIR was lodged in this matter for the first time at

the Patna cyber police station in October 2025, which says that sand traders uploaded forged documents to the departmental portal and increased the stipulated sand extraction quota without authorisation.

The investigation revealed

that, in collusion with NIC personnel posted in the department, the security protocols requiring mobile OTP verification were bypassed and the system was disabled. Subsequently, traders defrauded the government of over Rs 350 crore by tamper-

ing with the software.

Notably, licencees are provided with login credentials and passwords for the storage and sale of sand, separate from the designated sand mining lease areas, to enable them to generate e-challans and maintain records.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:9/6/2026 P.NO.20

# Court directs police to probe allegations of illegal fly-ash dumping by Vedanta

**HEMANT KUMAR ROUT**  
Bhubaneswar, 8 June

Environmental compliance and industrial waste management practices at Vedanta Aluminium's Jharsuguda unit in Odisha have come under judicial scrutiny after a local court directed the police to register a case and investigate allegations of illegal coal fly-ash dumping in a restricted area near the Bheden river.

In an order, the judicial magistrate first class, Jharsuguda, directed the inspector-in-charge (IIC) of Badmal police station to register a first information report (FIR) and conduct an investigation based on a complaint petition filed by environmental activist Satyanarayan Rao against Vedanta.

The complainant alleged that coal fly ash was being illegally dumped in a restricted zone of the Bheden river syst-

em, resulting in environmental degradation and posing risks to public health and water resources. "The company is engaged in massive illegal dumping of coal fly ash in unauthorised areas, especially encroaching upon the Bheden and Ib riverbanks, different restricted places upstream of the Mahanadi river, as well as forest and agricultural land, in violation of environmental laws," alleged Rao, president of Anchalik Parabesh Suraksha Sangh.

Vedanta authorities denied the allegations of fly-ash dumping at unauthorised locations. "We have not received the court order. Since the matter is sub judice, it would not be appropriate to comment. However, the leakage in the pipeline has been repaired," a spokesperson for the company said.

On the penalty for alleged illegal water extraction, the spokesperson said the com-

## Riverbanks, farmland at heart of complaint

- Complaint alleges fly-ash dumping along Bheden and Ib riverbanks, forest, and farmland
- Court says allegations disclose cognisable offences warranting investigation
- Probe comes amid ₹233 crore demand notice over alleged illegal water extraction
- Vedanta Aluminium denies allegations, says damaged pipeline has been repaired



pany had already submitted its response to the penalty notice issued by the Department of Water Resources and that there had been no further communication from the department.

The court said that the com-

plainant had earlier submitted a written FIR to Badmal police station but alleged that no action had been taken. After examining the complaint petition and affidavit, the court observed that the allegations disclosed cognisable offences warranting a police investigation.

The order referred to offences under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including negligent acts endangering life, fouling water in public reservoirs, making the atmosphere noxious to health, criminal breach of trust, criminal intimidation, and obscene acts. "Keeping in view the nature of the allegations, this court thinks it appropriate that there should be an investigation by the police in the interest of justice," the order said.

The magistrate also ordered that the original com-

plaint petition be forwarded to the IIC, Badmal police station, with instructions to register the case and submit a compliance report.

The court-directed investigation comes at a time when Vedanta Aluminium is already facing regulatory action over alleged unauthorised extraction of water from the Bheden river system. In April this year, the Odisha government served a demand notice of ₹233.11 crore on Vedanta Aluminium, alleging illegal withdrawal of water from the river for nearly a year.

The demand includes water charges, interest, and a sixfold penalty. According to an assessment by the Department of Water Resources, the company allegedly drew more than 3 million cubic metres of water every month between May 2025 and April 2026 without authorisation.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:10/6/2026 P.NO.2

## JSW Steel recorded 15% growth in crude steel output in May

Amid a severe industrial fuel and gas crisis triggered by West Asia conflict, JSW Steel reported a consolidated crude steel production of 2.293 million tonnes (mt) in May, posting a robust 15 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth. According to the company, crude steel production from its Indian operations stood at 2.19 mt last month, compared with 1.91 mt in the corresponding month last year, reflecting a 15 per cent growth. Production at JSW Steel USA's Ohio facility rose 20 per cent to 95,000 tonnes from 79,000 tonnes in May 2025. As a result, the company's consolidated steel output increased to 2.29 mt from 1.99 mt a year ago. **BS REPORTER**

BUSINESS LINE DATE:10/6/2026 P.NO.03

# Govt notifies rules to establish coal exchanges for market-driven pricing

**REFORM PUSH.** Move expected to strengthen the nation's energy security and support industrial growth

Our Bureau  
New Delhi

Paving the way for setting up coal exchanges, the government said it has notified the Coal Exchange Rules, 2026, which will enable transparent, market-driven price discovery and boost efficiency.

"In a significant step towards modernising India's coal supply chain, the government has paved the way for the establishment of coal exchanges in the country," said the Coal Ministry.

The recently enacted Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2025, introduced the concept of a mineral exchange and empowered the Central government to promote transparent and efficient trading of



**MORE POWER.** The introduction of coal exchanges marks a paradigm shift in coal marketing in the country

minerals, including coal and its processed forms, it added.

In pursuance of the above, the Coal Exchange Rules

have been published by the Ministry of Coal in the Official Gazette on June 4.

To facilitate this initiative,

the Ministry of Coal designated the Coal Controller Organisation (CCO) in December 2025 as the authority responsible for registering and regulating coal exchanges.

Eligible entities will be authorised by the CCO to establish and operate coal exchanges, frame market rules and by-laws and facilitate coal trading. Registrations will be granted for 25 years.

### PARADIGM SHIFT

The introduction of coal exchanges marks a paradigm shift in coal marketing by moving from the traditional one-to-many sales model to a competitive many-to-many trading platform.

This will enable transparent and market-driven price discovery, improve efficiency and provide coal pro-

ducers, including commercial and captive miners, with easier access to a wider pool of buyers.

Public sector coal companies can also leverage the platform to enhance market participation.

### SELF-RELIANCE

The coal exchange initiative reflects the government's commitment to enhancing ease of doing business, promoting transparency and building a modern, self-reliant energy ecosystem.

By creating a more competitive and efficient coal market, the reform is expected to strengthen energy security, support industrial growth and contribute significantly to the vision of Viksit Bharat through sustainable economic development and a future-ready energy sector.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:10/6/2026 P.NO.10

## Retain longs in aluminium

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Aluminium futures (₹385/kg), after hitting a high of ₹397.10 on June 3, saw some moderation in price and are now hovering around ₹385, where the 21-day moving average lies.

### COMMODITY CALL.

The June futures slipped to mark a low of ₹382.15 on Monday.

Thus, the long position that we had recommended marginally survived from the stop-loss at ₹382.

Despite the recent price correction, aluminium futures maintain the positive outlook since ₹382 is a support.

We expect the bulls to regain traction, and the contract can touch ₹400.

On the other hand, if alu-



minium futures breach the support at ₹382, the downswing could extend to ₹375, its 50-day moving average.

A breakdown below this level could turn the outlook bearish. Nearest support below ₹375 is at ₹365.

That said, as it stands, we continue to hold a positive outlook.

### TRADE STRATEGY

We had suggested buying aluminium futures at ₹386 a couple of weeks ago.

Retain this trade and maintain stop-loss at ₹382. Book profits at ₹400.

LOKMAT TIMES (NAGPUR FIRST) DATE:11/6/2026 P.NO.04

# Ash in abandoned mines may trigger new eco crisis: Expert

Environment expert Leena Buddhe says it needs strict safeguards

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK/NAGPUR

**T**he State government's move to identify abandoned coal mines for dumping fly ash from Koradi and Khaperkheda thermal power stations may offer much-needed relief to pollution-hit villages near overflowing ash bunds at Khasala and Waregaon, but environmental experts have cautioned that the strategy could turn into a long-term ecological disaster if implemented without scientific safeguards.

After Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawan-kule recently announced drone surveys of abandoned mines to assess their suitability for fly ash filling, environmentalist Leena Buddhe, Director, Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD), termed the proposal a "double-edged sword." "Using abandoned



File photo.

When scientifically managed, ash bunds can support safe disposal and 100% fly ash utilisation. But negligence today could create irreversible environmental damage tomorrow," Leena Buddhe cautioned.

mine voids may solve an immediate crisis of overflowing ash bunds, but if done incorrectly, it poses immense ecological risks, especially to groundwater systems and local communities dependent on them," Buddhe said.

For nearly two decades, residents of 21 villages around Khasala and Waregaon have complained of severe fly ash pollution from ash bunds linked to Koradi and Khaperkheda

## MoEFCC, CPCB mandate strict safeguards

According to Leena Buddhe, MoEFCC and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines mandate strict safeguards before mine backfilling. These include hydrogeological studies to ensure no connection with groundwater aquifers, impermeable HDPE or clay liners to stop toxic leaching, moisture conditioning of ash to suppress dust, and mixing fly ash with overburden soil rather than dumping it in pure form. "Without safeguards, heavy metals like arsenic, mercury, lead, chromium and cadmium can contaminate underground water sources used for drinking and farming," Leena Buddhe said, warning of respiratory illnesses from airborne ash, land subsidence due to improper filling, and disruption of natural drainage systems.



Leena Buddhe

thermal plants. Against this backdrop, the proposal to shift ash disposal underground is being seen as an alternative to prevent catastrophic breaches of over-filled surface dykes.

However, Buddhe warned that abandoned mines cannot be treated as "simple dumping yards." She argued that the ultimate focus should remain on achieving 100% fly ash utilisation in cement, bricks and construction

material rather than merely shifting disposal sites.

Buddhe also urged MahaGenco not to repeat "mistakes" allegedly made at Khasala and Waregaon while developing the new ash bund at Nandgaon for Khaperkheda plant. She stressed the need for scientifically designed lagoons, proper HDPE lining, internal access pathways for machinery, and systematic ash removal for reuse.

THE HITAVADA DATE:12/6/2026 P.NO.06

# 'Coal gasification scheme will provide momentum to large-scale projects'

**UNION** Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy on Thursday said the Union Cabinet's recent approval of the Rs 46,000 crore combined scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects marks a transformational step in the country's energy and industrial journey.

He said it will inject fresh momentum into large-scale gasification projects across the country. Addressing a roadshow on Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects here, he expressed confidence over India's emergence as one of the world's most promising destinations for coal gasification investments.

"We have coal in abundance, we have policy support, and we have commitment. Coal gasification will become a new driver of industrial growth and Atmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

The Centre is committed to



driving reforms in the sector, with ease of doing business as a key priority, and creating a supportive ecosystem for investors and technology providers, he added.

According to him, despite its vast coal reserves, the country continues to remain heavily dependent on imports of methanol, ammonia, fertilizer feedstocks and several critical industrial chemicals, resulting in a substantial outflow of for-

eign exchange every year.

Coal gasification offers a strategic pathway to convert domestic coal into value-added products, strengthen energy security, reduce import dependence and enhance economic resilience. To ensure a transparent and consultative implementation process, he informed stakeholders that the Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) has already been placed in the public domain for comments and

suggestions, and invited industry stakeholders to contribute their valuable inputs for further strengthening the framework.

He highlighted India's strong resource base and growing energy needs, noting that the country possesses nearly 400 billion tonnes of coal reserves, the fifth largest in the world with sufficient availability for several decades. He stated that India is today the world's second-largest producer and consumer of coal, with nearly 70 per cent of its electricity generation dependent on coal and millions of livelihoods linked to the sector.

Vikram Dev Dutt, Secretary, Union Ministry of Coal, informed the stakeholders that, as committed during the New Delhi Roadshow held earlier, the Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) has been placed in the public domain for industry feedback.

THE HINDU

DATE:12/6/2026 P.NO.15

## RIL, Vedanta, Adani said to join hands to cut China rare earth reliance

Reuters

NEW DELHI

Indian industrial groups—Reliance, Vedanta and Adani have shown interest in developing facilities to process Andhra Pradesh state's significant reserves of increasingly important rare-earth minerals, according to two sources with knowledge of the matter.

With New Delhi seeking to cut India's dependence on China for rare earths, the three companies are among about 10 who have expressed interest in setting up rare earth facilities in the southern state, one of the sources said.

The sources declined to be identified as they were not authorised to speak to the media. Andhra Pradesh holds 211 million metric tonne of beach sand mineral resources, including rare earths, across 16 identified coastal deposits, as per a draft document.

India has 482.6 million tonne of rare earth ore resources, according to the Geological Survey of India.

The interest comes as New Delhi steps up efforts to build domestic rare earth mining, processing and magnet manufacturing capacity, while Andhra Pradesh aims to attract ₹50,000 crore (\$5.2 billion) in rare earth and titanium investments over the next decade. The plans were set out in a draft government document.

The Andhra Pradesh government, Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), Vedanta Ltd. and Adani Enterprises Ltd. did not respond to Reuters emails seeking comments.

THE HINDU DATE:13/6/2026 P.NO.13

## NLC wins Telangana critical minerals' block bid

NLC India has emerged as the preferred bidder for a Vanadium, Titanium and Aluminous Laterite block in Telangana. "NLC India Limited is declared as preferred bidder for Parvathapur Vanadium, Titanium and Aluminous Laterite block of Sanga Reddy, Telangana, subsequent to the Critical and Strategic mineral blocks e-auction held on June 11 by the Union Ministry of Mines," the company said in a filing on Friday.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:15/6/2026 P.NO.04

# India's 1st fly ash-rare earth tender likely in 2 months

SAKET KUMAR &  
SUDHEER PAL SINGH  
New Delhi, 14 June

In what could mark a major technological breakthrough in India's critical mineral sector, state-owned NLC India plans to award the country's first project for extracting rare earth elements from fly ash, a byproduct of lignite-based power generation, within two months.

The project, being developed in collaboration with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (Barc), seeks to recover rare earth elements from fly ash generated at NLC's Neyveli operations in Tamil Nadu. If successful, it could open a new domestic source of strategic minerals at a time when India is seeking to reduce dependence on imports of critical materials required for clean energy technologies, advanced manufacturing, and health-care applications.

"The pilot project is at the tendering stage, and we expect to award it within the next two months," NLC Chairman and Managing Director Prasanna Kumar Motupalli told *Business Standard* in an exclusive interview.

The project is being set up with support from Barc to demonstrate the advanced extraction process, with rare earth elements already identified. "NLC has identified the presence of rare-earth elements in fly ash generated from its lignite-based power stations in Neyveli. The concentration of rare earth elements in Neyveli fly ash is substantial, and the

## From ashes to assets

- Project being developed in collaboration with Barc
- Pilot project may see investment to the tune of ₹600 crore
- Commercial-scale project could require over ₹5,000 crore
- Pilot facility expected to be commissioned within 8-9 months, with production targeted in about a year
- Rare-earths identified being used in nuclear medicine, targeted cancer therapies, medical imaging, and scientific research
- NLC generates 5,000-6,000 tonnes of fly ash, providing feedstock for the extraction process
- The project could help reduce dependence on imports



“NLC HAS IDENTIFIED THE PRESENCE OF RARE-EARTH ELEMENTS IN FLY ASH GENERATED FROM ITS LIGNITE-BASED POWER STATIONS IN NEYVELI”

Prasanna Kumar Motupalli  
CMD, NLCIL

project has generated a lot of interest among stakeholders," Motupalli said.

The company estimates a tentative investment of around ₹600 crore for the pilot project and ₹5,000 crore for the commercial-scale project, subject to successful results.

"The pilot facility is expected to be commissioned within eight to nine months of

award, with pilot-scale production targeted within about one year," Motupalli said.

Among the rare earth elements identified in the fly ash is lutetium, a high-value metal used in nuclear medicine, targeted cancer therapies, medical imaging, and scientific research. The company has also identified several other rare earth elements

that could potentially be recovered economically, including cerium, neodymium, lanthanum, samarium, gadolinium, praseodymium, and europium.

Several of the rare earth elements identified by NLC have strategic industrial applications and play crucial roles in emerging technologies. Neodymium and praseodymium are used in high-performance permanent magnets deployed in electric vehicles and wind turbines, while europium is used in lighting and display technologies. Cerium and lanthanum are widely used in catalysts, batteries, and optical applications, while samarium and gadolinium are used in aerospace, defence, electronics, and medical technologies.

India has stepped up efforts in recent years to secure domestic supplies of critical minerals and reduce dependence on China for imports amid growing global competition for resources essential to the energy transition. While most initiatives have focused on conventional mining and overseas asset acquisitions, the NLC-Barc project seeks to unlock value from industrial waste streams.

Motupalli said NLC generates 5,000-6,000 tonnes of fly ash daily in the Neyveli area, which could serve as feedstock for the extraction process. If the pilot demonstrates commercial viability, the project could provide a new avenue for recovering strategic minerals while addressing fly ash utilisation challenges.

LOKMAT TIMES (NAGPUR FIRST) DATE:15/6/2026 P.NO.04

# Coal minister flags disappearance of 4 mn tonnes of coal

## Seeks urgent probe into SCCL loss

NEW DELHI

Union coal minister G Kishan Reddy has written to the Telangana government, flagging reports that 40 lakh tonnes of coal worth about ₹1,600 crore is missing and urging an urgent inquiry to ascertain the facts and safeguards at Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL), already strained by unpaid dues of over ₹51,500 crore.

In a letter dated June 10, 2026, to Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy, the Union minister said that "a news item published across



G Kishan Reddy

various newspapers relating to the disappearance of 40 lakh tonnes of coal worth ₹1600 crore, resulting in significant financial loss to the company.

"Given SCCL's current financial position due to unpaid dues exceeding ₹51,500 crore from the Telangana government, these allegations could further hamper the financial stability of SCCL."

The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) is jointly owned by the Government of Telangana and the Centre on a 51:49 equity basis.