KHANIJ SAMACHAR

Vol. 10, No-13

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

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KHANIJ SAMACHAR

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INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

VOL. 10, NO – 13, 1st – 15th JULY 2026

BUSINESS LINE DATE:1/7/2026 P.NO.11

AP to take up mineral-mapping, frame policy for value-addition

Our Bureau
Hyderabad

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to take up comprehensive mineral mapping across the State to identify valuable mineral deposits for value addition.

Reviewing the performance of the Mines Department in Amaravati on Tuesday, Naidu said Andhra Pradesh's vast mineral wealth offers significant opportunities for market capitalisation.

The State-owned Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) is exploring avenues for market capitalisation of valuable mineral assets, and he directed officials to undertake a detailed study with the assistance of experts.

Substantial revenue could be generated by adding value to minerals such as beach sand and rare earth minerals, iron ore, manganese and alumina.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:2/7/2026 P.NO.10

Sell copper at ₹1,275; stop-loss at ₹1,300

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Copper futures (₹1,258/kg) lost 5.8 per cent in June. The decline started early last month on the back of a barrier at ₹1,400.

After marking a low of ₹1,240.15 on June 24, the July copper futures have recovered to the current level of ₹1,258. But it lacks momentum to reverse the trend.

COMMODITY CALL.

The chart shows that the contract is struggling to get past ₹1,275, where the 38.2 per cent Fibonacci retracement of the previous upswing lies.

This is a resistance for now. If the contract surpasses ₹1,275, it could rise to ₹1,290 and a rally beyond this is unlikely.

So, we expect copper futures to resume the downtrend, either from the current level of ₹1,258 or after inching up to ₹1,290.

Once the fall resumes, the contract could drop to ₹1,230, the 50 per cent Fibonacci retracement. Support below ₹1,230 is at ₹1,190. Overall, the outlook is weak and we are likely to see another downswing.

TRADE STRATEGY

Sell copper futures if it rises to ₹1,275. Place stop-loss at ₹1,300. When the contract drops to ₹1,245, revise the stop-loss to ₹1,265. Book profits at ₹1,230.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:2/7/2026 P.NO.05

Adani Group, IHC to Join Hands for $11.5-b Aluminium Plant in Odisha

Smelter facility to have 2 mtpa capacity; could help increase national output by nearly 50%

ET EXCLUSIVE

Nikita Periwal

Mumbai: Adani Group and Abu Dhabi-based investment conglomerate International Holding Company (IHC) plan to jointly invest $11.5 billion over the next few years to build a mega aluminium plant that could catapult India's total capacity by nearly 50%, said people familiar with the matter.

This would be the second metals venture for Adani after its copper smelter in Gujarat that began operations last year, reflecting the power and ports group's strategy to secure commodity supplies for its expanding infrastructure empire.

Adani and IHC will collectively make the investment through debt and equity towards building an aluminium smelter in Odisha with an annual capacity of more than 2 million tonnes, said the people cited above.

They didn't disclose the investment split between the two partners. Adani didn't respond to an email seeking details about the investment.

This would be the largest-ever foreign investment in India's metals and minerals space.

Despite being a mineral-rich country, metals production in India has been hampered over the years due to protests, which stalled mining, and construction of new plants. State caution and judicial pronouncements also led to delays and cancellations of projects worth billions of dollars.

The Odisha facility will be an integrated unit combining smelting and refining. Adani will mine the raw material bauxite, produce alumina, and convert it into aluminium.

Apart from bolstering its primary materials portfolio, aluminium production could also act as backward integration for the group, which counts utility, transport, logistics, and infrastructure among its key businesses.

The aluminium project will include a captive power plant, while Dhamra port in Odisha, on the shore of Bay of Bengal, is likely to be used for logistics. The port is owned by group company Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone.

India is the world's second largest producer of aluminium after China, with total production of 4.2 million tonnes in FY25. It consumed 5.5 million tonnes during the year, while per capita consumption was at 3.4-3.9 kgs, significantly below the global average of 8-12 kgs. India is also the third-largest consumer of aluminium.

Adani Energy to Float ₹10k-cr QIP

Mumbai: Adani Energy Solutions (AESL) said Wednesday its board has approved raising of ₹10,000 crore through a qualified institutional placement (QIP).

"Raising of funds by way of issuance of such number of equity shares having face value of ₹10 each of the company...for an aggregate amount not exceeding ₹10,000 crore by way of Qualified Institutional Placement or other permissible mode," the company said.

AESL has called an extraordinary general meeting on July 25 to seek members' approval for the issuance. It did not disclose how it plans to use the QIP proceeds. The company announced on June 24 that it has signed a binding agreement to acquire a 100% equity stake in IntelliSmart Infrastructure for a total consideration of ₹3,050 crore.—**Our Bureau**

DAINIK BHASKAR
DATE:2/7/2026 P.NO.07

इस्पात मंत्रालय के उपक्रम मेकॉन को मिनीरत्न श्रेणी-प्रथम का दर्जा

एजेंसी | नई दिल्ली. इस्पात मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत आने वाले केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक उपक्रम मेटलर्जिकल एंड इंजीनियरिंग कंसल्टेंट्स (इंडिया) लिमिटेड (मेकॉन) को मिनीरत्न श्रेणी-प्रथम का दर्जा देने का फैसला किया गया है। यह निर्णय कंपनी को कारोबार की अधिक स्वायत्तता और परिचालन लचीलापन प्रदान करके उसे सशक्त बनाने के प्रति सरकार की निरंतर प्रतिबद्धता के अनुरूप बताया गया है। इससे कंपनी की दक्षता और प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता में सुधार होने की उम्मीद है। इस्पात मंत्रालय की एक विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार मेकॉन ने हाल के वर्षों में महत्वपूर्ण वित्तीय उपलब्धियां हासिल की हैं।

LOKMAT TIMES DATE:3/7/2026 P.NO.02

Over 2K cases in two years, yet illegal sand mining continues

₹119 cr in penalties; extraction from riverbeds persists despite MPDA action

YOGESH PANDE
LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK/NAGPUR

Despite the government's claims of cracking down on illegal sand mining across Maharashtra through thousands of enforcement actions, the menace continues unchecked. More than 2,700 criminal cases have been registered and penalties exceeding 119 crore recovered over the past two years, yet illegal sand miners continue to extract sand from riverbeds with impunity, raising serious questions about the deterrent effect of the enforcement drive.

According to information obtained by Lokmat Times, a total of 2,712 criminal cases were registered across State against illegal sand extraction and transportation during the past two years, while ₹119.14 crore was recovered as penalties from the accused. Between April 1, 2025, and May 31, 2026, authorities carried out 8,167 enforcement actions. Despite such large-scale operations, illegal sand mining remains rampant. Sand is being extracted openly from riverbeds during the day, while hundreds of trucks and dumpers transport it unhindered at night, casting serious doubts over the effectiveness of the enforcement mechanism.

Sand mafias get advance tip-offs

Complaints have repeatedly surfaced from several districts that sand is being illegally extracted from riverbeds under the cover of darkness using JCBs, poclain machines and boats. Local residents allege that despite repeatedly informing the authorities, little effective action is taken. There have also been several incidents in which revenue department teams were attacked, official vehicles vandalised, and officers threatened while conducting raids. Sources further claimed that illegal sand miners often receive advance information about impending enforcement operations, enabling them to evade action.

No fear of flying squads either

- To curb illegal sand mining, the state government has implemented a sand policy and constituted joint flying squads comprising officials from the Revenue Department, Police and the Regional Transport Office (RTO) at the tehsil, sub-divisional, district and divisional levels. Other measures, including 24x7 CCTV surveillance at sand ghats, GPS-enabled transport vehicles, e-auctions and drone monitoring, have also been introduced. However, the statistics indicate that these measures have failed to instil fear among the well-organised sand mining syndicates.
- Many of those involved in illegal sand mining are repeat offenders. Despite thousands of cases being registered, action under the MPDA Act has been initiated in only 41 cases. This has raised questions over whether even stringent preventive detention provisions and special flying squads have had any real deterrent effect on the accused.

LOKMAT TIMES DATE:3/7/2026 P.NO.07

Adani, IHC announce $11.5 bn aluminium plant in Odisha

MoU signed with Abu Dhabi-based major; to generate 35,000 jobs

BHUBANESWAR (AHMEDABAD)

In a significant development, the Adani Group on Thursday announced to build a mega aluminium plant in Odisha, along with Abu Dhabi-based International Holding Company (IHC), with a proposed investment of $11.5 billion (nearly 1.08 lakh crore).

At the MoU signing ceremony for the proposed aluminium project in Bhubaneswar, Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ), said the "Adani Project represents ambition at a truly global scale".

Addressing the gathering, Karan Adani said that "we are gathered not merely to witness the historic MoU but to herald the beginning of a new economic chapter for Odisha, which will shape and accelerate the growth trajectory of Bharat". The project's true significance lies not only in the size of the investment but in the depth of its impact.

> "With a proposed investment of nearly Rs 1.08 lakh crore, this is among the most significant aluminium ecosystem investments anywhere in the world. But its true significance lies not only in the size of the investment. It lies in the depth of its impact."
>
> **Karan Adani**

THE HINDU DATE:3/7/2026 P.NO.15

Adani, IHC Group to set up aluminium project in Odisha for $11.5 bn

Lalatendu Mishra
BHUBANESWAR

Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL), the flagship company of the Adani Group, and International Resources Holding (IRH), the Abu Dhabi-based natural resources investment platform of International Holding Company (IHC) Group, on Thursday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Odisha to develop an integrated greenfield aluminium project at an investment of $11.5 billion (₹1.08 lakh crore).

AEL and IHC will form a 50:50 joint venture for the proposed project. This will mark the entry of the Adani Group into the aluminium sector. The proposed investment is expected to be Odisha's largest foreign direct investment (FDI) proposal and India's largest FDI in the metallurgy sector, Odisha government officials said. The project comprises a 4 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) alumina refinery to come up in Rayagada district on 3,200 acres, a 2 MMTPA aluminium smelter, a 4,000-megawatt (MW) captive power plant and a 1 MMTPA downstream manufacturing park, supported by enabling infrastructure, in Sundargarh district on 4,100 acres.

Bauxite will be sourced from Odisha Mining Corporation's Sasubahumali mines and Adani's Kutrumali and Bahalda mines. It will be transported via conveyor belt and rail to the smelter. The project is expected to generate about 53,500 jobs across construction and operations.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi and other dignitaries.

(The writer was in Bhubaneswar at the invitation of Adani group)

THE HINDU DATE:3/7/2026 P.NO.15

'Low-cost energy, growing demand led to aluminium'

Lalatendu Mishra
BHUBANESWAR

The Adani Group is entering the aluminium sector to capitalise on its low-cost energy business as well as on the growing demand for the metal, said Karan Adani, MD, Adani Ports & SEZ and Adani Cement.

"If you look at it, two aspects which is why we are entering into it. One, it's a very energy intensive business and it works in the advantage of the group as we are one of the lowest-cost producers of energy. And so, that is one of the biggest competitive edge that we bring on table," he said when asked the reason behind entering the business.

"And, second, obviously we see as digitisation. As manufacturing in the country increases, the demand for aluminium is going to rise. And we see that as a big opportunity, long-term opportunity for the country."

Karan Adani ANI

'Still importing'

Asked it the firm was entering an already-crowded market dominated by Nalco, Hindalco and Vedanta, he said despite such large capacities, India was still importing aluminium.

"So, this is a sign there is more demand. And there is going to be enough room for everybody to be in this market. And at the end of the day, if done at a very competitive pace, India can be a net exporter of aluminium as well."

Adani and it's proposed joint venture partner the International Holding Company (IHG) of UAE are expecting all approvals to be in place in the next 12 to 18 months.

"I would say it would take 4.5 to 5 years from now for this project to be commissioned and be up and running," he added.

Mr. Adani said the project would be funded via internal accruals of Adani Enterprise and 70% debt.

While the total project cost is pegged at $11.5 billion, 50% would be borne by Adani Enterprises, the holding firm of the Adani Group and balance by IHC.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:3/7/2026 P.NO.10

TAKING ON THE DUOPOLY

Adani's Bet Redraws the Aluminium Order

Sets stage for 3-way contest in a market dominated by Hindalco and Vedanta; Adani banks on low-cost energy expertise

Nikita Periwal

Bhubaneswar: The Adani Group's foray into aluminium production with a $11.5-billion investment with Abu Dhabi-based IHC Group will make it a pivotal contender in India's duopolistic aluminium market, headlined by the Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco Industries and Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Aluminium Metal.

The two companies have been dominating India's fast-growing automobile, electrical and clean energy markets, and together account for nearly 90% of the aluminium produced in the country. With a 2-million-tonne smelting capacity expected to come on stream in around five years, the Adani Group will add nearly 50% to the country's existing aluminium output of around 4.2 million tonnes.

"Aluminium is a very energy-intensive business, and as one of the lowest-cost producers of energy, it will be one of the biggest competitive edges that we bring to the table," Karan Adani, the managing director at Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, said on Thursday. "As digitisation and manufacturing in the country increase, the demand for aluminium will go up, and we see that as a big long-term opportunity," he said.

Even though India is the second-largest producer of aluminium globally, it is a net importer of the base metal. Both Vedanta Aluminium and Hindalco are also expanding their aluminium production capacity as demand in India is seen rising by at least 50% from the current levels by the end of the decade.

"Even with such a large capacity, we are still importing aluminium... this is a sign there is enough demand for everybody to be in this market," Adani said.

Apart from the 2-million-tonne aluminium smelter, Adani's aluminium project will also have a 4-million-tonne alumina refinery, a 4,000-MW captive power plant and a 1-million-tonne downstream aluminium park. ET first reported that the Adani Group and IHC would jointly set up an aluminium unit on Thursday.

The facility will be built in two phases, with an investment of ₹66,000 crore in the first phase and ₹44,000 crore in the second phase. The construction and operations of the project are expected to create more than 53,000 jobs in Odisha, which houses more than half of the country's bauxite.

The Adani Group's flagship, Adani Enterprises, and IHC's subsidiary, International Resources Holding (IRH), will set up this facility through a 50:50 joint venture. The project will be funded with 70% debt and 30% equity.

BIG PUSH IN ODISHA

Bauxite for the unit will be sourced from three mines — Ballada, Kutrumali and Sasubohumali — of which the Sasubohumali mine is likely to be operated by the Odisha Mining Corp. This mine, in the Rayagada district, has the highest reserves of bauxite among the three, senior state officials aware of the details said.

Bauxite is the primary raw material used in the production of aluminium. Bauxite is first converted to alumina in refineries, and this alumina is then further converted to aluminium at smelters.

For alumina, Adani will set up its refinery in the Rayagada region itself to take advantage of its proximity to one of the bauxite mines. This refinery will be spread across 3,200 acres. The aluminium smelter, meanwhile, will be spread across 4,100 acres in the Sundargarh region of the state.

"This 7,000-plus acres will include the township being planned and the downstream park," one of the officials said.

Producing 1 million tonnes of aluminium requires about 8 million tonnes of material to be moved, and the bauxite from the mines will be moved using a conveyor and rail network, the officials said. Movement of materials from the refinery to the smelter and from the smelter to the port, meanwhile, will be done entirely through the railway network, the officials said.

While the MoU was signed on Thursday, it will be followed by four agreements between Adani Enterprises, IRH and the Government of Odisha. These agreements will include a long-term supply agreement for bauxite, two land agreements and an agreement for utilities, they said.

Adani Enterprises Kicks Off ₹10,000-cr QIP to Fund Expansion, Retire Debt

Mumbai: Adani Enterprises on Thursday launched a ₹10,000 crore qualified institutional placement (QIP), with an option to upsize the issue if demand exceeds, according to a term sheet reviewed by ET.

The Adani Group flagship plans to issue about 34.7 million shares, which could lead to a dilution of nearly 2.6% of its post-issue outstanding equity, at an indicative price of ₹2,883 per share. This is at a 9.3% discount to Thursday's close of ₹3,177.5 apiece on the NSE.

The floor price of the issue has been set at ₹3,034.68 per share, with the indicative price at a 5% discount to the floor price.

Shares of Adani Enterprises have gained 40% so far this year, against the benchmark Nifty50's decline of 7.5%. The company had a market capitalisation of ₹4,11,736.4 crore on Thursday's close.

The company will use proceeds from the issue for capital expenditure to accelerate growth of its incubation businesses, repayment of loans, and for general corporate purposes, including funding inorganic growth opportunities through acquisitions or investment.

Adani Enterprises didn't respond to an email seeking comment.

— Our Bureau

DAINIK BHASKAR DATE:3/7/2026 P.NO.07

जंग लगने से होने वाले नुकसान को रोकने स्टेनलेस स्टील नीति की मांग

वरिष्ठ संवाददाता | मुंबई

देश में हर साल जंग (करॉजन) के कारण होने वाले करीब 12 लाख करोड़ रुपए के आर्थिक नुकसान को रोकने के लिए स्टेनलेस स्टील उद्योग ने केंद्र सरकार से राष्ट्रीय स्टेनलेस स्टील नीति और राष्ट्रीय एंटी-करॉजन मिशन लागू करने की मांग की है। इंडियन स्टेनलेस स्टील डेवलपमेंट एसोसिएशन (आईएसएसडीए) और ग्लोबल स्टेनलेस स्टील एक्सपो (जीएसएसई) की रणनीतिक साझेदारी के दौरान उद्योग प्रतिनिधियों ने कहा कि भारत में 75 लाख टन उत्पादन क्षमता होने के बावजूद केवल 60-65 प्रतिशत क्षमता का ही उपयोग हो रहा है, जबकि घरेलू मांग का 25-28 प्रतिशत हिस्सा आयात से पूरा किया जाता है। कार्यक्रम का आयोजन विर्गो कम्युनिकेशंस एंड एग्जीबिशन (प्रा.) लिमिटेड ने किया। आयोजन में आईएसएसडीए के अध्यक्ष राजामणि कृष्णमूर्ति ने कहा कि स्टेनलेस स्टील को सामान्य इस्पात से अलग नीति मिलनी चाहिए, जिससे कच्चे माल की उपलब्धता, निवेश और घरेलू विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। उनका कहना था कि जंग-रोधी सामग्री के व्यापक उपयोग से बुनियादी ढांचे की उम्र बढ़ेगी, रखरखाव लागत घटेगी और भारत वैश्विक स्टेनलेस स्टील उत्पादन का प्रमुख केंद्र बन सकेगा। जिंदल स्टेनलेस लिमिटेड के ग्रुप हेड मार्केटिंग एंड सेल्स राजीव गर्ग ने कहा भारत दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा स्टेनलेस स्टील उपभोक्ता है, लेकिन बढ़ते आयात और कम प्रति व्यक्ति खपत घरेलू उद्योग के लिए चुनौती हैं।

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:3/7/2026 P.NO.JACKET

Adani, Abu Dhabi's IHC join hands for $11.5bn Odisha aluminium project

Reeba.Zachariah
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Abu Dhabi's International Holding Company, which emerged as a key backer of the Adani Group following the Hindenburg-induced market turmoil in 2023, is deepening its partnership with the conglomerate through an $11.5 billion integrated aluminium project in Odisha.

The partners have formed an equal joint venture to build a sprawling aluminium complex comprising a four-million-tonne alumina refinery, a two-million-tonne aluminium smelter, a one-million-tonne downstream aluminium facility and a 4,000-MW captive power plant, making it one of India's largest aluminium hubs.

Adani Enterprises, an investor in the venture, also launched a $1 billion qualified institutional placement (QIP) on Thursday. The fund-raising follows its $2.8 billion rights issue in Dec 2025, the company's largest capital raise since the 2023 Hindenburg-triggered turmoil.

The QIP was launched at an indicative price of Rs 2,883 per share, a 9.3% discount to Adani's closing price of Rs 3,118 on the NSE on Thursday.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:3/7/2026 P.NO.10

Go short on zinc futures

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Zinc futures (₹359/kg) have been on a decline since early June. After witnessing a recovery over the past few sessions, the price action now hints at a potential resumption in the downtrend.

COMMODITY CALL.

The July futures rebounded from the support at ₹350 towards the end of last week. It extended the rally in the first half of this week and marked a high of ₹364.55 on Tuesday before moderating to ₹359. The chart shows that the contract was unable to surpass the barrier at ₹364, and is likely to have started the next leg of fall.

From the current level, we expect zinc futures to slip below ₹350 and subsequently decline to ₹340, a support.

Sell zinc futures at ₹359 with stop-loss at ₹367

On the other hand, if there is a recovery from the current level of ₹359 leading to a breakout, zinc futures could rise further to ₹372.

Resistance above ₹372 is at ₹376. That said, the broader bias is bearish at the moment.

TRADE STRATEGY

Sell zinc futures (July) at ₹359 with stop-loss at ₹367. When the price falls to ₹345, revise the stop-loss to ₹350. Book profits at ₹340.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:3/7/2026 P.NO.10

Limited downside seen for copper, aluminium on strong fundamentals

DEFICIT MARKET. Tight supplies caused by the Iran war are expected to keep a floor under the metals' prices

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

Aluminium and copper prices have fallen 17.5 per cent and 6 per cent respectively over the past month, but analysts say the correction is unlikely to deepen as tight supply and resilient demand continue to underpin fundamentals.

"The loss of Middle Eastern (West Asian) supply had tightened an already constrained aluminium market, and we expect a supply deficit to persist in 2026, limiting the downside for prices, at least from a fundamentals perspective," research agency BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, said.

ING Think, the economic research arm of Dutch financial services group ING, echoed the view.

ALUMINIUM UP 3%

"We believe downside risks for aluminium prices remain limited. The market continues to face a supply deficit of 1.8 million tonnes (mt), while inventories continue to signal tight physical market conditions," said Ewa Manthey, Commodities Strategist at ING Think.

Chinese commodities data provider Sunsirs also expects aluminium prices to recover after near-term volatility. "After a comprehensive assessment of macroeconomic and industrial factors, aluminium prices are expected to fluctuate before moving higher in the second half of the year, with limited downside," it said.

On the London Metal Exchange (LME), aluminium is trading around $3,100 a tonne, up 3 per cent so far this year.

BMI said the ceasefire between the US and Iran should ease the immediate supply concerns triggered by disruptions to Gulf smelting capacity. However, the supply losses are unlikely to be reversed quickly.

The US-Iran conflict is estimated to have removed 2.3 million tonnes (mt) of aluminium capacity, or about 3.2 per cent of global output, from the market.

Manthey expects the global aluminium market to remain in a 1.8-mt deficit this year. Supply disruptions linked to the conflict have already taken an estimated 3 mt production offline.

"While the geopolitical backdrop has improved, the supply losses underpinning this outlook remain in place," she said.

INVENTORY DRAWDOWN. Rapidly declining Chinese copper stockpiles indicate resilient demand, with lower prices typically triggering downstream restocking

Sunsirs said tightening supply and stable demand should keep copper prices on an upward trajectory in the second half, although macroeconomic and policy uncertainties could influence the pace of gains.

UP 7.5% YTD

ING expects copper prices to ease modestly in the third and fourth quarters as the boost from US tariff-driven stockpiling fades and macroeconomic headwinds persist. While a US tariff announcement remains a near-term upside risk, Washington did not unveil new copper tariffs on June 30 as widely anticipated.

BMI said that even if US President Donald Trump eventually imposes tariffs on copper, any weakness would likely be sentiment-driven and short-lived.

"The outcome does not materially alter our outlook, leaving copper's longer-term supportive fundamentals intact," it said.

Copper is currently trading around $13,300 a tonne on the LME, up 7.5 per cent year-to-date.

Sunsirs said rapidly declining Chinese inventories indicate resilient demand, with lower prices typically triggering downstream restocking.

Manthey said a phased 15 per cent US tariff on copper from January 1, 2027, would widen the COMEX premium over the LME, lifting prices on both exchanges.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:4/7/2026 P.NO.09

Aluminium Association urges PMO to protect local industry from surging low-quality scrap imports

Our Bureau
Chennai

The Aluminium Association of India (AAI) has appealed to the Prime Minister's Office to protect the domestic aluminium industry from a surge of low-quality aluminium scrap imports.

It said rising global protectionism had left India highly vulnerable, threatening the massive domestic investments and draining the nation's exchequer.

The domestic aluminium industry is currently facing a severe "double-whammy" scenario, due to rising imports and declining access to export markets. The AAI urged for enhancing basic customs duty (BCD) to curb the import surge.

NO QUALITY STANDARDS

Pointing out that the US had hiked Section 232 national security duties to 50 per cent, the association said the EU is introducing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), alongside safeguard investigations. "Mexico has aggressively hiked customs duties on Chapter 76 up to 35 per cent despite lacking primary smelting capacity," it said.

With developed economies such as the US and EU restructuring regulations to retain high-quality scrap while exporting low-grade material (which have less than 90 per cent aluminium content), Malaysia and China are curbing imports of poor-quality aluminium scrap.

"Due to the rising protectionism by developed economies, India is not just facing a major import threat from global aluminium surplus capacities but is facing imports of low-quality scrap due to absence of quality standards," said.

In a representation to the PMO, the AAI sought to strengthen the domestic market by imposing various trade measures, including higher import duty. Imports surged to 3.48 million tonnes in FY26, resulting in a forex outgo of over ₹88,400 crore.

It sought the publication of the final draft standard titled "Aluminium & Aluminium Alloy Scrap – Requirements & Conditions of Delivery". This has been approved by NITI Aayog, BIS, JNARDDC and the BIS Working Group, to align India's quality standards with global best practices and prevent the import of low-quality aluminium scrap.

BUSINESS LINE
DATE:4/7/2026 P.NO.09

Aluminium gains on weak $, softer rate hike bets

Singapore: Aluminium prices rose supported by a weaker dollar and easing concerns over an imminent US interest rate hike following softer than expected US jobs data. Benchmark three-month aluminium on the LME was up 1.05 per cent at $3,124 a tonne by 0700 GMT. The most-traded aluminium contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange climbed 1.56 per cent to 22,840 yuan ($3,369.23) a tonne. The Yangshan copper premium was at its highest level since 2025. On the LME, copper rose 0.59 per cent, while on the SHFE it rose 0.67 per cent. Zinc gained 0.62 per cent, lead gained 0.64 per cent, nickel rose 1.51 per cent and tin zoomed 2.38 per cent.

REUTERS

THE TIMES OF INDIA
DATE:5/7/2026 P.NO.02

VED flags gaps in proposed mineral rules

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur: With govt inviting suggestions on the proposed Mineral (Holding and Inquiry Appeal) Rules, 2026, the Vidarbha Economic Development (VED) Council has flagged key concerns, saying the draft lacks a provision for issuing a warning before initiating civil penalty proceedings and fails to provide for proportionate penalties for minor violations.

The proposed penalties are nearly ten times higher than those prescribed under Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017, said VED vice-president and mining expert B K Shukla. The concerns were submitted to minister of state Ashish Jaiswal on Saturday.

VED president Rina Sinha said the organisation advocates policies that promote ease of doing business. She added that VED has consistently engaged with stakeholders and the government on issues affecting the mining sector and has secured positive outcomes through similar interventions in the past.

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:5/7/2026 P.NO.06

Minister Ashish Jaiswal assures to solve issues of mining industry

■ Business Reporter

Ashish Jaiswal, Minister of State addressing the gathering while other dignitaries look on during the technical meet on Saturday.

ASHISH Jaiswal, Minister of State, Government of Maharashtra on Saturday assured all the mining industry stakeholders that he will personally look in to their issues under the Minerals (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026 and solve their issues while speaking at the Technical Meet organised by the Vidarbha Economic Development (VED) Council.

Jaiswal asked the mining industry stakeholders to submit their comments and suggestions for further scrutiny of their problems. The chief guest Jaiswal took the time to attentively listen to the genuine concerns of the mining community. He emphasised that their feedback is not just heard but is essential, promising that the Government is dedicated to reviewing these issues to ensure the mining sector remains fair, sustainable, and workable for everyone involved.

VED Council President Rina Sinha said, "Our primary objective today is to cultivate a robust and balanced regulatory framework that empowers the industry and actively drives sustainable ease of doing business."

Advocate Bhupesh Shukla, Vice President of the VED Council and a noted Mineral Law Consultant, provided a comprehensive analysis of the technical nuances within the Draft Minerals (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026.

Ranjan Sahai, Retired Controller General of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) and Kundargi, Retired CMD of MOIL, shared their insights on how these legislative shifts might affect day-to-day operations on the ground.

NAVBHARAT
DATE:2/7/2026 P.NO.03

एल्युमीनियम उत्पादों पर मूल सीमा शुल्क बढ़े

■ दिल्ली. एल्युमीनियम एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया ने सरकार से एल्युमीनियम उत्पादों पर मूल सीमा शुल्क बढ़ाने की मांग की है. संगठन ने चेतावनी दी है कि सस्ते आयात और वैश्विक संरक्षणवाद के बढ़ते दबाव से घरेलू निवेश तथा सरकारी राजस्व पर गंभीर असर पड़ सकता है.

NAVBHARAT DATE:6/7/2026 P.NO.07

हर 5 वर्ष में 5 लाख टन रिफाइंड कॉपर बढ़ाना होगा

तांबा उत्पादन क्षमता बढ़ाना जरूरी

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. देश में बुनियादी ढांचा, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा और विनिर्माण क्षेत्र के तेजी से विस्तार के बीच भारत को बढ़ती तांबे की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए प्रत्येक पांच साल में करीब 5 लाख टन अतिरिक्त परिष्कृत तांबा उत्पादन क्षमता विकसित करने की जरूरत है. अंतरराष्ट्रीय तांबा संघ भारत (आईसीए इंडिया) के प्रबंध निदेशक मयूर करमारकर ने रविवार को यह बात कही. उन्होंने कहा कि चालू वित्त वर्ष में तांबे की मांग देश की आर्थिक वृद्धि के अनुरूप बढ़ने की संभावना है. एसोसिएशन का अनुमान है कि वर्ष 2026 में तांबे की मांग में लगभग नौ प्रतिशत की वृद्धि होगी. आपूर्ति की स्थिति पर उन्होंने बताया कि हिंदुस्तान कॉपर के द्वितीयक स्मेल्टर के दोबारा शुरू होने तथा हिंडाल्को इंडस्ट्रीज के नए द्वितीयक स्मेल्टर के चालू होने से देश की उत्पादन क्षमता में

करीब एक लाख टन की बढ़ोतरी होगी. हालांकि यह देश की मौजूदा लगभग 18 लाख टन की कुल मांग के मुकाबले काफी कम है. करमारकर ने कहा कि इससे कुछ हद तक राहत मिलेगी, लेकिन बढ़ती मांग को देखते हुए यह पर्याप्त नहीं है. आने वाले वर्षों में मांग और आपूर्ति के बीच का अंतर लगातार बढ़ेगा, इसलिए रिफाइनिंग और स्मेल्टिंग क्षेत्र में बड़े निवेश की आवश्यकता होगी.

NAVBHARAT DATE:6/7/2026 P.NO.07

9 महत्वपूर्ण खनिज ब्लॉक की बोली रद्द

निवेशकों की ठंडी प्रतिक्रिया के बाद उठाया कदम

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. केंद्र सरकार ने निवेशकों की ठंडी प्रतिक्रिया और पात्र बोलीदाताओं की कमी के चलते महत्वपूर्ण एवं रणनीतिक खनिजों के 9 ब्लॉक की नीलामी रद्द कर दी है. ये ब्लॉक महत्वपूर्ण एवं रणनीतिक खनिजों की 7वें दौर की नीलामी के तहत पेश किए गए थे. यह घटनाक्रम देश में ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, स्वच्छ प्रौद्योगिकी (क्लीन-टेक) विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देने और महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों के आयात पर निर्भरता कम करने की सरकार की रणनीति के लिए झटका माना जा रहा है, साथ ही यह दर्शाता है कि तकनीकी जटिलताओं, अधिक पूंजीगत लागत और नियामकीय अनिश्चितताओं के कारण निजी निवेशकों को ऐसे खनिज ब्लॉक के लिए आकर्षित करना अब भी चुनौती बना हुआ है. सरकार इससे पहले भी महत्वपूर्ण एवं रणनीतिक खनिज ब्लॉक की कई नीलामियां रद्द कर चुकी है. छठे दौर में 11, 5वें में 5, चौथे में 11, तीसरे में 3, दूसरे में 14 और पहले दौर में 13 ब्लॉक की नीलामी निरस्त की गई थी. खान मंत्रालय ने एक अधिसूचना में कहा कि दो खनिज ब्लॉक के लिए कोई बोली प्राप्त नहीं होने के कारण उनकी नीलामी प्रक्रिया रद्द कर दी गई. इनमें मध्य प्रदेश का मझौली टाइटेनियम, वैनेडियम एवं एल्युमिनस लैटराइट ब्लॉक तथा राजस्थान का रैमब देगाना टंगस्टन, लिथियम एवं संबद्ध खनिज ब्लॉक शामिल हैं.

तकनीकी रूप से मिले 3 से कम पात्र बोलीदाता

मंत्रालय ने कहा कि 7 अन्य खनिज ब्लॉक की नीलामी इसलिए रद्द की गई क्योंकि उनके लिए 3 से कम तकनीकी रूप से पात्र बोलीदाता मिले. इनमें नवारा-नवाडीह ग्लॉकोनाइट ब्लॉक, टीपा ग्लॉकोनाइट ब्लॉक, शाहपुर ग्लॉकोनाइट ब्लॉक, सपनेरी वैनेडियम युक्त मैग्नेटाइट-इल्मेनाइट ब्लॉक, गुरुर ग्लॉकोनाइट ब्लॉक, कराहीभदार ग्लॉकोनाइट ब्लॉक और नरिंगपांगा (दक्षिण) ग्रेफाइट ब्लॉक शामिल हैं. ये ब्लॉक बिहार, छत्तीसगढ और ओडिशा में स्थित हैं. सरकार ने 7वें दौर की नीलामी के लिए 23 मार्च को निविदा के लिए नोटिस (एनआईटी) निकाला था जिसके तहत महत्वपूर्ण एवं रणनीतिक खनिजों के कुल 19 ब्लॉक पेश किए गए थे. नीलामी खान एवं खनिज (विकास एवं विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1957 तथा खनिज (नीलामी) नियम, 2015 के प्रावधानों के तहत आयोजित की गई.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:6/7/2026 P.NO.05

Govt notifies rules, IBM to monitor mineral exchanges

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur: The Centre has notified the mineral exchange rules last week, paving the way for starting country's first-ever exchanges for trading of ores, the direct output of mines. Nagpur-based Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has been appointed as the monitoring authority.

The plan is to initially start with Schedule 1 minerals like iron ore, bauxite or even gold in its raw form and then expand, said sources.

IBM would seek offers from interested entities having plans to operate as registered exchanges. Even the existing commodity bourses like MCX or NDEX can apply. The case would be put up before the Centre for a final approval. The process is expected to be completed within 90 days, a source said.

Commodity exchanges in the country deal with metals, which are the processed form. The new exchange would directly deal in ore, informed the sources.

The purpose of having the exchange is to get a fair price discovery mechanism for mineral ores. At present, the rates are based on average prices published by IBM in its journal from time to time. Eventually, the rates derived through the exchange would be official, though initially it may not be mandatory, said a source.

As per rules, the mineral exchange will have to maintain minimum net worth of ₹50 crore at any given point of time. In case it falls, the IBM has the right to seek a written explanation.

The mineral exchanges will have to submit the monthly details of all the transactions on its platform to IBM, which shall also keep an eye on the activities to prevent any market manipulation, insider trading or cartelisation.

The rules also give IBM the right to conduct any investigation in event of non-compliance of any of the obligations or acts like manipulation, cartelisation and abuse of dominant position, say the rules.

MARKET REFORM

AI image

- IBM named monitoring authority for mineral exchanges
- Phase I covers iron ore, bauxite and raw gold
- IBM to invite bids from prospective exchange operators
- MCX, NCDEX among eligible applicants
- Exchange trading to ensure transparent price discovery
- ₹50 crore minimum net worth mandatory
- IBM to police manipulation, insider trading and cartelisation

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:6/7/2026 P.NO.03

India, Russia Set $50 b Investment Target by 2030

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

New Delhi: Amid growing momentum in their economic partnership, India and Russia are aiming to achieve $50 billion in mutual investments by 2030 through joint projects in advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, and green technology.

The India-Russia Joint Working Group on Priority Investment Projects, co-chaired by DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia and Russian Deputy Minister of Economic Development Vladimir Iliychev, met in Moscow last Friday and agreed to encourage private companies to explore opportunities in both countries and promote joint projects across key sectors, particularly advanced manufacturing, green hydrogen, energy storage, metallurgy, mining, critical minerals, and new and emerging technologies, ET has learnt.

MOSCOW MEET

DPIIT Secretary meets Russian Deputy Economic Development Minister in Moscow to encourage joint private-sector projects

During the meeting, the Indian side also presented investment opportunities, reforms, and major developments in India, highlighting the availability of cost-effective skilled manpower and offering a strong platform for Russian industry to invest and grow jointly with Indian industry, ET has further learnt.

During the visit, the DPIIT Secretary was accompanied by representatives from India's premier industry chambers, CII and FICCI. The CII delegation, led by Rajasekharan Jambulingam, Managing Director of Value Energy Technologies Pvt Ltd, participated in the Russia–India Investment Forum held in Moscow and highlighted the growing potential for bilateral investments, stronger industrial collaboration, and resilient supply chains.

India's Ambassador to Russia, Vinay Kumar, had recently pitched the "Making in Russia for India" model across sectors, including fertilisers, critical minerals, and mining, to propel the expanding bilateral industrial partnership.

Speaking at the India-Russia Business Dialogue session at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum last month, Kumar referred to a "special opportunity" for doing business between the two countries.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:6/7/2026 P.NO.05

Tata Steel Plans ₹20K cr Capex to Strengthen India Business, Supply Chains

Outlay 38% higher in FY27; funds to go into infra, value addition, new tech and long-term projects

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Tata Steel is looking to spend around ₹20,000 crore as capex in the current financial year and a major share of it will be spent to support the India business, the company's management said.

The capex for the ongoing FY27 will be around 38% higher from ₹14,559 crore that Tata Steel has spent on capital expenditure in the preceding 2025-26 financial year.

"In FY26, we spent ₹14,559 crore on capital expenditure, and we plan to increase this to approximately ₹20,000 crore in FY 2026-27, with 60% allocated to India," said Tata Steel's CEO and MD TV Narendran, and Koushik Chatterjee, the company's executive director and chief financial officer.

The management made the statement in reply to a question related to Tata Steel's capex plans and long-term growth strategy.

They said the capital allocation strategy for FY27 focuses on a balanced mix of sustenance projects, ongoing investments in value-added downstream and infrastructure projects, new technologies, and long-term growth projects, with a clear emphasis on India.

'INVESTING IN MINING'

"This includes expansions in tinplate and wires, the HRPGL (Hot Rolled Pickling & Galvanising Line) facility at Tarapur, and the Coke Ovens project at Jamshedpur. In addition, we are continuing to invest in mining, a stronger supply chain and sustainability of operations," the company officials said.

Tata Steel has a consolidated steel-making capacity of more than 36 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) — excluding the UK's 3.2 MT under transition — in India (27.35 MT), the Netherlands (7 MT), and Thailand (1.7 MT) to cover South East Asian markets.

The company aims to increase its capacity to over 50 million tonne in the long-term. The increase will be mainly in India, where the company is working on plans to add more than 12 MT.

In India, the company owns and operates an 11 MTPA steel plants at Jamshedpur, and 1 MTPA at Gamharia in Jharkhand.

In Odisha's Kalinganagar, the company has 9 MTPA production capacity that includes Neelancha Ipsat Nigam (NINL), which it had acquired through the insolvency route.

Tata Steel also operates a 5.6 MTPA plan in Odisha's Meramandali.

With the expansion of capacities and transition to low-emitting steel making routes, the company aims to have 40 MTPA steel-making capacity in India from present 27.35 MTPA, which includes the recently commissioned 0.75 MT electric arc furnace in Punjab.

The company is pursuing 4.8 MTPA Phase-I expansion at NINL, enhancing its presence in long-products segment and capitalising on growth in infrastructure and retail steel. It has also formed a strategic partnership with Lloyds Metals & Energy to develop the emerging Gadchiroli iron ore hub and evaluate a phased greenfield steel capacity of 6 MTPA.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:6/7/2026 P.NO.05

Aluminium Industry Divided Over Lifting Custom Duties; PMO to Take Final Call

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India's aluminium sector is a divided house, with recyclers urging the government to abolish a 2.5% import duty on aluminium scrap, while primary producers push for tighter quality controls on cheaper imports. The dispute has now reached the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), which is expected to take a final call, said people familiar with the matter.

The government currently imposes 7.5% basic customs duty on primary aluminium and 2.5% on aluminium scrap.

Recyclers say removal of the levy would lower input costs for downstream producers.

Primary producers, on the other hand, want stringent quality checks to prevent cheaper imports from flooding the domestic market.

In a letter to the PMO, the Aluminium Association of India (AAI), a body of primary producers, has raised concerns about rising substandard scrap imports threatening more than Rs 3 lakh crore of planned investments.

The govt currently imposes 7.5% basic customs duty on primary aluminium and 2.5% on aluminium scrap

"These investments were expedited after the last basic custom's duty enhancement from 5% to 7.5% in fiscal 2014-15," the AAI said. The body said capacity more than doubled to 4.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA)—the largest globally after China—from 2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) over the last decade.

Aluminium Secondary Manufacturers Association (ASMA), an industry body having around 3,500 micro, small, and medium enterprises as members, with a processing capacity of 3.9 MT, is pushing for duty removals, besides the Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI).

Dhawal Shah, senior vice president, MRAI, said the two sides recently held a joint meeting with mines ministry officials.

"It was agreed by all that import duty on aluminium scrap should be removed," said Shah, adding that India predominantly imports processed aluminium scrap. He claimed there is no reported evidence from customs or other government authorities indicating any major influx of sub-standard material into the local market.

Primary aluminium accounts for up to 80% production costs for downstream manufacturers.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:6/7/2026 P.NO.05

Auction of Nine Critical Mineral Blocks Scrapped

New Delhi: The government has cancelled the auction of nine critical and strategic mineral blocks, citing poor investor response and lack of qualified bidders. These blocks were put on the block in the seventh round of sale.

The development comes as a setback to the government's efforts to ramp up domestic exploration and production of critical minerals that are central to the country's push for energy security, clean-tech manufacturing and cutting down dependence on imports.

It also reflects the challenge of drawing private investment into riskier mineral assets, where technical complexities, higher capital costs and regulatory uncertainties tend to dampen bidding interest.

The government had cancelled several critical and strategic mineral block auctions in the previous rounds as well–11 blocks in the sixth round, five in the fifth, 11 in the fourth, three in the third, 14 in the second and 13 in the first tranche.

"Since there were nil bids... the auction process for... two mineral blocks stands annulled," the mines ministry said in a notice. The two blocks–Majhauli Titanium, Vanadium and Aluminous Laterite Block and RAMB Degana Tungsten, Lithium and Associated Mineral Block–are in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the notice said.– **PTI**

LOKMAT TIMES DATE:6/7/2026 P.NO.05

Tata Steel aims to spend ₹20,000 cr on expansion

New Delhi

Tata Steel is looking to spend around Rs 20,000 crore as capex in the current financial year and a major share of it will be spent to support the India business, the company's management said.

The capex for the ongoing FY27 will be around 38 per cent higher from Rs 14,559 crore that Tata Steel has spent on capital expenditure in the preceding 2025-26 financial year.

"In FY26, we spent Rs 14,559 crore on capital expenditure, and we plan to increase this to approximately Rs 20,000 crore in FY 2026-27, with 60 per cent allocated to India," said Tata Steel's CEO & MD T V Narendran, and Koushik Chatterjee, the company's Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer.

> "This includes expansions in tinplate and wires, the HRPGL (Hot Rolled Pickling & Galvanising Line) facility at Tarapur, and the Coke Ovens project at Jamshedpur. In addition, we are continuing to invest in mining, a stronger supply chain and sustainability of operations." — **Tata Steel**

THE HITAVADA DATE:6/7/2026 P.NO.09

Centre scraps auction of 9 critical mineral blocks

NEW DELHI, July 5 (PTI)

THE Government has cancelled the auction of nine critical and strategic mineral blocks, citing poor investor response and lack of qualified bidders. These blocks were put on the block in the seventh round of sale.

The development comes as a setback to the Government's efforts to ramp up domestic exploration and production of critical minerals that are central to the country's push for energy security, clean-tech manufacturing and cutting down dependence on imports. It also reflects the challenge of drawing private investment into riskier mineral assets, where technical complexities, higher capital costs and regulatory uncertainties tend to dampen bidding interest.

The Government had cancelled several critical and strategic mineral block auctions in the previous rounds as well11 blocks in the sixth round, five in the fifth, 11 in the fourth, three in the third, 14 in the second and 13 in the first tranche.

"Since there were nil bids The auction process for Two mineral blocks stands annulled," the Mines Ministry said in a notice.

The two blocks Majhauli Titanium, Vanadium and Aluminous Laterite Block and RAMB Degana Tungsten, Lithium and Associated Mineral Block are in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the notice said. It further said the auction process of seven other mineral blocks was annulled as there were less than three technically-qualified bidders. "Since there were less than three technically qualified bidders.

These seven blocks Nawara-Nawadih Glauconite Block, Tipa Glauconite Block, Shahpur Glauconite Block, Saphheri Vanadium bearing MagnetiteIlmenite Block, Gurur Glauconite Block, Karahibhadar Glauconite Block and Naringpanga (South) Graphite Block are in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
DATE:7/7/2026 P.NO.07

METAL RALLY

Aluminium Gains on Renewed Supply Fears

Reuters

London: Aluminium prices rose on Monday as focus returned to forecasts of shortages created by disruptions to supplies from West Asia and dwindling stocks.

Benchmark aluminium on the London Metal Exchange traded 0.7% higher at $3,112 a metric ton in official rings. It hit $3,040, the lowest since February 19, as peace talks between the United States and Iran fuelled optimism for a resumption of supplies from the Middle East — housing 9% of global aluminium smelting capacity. But even if shipments through the Strait of Hormuz restart, the market is still likely to see a deficit this year.

Analysts at Macquarie expect Middle East production to fall to 4.44 million tons this year, down 35% from last year. They expect to see the aluminium market deficit at 930,000 tons this year.

Stocks of aluminium in LME-approved warehouses at 295,550 tons are down more than 40% since late January and at their lowest since September 2022. Cancelled warrants or metal earmarked for delivery at 16% show another 48,950 tons are due to leave the LME system.

Elsewhere, the market is still waiting for the outcome of the review into the possibility of tariffs on US imports of copper. Traders had expected a decision at the end of June.

"The June 30 deadline was actually for the Commerce Secretary to provide an update to the President, rather than for a Presidential decision, so we remain in wait and see mode," Macquarie said in a note.

Traders expecting tariffs on imports have been shipping metal to the US since Donald Trump ordered a national security probe in February last year.

LOKMAT (MARATHI)
DATE:8/7/2026 P.NO.08

गौण खनिजांचे 'ड्रोन' तसेच ईटीएस सर्वेक्षण होणार

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

मुंबई : अवैध उत्खनन आणि गौण खनिजांची चोरी रोखण्यासाठी पुढील सहा महिन्यांत चार एजन्सींची नियुक्ती करून मुंबई महानगर प्रदेश (एमएमआर), रायगड, पालघर, रत्नागिरी, पुणे, नाशिक, नागपूर, छत्रपती संभाजीनगर आणि अमरावती या संवेदनशील भागांमध्ये सर्वप्रथम ड्रोनद्वारे आणि ईटीएस (इलेक्ट्रॉनिक टोटल स्टेशन) सर्वेक्षण करण्यात येणार आहे. केंद्र सरकारच्या 'रेलटेल' कंपनीमार्फत संपूर्ण गौण खनिजांच्या देखरेखीसाठी कोकण विभागात एक हायटेक 'वॉररूम' देखील तयार करण्यात येत आहे, अशी महसूल मंत्री चंद्रशेखर बावनकुळे यांनी विधानसभेत दिली. आ. सुनील प्रभू यांनी लक्षवेधी सूचना उपस्थित केली होती.

आमदारांची उच्चस्तरीय समिती स्थापन

गौण खनिजाच्या रकमा आणि दंडाची रक्कम वसुली करण्यासाठी नियमावलीत सुधारणा करण्यासाठी आमदारांची उच्चस्तरीय समिती नेमण्यात आली आहे. यात सुधीर मुनगंटीवार, विजय वडेट्टीवार, भास्कर जाधव, अर्जुन खोतकर, अनिल पाटील, समाधान अवताडे, आशिष देशमुख, संजय बनसोडे आणि महसूल विभागाचे अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिवांचा समावेश असेल. या समितीचा अहवाल तीन महिन्यात घेऊन, पुढील अधिवेशनात त्यानुसार कायद्यात बदल केले जातील, असे बावनकुळे यांनी सांगितले.

LOKMAT TIMES DATE:8/7/2026 P.NO.05

India partners with 35 countries to secure critical minerals supply

New Delhi

India has significantly expanded its global outreach to secure supplies of critical minerals and strengthen semiconductor supply chains, signing partnerships with 24 countries while holding negotiations with 11 others over the past two years. The initiative forms part of the government's broader strategy to reduce dependence on concentrated supply sources and ensure long-term access to minerals essential for clean energy, electric vehicles (EVs), advanced manufacturing, defence, and semiconductor production.

According to the Ministry of Mines, India has developed a strategic network spanning North America, Europe, Africa, West Asia, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australia.

The approach extends beyond sourcing raw materials and includes cooperation in mineral exploration, mining, processing, technology transfer, investment, and resilient supply chains.

India has already established cooperation frameworks with countries including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Argentina, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Israel, Vietnam, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Russia. IANS

NAVBHARAT DATE:8/7/2026 P.NO.05

अवैध उत्खनन पर होगी सख्त कार्रवाई

■ **मुंबई, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क.** राज्य में अवैध उत्खनन और गौण खनिजों की चोरी रोकने के लिए महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने सख्त कार्रवाई का फैसला किया है. राजस्व मंत्री चंद्रशेखर बावनकुले ने विधानसभा में घोषणा की कि अगले छह महीने में संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में ड्रोन और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक टोटल स्टेशन (ईटीएस) सर्वे कराया जाएगा. साथ ही निगरानी के लिए हाईटेक वॉर रूम और कानून में संशोधन भी किया जाएगा. सरकार एमएमआर, रायगढ़, पालघर, रत्नागिरी, पुणे, नाशिक, नागपुर, छत्रपति संभाजीनगर और अमरावती समेत संवेदनशील इलाकों में सर्वे कराएगी. कोंकण क्षेत्र में गौण खनिजों की निगरानी के लिए रेलटेल के सहयोग से हाईटेक वॉर रूम भी स्थापित किया जाएगा.

ड्रोन सर्वे, हाईटेक वॉर रूम, कानून बदला जाएगा

विरार मामले में सख्त कार्रवाई : मंत्री बावनकुले ने बताया कि विरार के अवैध उत्खनन और हत्या मामले में नौ में से आठ आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया है, जबकि एक आरोपी फरार है. मामले में मकोका सहित गंभीर धाराएं लगाई गई हैं.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:8/7/2026 P.NO.10

Critical minerals, port & BrahMos deals: Modi, Prabowo step up ties

PM: India Stands For Growth, Not Expansionism

Sachin.Parashar@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India and Asean giant Indonesia signed over a dozen agreements in key areas like maritime security, critical minerals and defence, including major contracts for supply of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system and Astra air-to-air missiles to Indonesia, while reaffirming their commitment to jointly developing the strategic Sabang port overlooking the entrance to the Strait of Malacca.

The agreements followed PM Narendra Modi's meeting with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto which, Modi said, marked a golden chapter in ties that would have a positive influence on the 21st-century world and humanity at large.

Cognisant of the southeast Asian country's close ties with Palestine, Modi said in his media remarks India "steadfastly" supports a 2-state solution. Addressing the Indonesian Parliament later, he also said India stands for growth, not expansionism.

Prabowo backed joint development of the Sabang Port in Aceh — located barely 100 nautical miles from India's southernmost Indira Point in the Great Nicobar Island — as a strategic link between the two countries, which India sees as a key element of shared interests in the Indo-Pacific that the two sides agreed to work on in 2018.

Both leaders recognised in a joint statement that a project like Sabang — spanning cruise and marine-tourism facilities, maritime industries (ship-repair and shipbuilding), and shore-based services supporting offshore energy activities in the Andaman Sea — would foster links between Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI) and Sumatra.

Modi announced that the Indian and Indonesian Coast Guards will work closely to ensure maritime safety and security in the Indian Ocean.

PTI

PM Modi shares a light moment with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto as Vice President Gibran Rakabuming Raka (Centre) looks on

Indonesia first foreign customer of Astra air missile

New Delhi: In a boost for 'Made-in-India' weapons, Indonesia has become the first foreign customer of the country's highly-advanced beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) 'Astra', developed by DRDO, reports **Surendra Singh**.

The pact on Astra air-to-air missile in presence of PM Modi and President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta is significant for India's defence manufacturing industry as this missile, unlike Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos, has been indigenously developed and manufactured without any foreign help.

The Astra deal was finalised through a pact between state-run Bharat Dynamics Ltd and Indonesian defence holding company Republikorp. Astra, like BrahMos, had played a key role during Operation Sindoor.

THE TIMES OF INDIA
DATE:8/7/2026 P.NO.06

Excess mining of 'murum' in Hinganghat under scanner

Milind Ande | TNN

Wardha: Allegations of large-scale illegal murum mining have surfaced from Vela and Sawali Wagh area in Hinganghat taluka, where excavation is claimed to have exceeded the revenue department permitted quantity of 5,500 brass.

The excavation site is located in survey No. 151, and measures 4.17 hectares. As per local talathi, murum extracted from the site was used for Vela-Mandgaon road project.

Hinganghat tehsildar Yogesh Shinde said the company engaged in the activity was granted permission to excavate approximately 5,000 brass of murum. However, villagers allege that nearly 25,000 brass was excavated.

The company has violated the mandatory norms which require a minimum distance of 50 metres from wells and main roads, allege the villagers. With monsoon picking up pace, the mining site also poses safety risk.

Shinde additionally clarified that all the allegations were investigated and an ETS measurement was carried out. He added panchanama has been submitted to district mining officer and investigation report has been sent to the mining department.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:9/7/2026 P.NO.08

Retain shorts in copper

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Copper futures (₹1,280/kg) have seen some appreciation for nearly two weeks now. But the overall picture appears bearish, and the recent upswing is likely to be temporary.

COMMODITY CALL.

The July futures started a recovery on the back of support at ₹1,240.

Now trading at ₹1,280, the contract faces a strong barrier at ₹1,300, where the 21-day moving average coincides.

Since the broader trend is weak, we expect copper futures to resume the decline anywhere within the ₹1,280-1,300 price region. Once the downtrend restarts, copper futures can decline to ₹1,230.

However, if the contract breaks out of ₹1,300, the outlook could turn positive. In this scenario, the price could rise to ₹1,340. A breakout of ₹1,340 could lift the contract to ₹1,365.

Overall, as it stands, the outlook remains weak and copper futures could witness another leg of a fall.

TRADE STRATEGY

Last week, we recommended selling copper futures if the price rises to ₹1,275. Participants who initiated this trade can retain it. But modify the stop-loss from ₹1,300 to ₹1,310.

When the contract drops to ₹1,245, revise the stop-loss to ₹1,265. Book profits at ₹1,230.

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:9/7/2026 P.NO.06

SAIL CMD: High taxes, royalty will make iron ore costlier

Outlining the challenges facing the steel industry as the country expands steel-making capacity to 300 million tonne in near future, Panda said India was increasing mining capacity to make more iron ore available for steel production but the cost of the raw material was changing.

Iron ore miners are currently charged a uniform ad valorem royalty rate of 15 per-cent of the average sale price (ASP) of the ore across the country. Proceeds of this go to the state government where the mine is located. The actual amount of royalty paid per tonne varies from state-to-state because the calculation is based on the ASP declared for each region. Also, miners pay an extra 10 per cent of their royalty to the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) for local area development in case of auctioned mines and 30 per cent in case of non-actioned mines. Miners are required to contribute 2 percent of the royalty paid to the National Mineral Exploration Trust.

Panda had flagged the burden of these levies in an earlier occasion as well. Speaking as director (finance) of the company during its Q1 FY26 earnings call in July last year, he had said SAIL's other expenses were higher during the quarter "primarily because

THE HITAVADA DATE:10/7/2026 P.NO.01

India-Aus seal pacts across nuclear, maritime and mineral sectors

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a joint press conference with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese, in Melbourne, Australia. (PTI)

MELBOURNE, July 9 (PTI)

INDIA and Australia on Thursday sealed a raft of landmark pacts spanning civil nuclear energy, maritime security and critical minerals sectors, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese reinforced the vital role of the bilateral partnership in ensuring a peaceful Indo-Pacific.

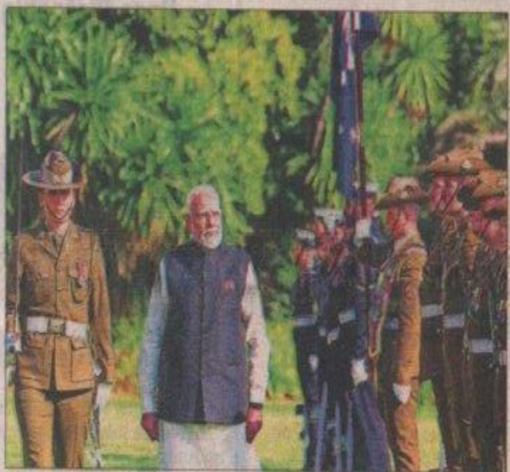
The agreement on civil nuclear energy to facilitate the commercial supply of uranium from Australia to India to fuel New Delhi's nuclear power projects came nearly 12 years after the two countries inked a historic civil nuclear cooperation pact.

In another significant decision, India and Australia decided to work expeditiously to firm up the proposed Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement as well as a bilateral investment protection framework.

A joint declaration on defence and security cooperation, a maritime security collaboration roadmap, a joint statement on energy security and a partnership for cyber, critical technologies and supply chains were among 18 pacts signed following summit talks between the two prime ministers. Modi described as "unparalleled" the outcomes from his talks with Albanese, especially in areas of renewable energy, climate action, nuclear energy, critical minerals, technology and education.

The agreements sealed at the summit also included one between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Maritime Border Command (MBC) of Australia and it will provide cooperation in the fields of

(Contd on page 5)



PM Modi inspects a Guard of Honour during a ceremonial welcome at Government House, in Melbourne, Australia. (PTI)

CONT. ON PAGE NO.27

CONT. FROM PAGE NO.26

THE HITAVADA DATE:10/7/2026 P.NO.05

India-Aus seal pacts across...

maritime law enforcement, domain awareness, and maritime border protection.

The two sides also vowed to work closely in shipbuilding, ship repair and maintenance.

Modi landed in Australia from Indonesia on the second leg of his three-nation tour that is aimed at boosting trade, energy and defence ties against the backdrop of an increasingly fractured geopolitical environment.

Under the provisions of the energy security framework, India and Australia vowed to strengthen energy security by maintaining a stable, secure and reliable supply of coal, diesel, other liquid fuels and natural gas.

The maritime security roadmap provides for defence and security collaboration with a long-term perspective to enhance collective strength besides deepening cooperation in the defence industrial sector to co-develop military hardware and build supply chain resilience.

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:10/7/2026 P.NO.06

WCL, MBDB sign MoU for bamboo plantation

■ Staff Reporter

REINFORCING its commitment to sustainable mining and business diversification, Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) signed its fourth memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra Bamboo Development Board (MBDB), Nagpur for undertaking commercial bamboo plantation over 28 hectares at Dhuptala Opencast Mine, Ballarpur Area.

The MoU was signed by Dr Hemant Sharad Pande, CMD and Director (Technical), WCL and Rishikesh Ranjan, Managing Director, MBDB, in the presence of Bikram Ghosh, Director (Finance) and Director (HR); S S Paranjape, Director (Technical) (Projects & Planning), WCL.

With this agreement, the cumulative area under commercial bamboo plantation in WCL has surpassed 121 hectares, following the successful implementation of projects at Makardhokra-III OCM (30.635 hectares), Amalgamated Inder Kamptee OCM (43.0 hectares), and Sasti OCM (19.75 hectares).

The Dhuptala project envisages plantation over 28 hectares, comprising 26 hectares of commercial bamboo and 2 hectares of indigenous species such as Jamun and Arjun, with a total of 31,108 plants. WCL will invest approximately Rs 2.57 crore during the initial five years, while MBDB will undertake plantation, maintenance, harvesting, marketing and sale of bamboo through a transparent process.

The 15-year project is expected to achieve payback by the 8th year. Under the revenue-sharing model, WCL will receive 85 per cent of the net profit, while MBDB will receive 15 per cent as facilitation charges.

The signing of the fourth MoU further strengthens the partnership between WCL and MBDB and underscores WCL's commitment to transforming reclaimed mining land into productive green assets while promoting sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:10/7/2026 P.NO.01

India & Oz unlock 'PACTS' to boost def ties, uranium supply

Modi & Albanese Agree To Fast-Track Talks On Eco Ties

Sachin.Parashar
@timesofindia.com

PM Modi with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese during a community event at Docklands Stadium in Melbourne Thursday

Defence and security, critical technology, supply chain resilience and energy security cooperation — including finalisation of administrative arrangements for long-term supply of uranium to India — topped the agenda of the 3rd India-Australia annual summit in Melbourne.

PM Narendra Modi and his counterpart Anthony Albanese also agreed to fast track ongoing talks for a balanced and ambitious comprehensive economic cooperation agreement and a bilateral investment treaty.

Invoking a cricketing analogy, Modi said India-Australia bilateral agenda was as focused as a one-day match, decisions fast like T20 and partnership long and deep like a test match. Among the 18 outcomes that were announced, there was a joint declaration on defence and security cooperation for interoperability of forces and defence industrial collaboration, and a maritime security collaboration roadmap.

India and Australia also launched a Partnership for Cyber, Critical Technologies, Supply Chains (PACTS) to support national and regional security, promote collaboration to make critical supply chains more resilient, and strengthen collaboration in critical technologies, cybersecurity, and digital resilience.

▶Support for NSG bid, P 10

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:10/7/2026 P.NO.10

Australia reiterates support for India's bid to enter NSG

▶Continued from P 1

In his media statement, PM Modi said PACTS would facilitate critical minerals cooperation vital for strategic security and clean energy transition, and that both sides would work together on a critical mineral corridor.

Among the major takeaways was the operationalisation of the 2014 India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement for uranium supply to India. "This will... give fresh momentum to our clean energy objectives," said the prime minister.

While reiterating support for India's Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) membership bid, a joint statement said the agreement would enable long-term Australian uranium exports to India for exclusively peaceful purposes and under IAEA safeguards.

Foreign secretary Vikram Misri said it was important to have reporting procedures and protocols that would satisfy both sides.

Modi welcomed the opening of Australian university campuses in India, saying it had added a new chapter to the knowledge partnership. Amid concerns over the reported delay in the processing of student visas, Albanese stressed that Indian students were valued members of Australian classrooms.

THE HINDU DATE:10/7/2026 P.NO.12

CISF seizes over 428 tonnes of illegal coal in Jharkhand, Bengal

In intensified crackdown, authorities take control of vehicles, equipment being used for illegal mining; 4 FIRs registered, legal action to be initiated

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Intensifying its operations against illegal coal mining, the Central Industrial Security Force has in the past four days recovered over 428 metric tonne of coal being transported illegally in Jharkhand and West Bengal, a CISF official said on Thursday.

In line with the government's "zero coal leakage" initiative, the CISF has stepped up enforcement against illegal coal mining, theft, unauthorised storage and transportation under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), the official added.

Boosting transparency

The CISF has launched intelligence-driven operations in coordination with Coal India subsidiaries, local police and district administration to safeguard national mineral resources and strengthen transparency in the coal sector.

District authorities, the police and Coal India subsidiaries will coordinate to safeguard mineral resources. REUTERS

"Between July 4 and 8, 2026, CISF conducted coordinated operations across the coalfields of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in Jharkhand and West Bengal. The operations resulted in the recovery of 428.34 metric tonne of illegally mined, stored or transported coal, registration of four First Information Reports (FIR), seizure of one Hyva truck and more than 13 motorcycles and other equipment used in illegal mining and transportation, besides apprehension of offenders and initiation of legal proceedings under the MMDR Act," the official added.

The enforcement drive covered several vulnerable mining belts and coal transportation corridors in both States.

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

NMDC slashes iron ore lump prices by ₹250 a tonne

NMDC has reduced iron ore prices by ₹250 a tonne for Baila Lump and by ₹150 for the same quantity of Baila Fines effective July 10. The new, per tonne prices have been set at ₹5,450 for Baila Lump and ₹4,700 for Baila Fines and are freight on road/rail (FOR) prices exclusive of royalty, DMF, NMEDT, cess, forest permit fee, transit fee, GST, environmental cess and other taxes, the company said on Friday. The latest revision is the fourth in as many months this fiscal.

THE TIMES OF INDIA DATE:11/7/2026 P.NO.04

WCL tops coal min rankings with 7 five-star rated mines

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur: City-based public sector undertaking Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) has received five-star ratings for seven of its mines, the highest number secured by any company under the ministry of coal.

The ratings are awarded by the ministry based on an assessment of best mining practices, with safety and environmental management as evaluation criteria.

The ministry assesses parameters such as safety practices, environmental management, land reclamation, rehabilitation, adoption of modern technology, occupational health and safety, statutory compliance, corporate social responsibility and operational efficiency. As per WCL, the ratings serve as a benchmark for promoting responsible mining and encouraging continuous improvement across the coal sector.

5 STAR MINES UNDERGROUND (UG)

- Patansaongi UG
- Nandgaon Incline
- Saoner Mine No. 1
- saoner Mine No. 2

5 STAR OPEN CAST (OC) MINES

- Makardhokda-1
- Mungoli
- Dinesh/MKD - III

WCL chairman-cum-managing director Hemant Pande said, "These ratings validate our efforts to maintain the highest standards of safety, environmental stewardship and operational efficiency. The seven five-star-rated mines have demonstrated exceptional performance across all parameters."

The mines awarded five-star ratings are Patansaongi, Saoner No. 1 and Saoner No. 2 underground mines in the Nagpur area; Makardhokda-1 and Dinesh (MKD-III) opencast mines in the Umred area; Mungoli opencast mine in Wani; and Nandgaon Incline underground mine in the Chandrapur area.

In addition, 25 WCL mines received four-star ratings, while 15 have secured three-star ratings.

BUSINESS STANDARD
DATE:11/7/2026 P.NO.04

Hindustan Copper appoints advisors for Chile mine acquisition

State-run Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) has appointed transaction advisers for its proposed acquisition of four copper mines in Chile and is progressing with the due diligence process, although the company expects the overall exercise to take time given regulatory requirements in both countries. "Transaction advisers have been put in place. They are studying the data which has been given by them. There are a lot of regulatory things not only on this side but on that side as well. And you know how the mining industry, the regulatory approach takes place everywhere. So, this thing will definitely take time but we are moving in the positive direction," HCL Chairman and Managing Director Anupam Misra said on Friday.

BS REPORTER

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:11/7/2026 P.NO.06

WCL gets 5-Star rating for seven mines

■ Business Reporter

WESTERN Coalfields Limited (WCL) has achieved the prestigious 5-Star rating for seven mines, the highest among all coal companies in the country, in the Star Rating Assessment released by the Ministry of Coal for the financial year 2024-25.

This achievement is a testament to WCL's excellent work culture and unwavering commitment to the highest standards in safe, scientific, environmentally friendly and sustainable mining.

WCL Nagpur Area Patansaongi underground mine, Chandrapur region Nandgaon Incline Underground Mine, Nagpur Area Savner Mines No. 1 underground mine and Savner Mines No. 2 underground mine, Umred area Makardhokra - 1 opencast mine and Dinesh / MKD- III opencast mine, and Vani Area Mungoli Opencast Mine were awarded with 5-Star rating by the Ministry of Coal. In the same evaluation, WCL's 25 mines have been given a 4- star rating and 15 mines have been given a 3-Star rating.

Congratulating on this remarkable achievement, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, WCL Dr Hemant Sharad Pandey, said, "It is a matter of immense pride for WCL that our mines have received the highest 5-Star rating in the country. This achievement is a result of the collective dedication, hard work and professional excellence of our employees, officers and all stakeholders. Safe and responsible mining is our top priority at WCL and this recognition reaffirms our continued efforts to maintain the highest standards of safety, environmental protection and operational excellence. In the future too, we will continue to contribute to the energy security of the country by adopting modern technologies, innovations and sustainable mining practices."

BUSINESS STANDARD
DATE:11/7/2026 P.NO.04

8 of 23 coal blocks get bids in commercial mine auction

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 10 July

The Ministry of Coal on Friday opened bids for the 15th round of commercial coal block auctions, held alongside the second attempt of the 13th and 14th tranches, with bids received for eight of the 23 coal blocks on offer.

According to the ministry, a total of 21 bids were submitted for the eight coal blocks, with participation from 16 companies, including four first-time bidders under the commercial coal mining regime.

The ministry described the response as reflecting "robust industry participation" in the commercial coal mining framework and said the entry of four new bidders demonstrates industry confidence in the policy framework and the opportunities emerging in the coal sector.

The bids will now be examined by a multidisciplinary Technical Evaluation Committee. Bidders found to be technically qualified will be shortlisted for participation in the electronic auction, which will be conducted on the MSTC portal.

The Ministry of Coal said the continued interest in commercial coal block auctions reaffirms the sector's attractiveness and its critical role in supporting industrial growth and strengthening India's energy security, while advancing the country's broader development objectives.

BUSINESS LINE DATE:11/7/2026 P.NO.09

CISF recovers 428 tonnes of coal in Jharkhand, West Bengal crackdown

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) launched a four-day crackdown and recovered 428.34 tonnes of illegally mined, stored or transported coal in Jharkhand and West Bengal.

The CISF's operational authority has expanded under Sections 22, 23B and 24 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, empowering the force to launch intelligence-driven operations in coordination with Coal India subsidiaries, the local police and the district administration for safeguarding national mineral resources and strengthen transparency in the coal sector. It is also aimed at intensifying the Centre's "zero coal leakage" initiative.

SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES. The CISF targeted vulnerable mining belts and coal transportation corridors in its enforcement drive, aided by technology like drones

JOINT OPERATIONS

From July 4 to July 8, the CISF said it carried out coordinated operations across coalfields of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL), Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL) and Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) in Jharkhand and West Bengal.

"The operations resulted in the recovery of 428.34 tonnes of illegally mined, stored or transported coal, registration of four FIRs, seizure of one Hyva truck and more than 13 motorcycles and other equipment used in illegal mining and transportation, besides apprehension of offenders and initiation of legal proceedings under the MMDR Act," said the CISF in a statement.

The force targeted several vulnerable mining belts and coal transportation corridors in its enforcement drive, which was aided by use of technology like drones.

At BCCL, Dhanbad, the CISF carried out intelligence-based raids in Katras, Block-II, Basantimata (Kargil), Kustore, Sijua, Jealgora, Barora, Govindpur and NTST areas. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, drone surveillance and field verification, the CISF recovered 319.54 tonnes of illegally stored coal, seized a coal-laden truck and multiple motorcycles used for illegal transportation, and initiated legal action under the MMDR Act.

At ECL Sheetalpur, the force said, operations were conducted in Rajmahal, Salanpur, Chitra, Chapapur-II OCP (Mugma Area), Sonepur-Bazari and Kunustoria areas.

The CISF also undertook inspections of coal depots, weighbridges, transportation documents and statutory production and dispatch records. These actions resulted in the recovery of 85.93 tonnes of illegally mined and stocked coal, seizure of vehicles used in illegal transportation and apprehension of trespassers.

Preventive inspections also confirmed compliance at several operational locations, reinforcing transparency and accountability in coal movement.

It also covered CCL Piparwar and Kargali, recovering 13.62 tonnes and 9.25 tonnes of illegally extracted coal.

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:13/7/2026 P.NO.06

Recycling body MRAI urges Govt to remove 2.5 per cent duty on aluminium scrap

THE recycling industry has urged the Government to abolish the 2.5 per cent duty on aluminium scrap to promote the circular economy.

The duty removal will help lower input costs for recyclers and downstream manufacturers and become competitive globally, the Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI) said. The country remains dependent on imported aluminium scrap to meet industrial demand, it noted.

In a letter to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the body requested to abolish the existing 2.5 per cent basic customs duty (BCD) on aluminium scrap.

"India currently depends on imports to meet nearly 80-85 per cent of its aluminium scrap requirement," it said.

Making uninterrupted access to imported scrap is indispensable for sustaining domestic manufacturing and the growth of the recycling industry.

MRAI highlighted that India's secondary aluminium production has grown from 0.85 million tonnes in FY16 to nearly 2.2 million tonnes in FY26 and now accounts for around 35 per cent of the country's aluminium consumption.

The sector supports nearly seven lakh jobs directly and indirectly, with women comprising almost 46 per cent of the skilled workforce engaged in sorting, segregation and processing.

MRAI President Sanjay Mehta said, "Removing the 2.5 per cent Basic Customs Duty on aluminium scrap will strengthen thousands of MSMEs, generate employment, improve resource security, enhance the competitiveness of downstream manufacturing, and support the circular economy".

He said aluminium scrap should be recognised as a strategic industrial raw material rather than treated as waste.

MRAI also pointed out that aluminium scrap remains the only major base metal scrap that continues to attract import duty in India, whereas copper, zinc and lead scrap have already been exempted.

The body said countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea permit duty-free imports of aluminium scrap, giving their recycling industries a significant cost advantage.

NAVBHARAT DATE:13/7/2026 P.NO.07

हटे एल्युमिनियम स्क्रैप पर लगे आयात शुल्क

MRAI की मांग

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क. पुनर्चक्रण उद्योग ने सरकार से एल्युमिनियम कबाड़ यानी स्क्रैप पर लगने वाले 2.5 प्रतिशत शुल्क को समाप्त करने की मांग की है. मटेरियल रीसाइक्लिंग एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया (एमआरएआई) ने कहा कि शुल्क हटाने से पुनर्चक्रण और एल्युमिनियम आधारित विनिर्माण उद्योग की लागत कम करने में मदद मिलेगी तथा वे वैश्विक स्तर पर अधिक प्रतिस्पर्धी बन सकेंगे. एमआरएआई ने कहा है कि औद्योगिक मांग को पूरा करने के लिए देश आयातित एल्युमिनियम स्क्रैप पर निर्भर बना हुआ है. एमआरएआई ने प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय (पीएमओ) को भेजे पत्र में अनुरोध किया है कि एल्युमिनियम कबाड़ पर मौजूदा 2.5 प्रतिशत मूल सीमा शुल्क (बीसीडी) को खत्म किया जाए.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:13/7/2026 P.NO.02

AUSTRALIA OVERCOMES RESERVATIONS

How India, Australia Clinched Uranium Deal

New Delhi & Canberra have worked out an acceptable formula

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

New Delhi: India and Australia have, through a pragmatic approach, worked out a mutually acceptable and beneficial formula under which Canberra will start supplying uranium for India's nuclear power plants, overcoming its earlier reservations about India's civilian nuclear programme.

Australia, despite signing the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement in 2014, had reservations over the use of uranium sourced from the country despite assurances from New Delhi.

However, India stood its ground and informed Australia that it follows a standard framework under which it reports to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) the use of the entire quantity of uranium sourced from abroad for its nuclear power plants, highly placed sources told **ET**.

Now, New Delhi and Canberra have negotiated a mutually acceptable formula that would satisfy Australia's requirements on IAEA safeguards while remaining consistent with India's approach to its civilian nuclear programme, which is applied to all supplier countries, including Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Canada, among others, sources said. India maintains absolute IAEA safeguards on all uranium purchased from abroad, according to people familiar with the issue.

Last Thursday, India and Australia, following their third annual summit in Melbourne, announced the finalisation of the Administrative Arrangement of the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement. This operationalises the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement signed in 2014 and enables the supply of uranium from Australia to India.

IAEA SAFEGUARDS

India maintains absolute IAEA safeguards on all uranium imports, as per people familiar with the issue

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:14/7/2026 P.NO.04

Remove aluminium scrap import duty: MinesMin

SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 13 July

The Ministry of Mines has recommended to the Department of Revenue under the finance ministry the removal of the 2.5 per cent basic Customs duty (BCD) on aluminium waste and scrap. The suggestion comes at a time when primary aluminium producers are seeking to retain the levy and tighten quality norms for imported scrap.

In response to queries from *Business Standard*, the mines ministry confirmed that it has recommended to the Department of Revenue that "the existing 2.5 per cent BCD on aluminium waste and scrap be eliminated".

In recent representations to the mines ministry, the Aluminium Association of India (AAI) warned that rising imports from Russia and Asean countries threaten ₹3 trillion in planned domestic investments. Representing primary producers like Vedanta, Hindalco, and Nalco, the AAI argued that India risks becoming a dumping ground for low-quality aluminium scrap, and urged the government to maintain existing duties until quality standards are implemented.

However, another industry association, the Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI), in its representations, had argued that retaining the 2.5 per cent duty amounts to "double protection" to primary producers. They said primary producers already enjoy tariff protection through a 7.5 per cent BCD on imports of primary metal, shielding domestic producers from international competition.

"Several countries (the US, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia) are restricting aluminium scrap exports, which may tighten global supplies and increase import costs. Removal of 2.5 per cent BCD will reduce procurement costs for Indian secondary aluminium producers and support domestic value addition," the ministry said.

It also cited the European Union's Waste Shipment Regulation, under which the EU will notify eligible non-OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries for scrap exports by November 2026. "Removal of BCD would signal that aluminium scrap is a strategic industrial raw material for the country and may facilitate continued access to EU scrap supplies," the ministry said.

The mines ministry noted that the secondary aluminium industry meets 80-85 per cent of its raw material requirement through imported scrap, and removal of 2.5 per cent BCD will reduce the cost of scrap imports. It further observed that with aluminium demand projected at 8.4-8.7 million tonnes (mt) by financial year 2029-30 (FY30) and primary capacity additions requiring time, eliminating the duty will strengthen secondary production to meet growing domestic need.

It also argued that duty removal will improve the competitiveness of domestic secondary aluminium producers, including Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The ministry pointed out that aluminium scrap currently attracts a 2.5 per cent BCD, while other non-ferrous metal scraps such as copper, zinc, and lead scrap are imported at zero duty. "This duty disparity creates cost disadvantage for secondary aluminium industry," it said.

The ministry further said that while domestic recyclers pay 2.5 per cent BCD on aluminium scrap, finished aluminium products enter India at zero duty under certain free trade agreements (FTAs), including the India-Asean FTA, resulting in an "inverted duty structure". "Removal of duty would help correct this," the ministry said.

More on business-standard.com

Overview

- Mines ministry calls for removal of 2.5% basic Customs duty (BCD) on aluminium waste and scrap imports
- Move aims to lower procurement costs for secondary aluminium producers
- Comes amid export restrictions by multiple countries, which are expected to raise import costs
- Move could also help preserve access to EU scrap supplies
- Imported scrap meets 80-85% of the secondary aluminium industry's raw material needs

BUSINESS STANDARD DATE:14/7/2026 P.NO.04

Odisha cracks down on iron ore grade manipulation

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
Bhubaneswar, 13 July

The Odisha government has intensified enforcement against iron ore producers after inspections revealed alleged downgrading of ore dispatched from several mining leases, resulting in substantial losses to the state exchequer.

The Directorate of Mines and Geology has issued show-cause notices to 65 mine leaseholders, asking them to explain why their mining leases should not be terminated after inspections detected alleged large-scale manipulation of iron ore grades.

Citing significant deviations between the average grade of iron ore dispatched during the first quarter of 2026-27 (FY27) and the grades approved in mining plans, the directorate has also sought explanations from field officials responsible for monitoring ore quality. *Business Standard* has reviewed the show-cause notices and the communication sent to field officials.

The notices cover mining leases across the Joda, Koira, Jajpur Road, Keonjhar and Baripada mining circles. The leaseholders include major public and private miners such as Odisha Mining Corporation, Tata Steel, Jindal Steel and Power, Steel Authority of India, Bhushan Power and Steel, JSW Steel, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, Rungta Mines, Serajuddin & Co and others.

The action follows inspections by state-level enforcement squads, which found that several leaseholders had consistently downgraded the grade of iron ore dispatched from their mines in deviation from the annual average grade approved in their mining plans. According to the directorate, such practices resulted in lower royalty, auction premium and other statutory dues payable to the government.

In a strongly worded communication, the directorate said grade manipulation, dilution, blending, misclassification and misdeclaration of mineral grades to influence mineral valuation and reduce royalty and auction premium were among the key concerns. The field officers have already been instructed to closely monitor production and ore dispatches, but the latest inspections revealed significant deviations despite these directions, the letter said.

The directorate has sought explanations from deputy directors of mines and deputy directors of mines (assessment), saying the findings pointed to acts of commission and omission despite departmental instruction issued in September 2025.

The notices also flagged illegal sub-leasing of mining leases, production beyond approved limits, unauthorised extraction and other violations.

THE HINDU DATE:14/7/2026 P.NO.04

Centre bolstering SCCL, says Kishan Reddy

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Coal miners greeting Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Monday.

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Monday expressed concern over the declining revenues of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and the steady fall in its workforce, which has dropped from nearly 70,000 employees to about 40,000 over the years. He noted that more than 30,000 contract workers also depend on the company for their livelihood.

Highlighting the Centre's support for the SCCL, Mr. Reddy said the Modi government had taken a 'special initiative' to allocate the highly valuable Tadicherla-II coal block to the public sector company, which has the potential to sustain coal production for another 40 to 50 years and generate substantial additional revenue for SCCL. "The Tadicherla-II block is the only coal block in the country allotted to a public sector coal company without an auction," he said.

The Union Minister was addressing coal miners on the first day of his two-day visit to coal mining areas in and around Kothagudem. State BJP president N. Ramchander Rao, party Legislature Party leader A. Maheshwar Reddy, Mahabubnagar MP D.K. Aruna and other party leaders accompanied him.

Mr. Reddy accused both the previous BRS government and the current Congress government of failing to clear dues owed to SCCL, which he claimed had accumulated to around ₹54,000 crore. He urged the State government to release the pending funds immediately, instead of limiting itself to meetings and assurances.

"The funds due to the SCCL are not charity from the government. They are the company's rightful earnings, generated through the hard work and sweat of its employees," he said. The Union Minister also said the Centre had earlier allotted the Naini coal block to SCCL in response to concerns over declining coal production and the shrinking workforce. He alleged that the previous BRS government failed to participate effectively in coal block auctions and had also created hurdles in securing the Naini block. However, the project was later fast-tracked to begin coal production, he claimed.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DATE:15/7/2026 P.NO.01

Pvt Sector may get Thorium Access

Centre aims to bolster critical mineral supply chains, deepen nuclear power capacity

Yogima Seth

New Delhi: India is considering opening parts of its tightly controlled thorium sector to private players as the government looks to tap the strategic mineral to strengthen critical mineral supply chains and support its long-term nuclear energy ambitions, people familiar with the matter said.

Among the options under consideration are partially opening commercial mining of coastal monazite sands to private companies for thorium extraction, stepping up research and development to accelerate its conversion into uranium-233, and reducing the time from exploration to extraction to ensure a steady supply.

Internal deliberations have begun on policy interventions to boost thorium production, given India's vast thorium reserves and limited uranium resources, people aware of the development told ET. A draft policy will be prepared after consultations with stakeholders, including the ministries of power and mines.

"There is significant room for improvement in existing policies," one of the people said. "We are looking at measures that can give a push to thorium-based energy generation in the country."

India holds about 25% of the world's thorium reserves, with around 13 million tonnes of monazite sand concentrated along the coasts of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Commercial mining of coastal monazite sands is currently tightly restricted because the mineral contains thorium and uranium, which are classified as prescribed substances for national security reasons.

The government is of the view that integrating thorium recovery from coastal monazite sands with rare earth element extraction could significantly reduce costs and boost domestic production of the nuclear fuel.

The FY27 budget provided for setting up of dedicated rare earth corridors.

THE HITAVADA (CITY LINE) DATE:15/7/2026 P.NO.06

Dr Y G Kale installed as President of MEAI, Nagpur chapter for 2026-28 term

Staff Reporter

DR Y G Kale, Chief Controller of Mines, Indian Buerau of Mines (IBM) was installed as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Nagpur chapter of the Mining Engineers' Association of India (MEAI) at an installation ceremony held as part of the annual general body meeting (AGM) held at Hotel Centre Point, Ramdaspeth, on Sunday.

Newly elected executive committee of MEAI, Nagpur chapter.

D N Bhargava, and C S Gundewar, former Controller Generals, IBM were present as guest of honour for the programme. The election proceedings were conducted by S K Adhikari, Chief Mining Geologist, IBM, who also served as Returning Officer during election process of new executive committee for the term 2026-28.

The new executive committee also include Rajesh Bhattacharya, Chief General Manager, MOIL, as Vice Chairman; G Ram, Deputy Controller of Mines and OIC, IBM, as Secretary; Arun Chachane, Assistant Controller of Mines, IBM, as Joint Secretary; and A D Selokar, Mineral Economist (I), IBM, as Treasurer. The team also include Dr Y B Katapatal, Dr Anand Sangode, Subhashish Bose, Prashant Lokhande, and B K Shukla as executive members.

The committee also nominated C S Gundewar, H R Kalihari, and Dr I L Muthreja, as Special Invitees for the committee. R C Sanodia, the immediate Past Vice Chairman will serve as the Ex-Officio Member of the Committee.

Dr Y G Kale, in his address expressed confidence that MEAI will conntinue to contribute constructively to the development of mining sector and policy formation. G Ram, also addressed the gathering.

Sakshi Gupta, Assistant Mining Engineer; and Atul Brice, Junior Mining Geologist, compered the programme, while G Ram proposed a vote of thanks.

EMPLOYMENT NEWS DATE: 27JUNE - 3JULY 2026 P.NO.05

25. **(Vacancy No. 26060725427) One** vacancy for the post of **Assistant Administrative Officer** in Indian Bureau of Mines, Ministry of Mines **(UR-01) (PwBD-01*).** *The vacancy is exclusively reserved for candidates belonging to category of persons with benchmark disability **(PwBD). PAY SCALE: Level- 07** in the Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC. **AGE: 30 years for UR.**

26. **(Vacancy No. 26060726227) Four** vacancies for the post of **Assistant Chemist** in Indian Bureau of Mines, Ministry of Mines **(UR-01, EWS-01, OBC-02). PAY SCALE: Level-07** in the Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC. **AGE: 30 years for UR/EWS and 33 years for OBC.**
