CHINA CURBS PUSH PRICES OF RARE EARTH MINERALS

High-end consumers to be hit as products like plasma TVs, smartphones will cost more

IN A MAJOR BLOW TO HIGH-END CONSUMERS, THE PRICES OF RARE EARTH MINERALS have almost doubled in the second quarter of the current calendar year from the first quarter, mainly on account of various restrictions imposed by the Chinese government.

Rare earth minerals are used extensively for manufacturing plasma televisions, smartphones and energy-saving light bulbs, among a growing number of items. Almost the entire world supply comes from China.

The average price of europium oxide, for example, has risen by 155 per cent to $1,850 a kg in the second quarter of this year from $725 a kg in the first quarter. In the past three years, the commodity’s price has quadrupled from $425 a kg in the first quarter of 2008.

Similarly, lanthanum oxide has almost doubled to average at $140 a kg from $75 a kg in the period under consideration. The price has surged nearly 13 times in the past three years.

Another rare earth element dysprosium oxide, used in magnets, lasers and nuclear reactors, has risen from $700-740 a kg to trade currently at $1,470 a kg.

In 2008, China suspended shipments of these minerals to numerous destinations worldwide. Its quota for export are being reduced. With this supply decline, prices have surged through 2010-11. Mining companies involved in rare earths worldwide are finally responding to the rise in prices by making significant investments in long-term operations. Australia, South Africa, Alaska, Canada and Sweden are reported to have the leading mines globally in terms of quality, outside of China. There are a little over 200 non-Chinese rare earth projects under evaluation.

The estimated volumes of the rare earth oxides (REO) market in 2010 was 125,000 tonnes, with an estimated value of about $4-6 billion. China supplied 95 per cent of global demand and consumed 98 per cent of the supply. Current world reserves of rare earths, as assessed by the US Geological Survey, are estimated to be about 110 million tonnes of REO.

The production of rare earth minerals outside China is likely to increase 10-fold to 40,000-60,000 tonnes per annum by 2015 from 4,000-6,000 tonnes now. The indicative demand by 2020 is about 240,000-280,000 tonnes.

The Indian government has also stepped up efforts to boost domestic production. It has allotted Rs 60 crore to Indian Rare Earths Ltd (IRE) to produce the hi-tech minerals at a plant in Orissa, which had been closed in 2004 in the face of cheaper competition from China. Also, the Indian government has also stepped up efforts to boost domestic production. It has allotted Rs 60 crore to Indian Rare Earths Ltd (IRE) to produce the hi-tech minerals at a plant in Orissa, which had been closed in 2004 in the face of cheaper competition from China. Also, several companies are getting into rare earth production in India. Meanwhile, for Indian consumers, the prices of end-products are likely to rise.

The growing demand for rare earths in domestic and international markets has opened up numerous opportunities for Indian mining companies in this domain, which in turn would be a boon for the Indian economy. China has been extensively catering to global demand to ensure rare earths across application avenues, but its time for the rest of the world to take initiatives towards meeting this increased demand,” said Kiran Mehta, chairman and managing director, Varun Industries Ltd.
कर्नाटक के अवैध अयस्क
निर्यात की हो निष्पक्ष जांच

पणजी (भुवनेश्वर)। कर्नाटक के पूरे लोकसभा संग्रह देशों ने गोवा सरकार से यह आदेश दिया है कि वह बंटन के बदले का बना है कि बंटन के बदले का बनाने वाले अयस्क को निर्धारित करना जरूरी है। हेडेज ने यह कहा कि अभी भी हमें पता चलता है कि पूरे देश में सरकारी शुल्कांकन के लिए लाखों का खर्च उन्हें अयस्क के रूप में निर्धारित किया गया था। उन्हें अर्थव्यवस्था के अनुसार, 'अयस्क के लिए सक्षम खिलाफत के मूल्य का हुआ कर लगाना जा रहा है जो अयस्क के मूल्य तक ही हो'।

हेडेज के अनुसार यह आदेश देशों की निश्चितता के लिए विश्वसनीय नहीं है जबकि वह अपनी स्थिति में नहीं है। वह विश्वसनीय नहीं है कि वह इस बात का सच है कि अयस्क के लिए लाखों का खर्च उन्हें अयस्क के रूप में निर्धारित किया गया था। उन्हें अर्थव्यवस्था के अनुसार, 'अयस्क के लिए सक्षम खिलाफत के मूल्य का हुआ कर लगाना जा रहा है जो अयस्क के मूल्य तक ही हो'।
Metals rebound as Europe seeks solution to debt crisis

BLOOMBERG
27 September

BASE metals climbed, with lead leading the advance by rising as much as 3.9 per cent, on expectations that European leaders would act to contain the region’s sovereign debt crisis.

Copper for delivery in three months on the London Metal Exchange gained as much as 2.6 per cent to $7,455 a tonne, and traded at $7,343.75 at 10.34 am Shanghai time. The contract rose for the first time in eight days, after tumbling to a 14-month low of $6,800 a ton yesterday.

The European Central Bank policy makers are likely to debate covered-bond purchases along with further measures to ease monetary conditions, a euro-region central bank official said. The reintroduction of 12-month loans to banks will also be discussed at the October 6 meeting, according to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

“Markets are due for a rebound following the steep losses last week and the good news came from Europe last night became the trigger,” said Li Ye, an analyst at Shanghai Jiangeng Futures Co. “For a sustained rally, we need some substantive measures from the European leaders that can really solve the debt problems.”

December-delivery metal on the Comex in New York rose 1.8 per cent to $3,3420 a pound. The metal for December delivery on the Shanghai Futures Exchange climbed for the first time in seven days, gaining 3.6 per cent to 55,260 yuan ($8,670) a tonne. Aluminum rose 1.4 per cent to $2,294.25 a tonne, and zinc gained 2.3 per cent to $1,925 a tonne.
## PRICE CARD

### METALS ($/tonne)

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<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>International</th>
<th>Domestic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aluminium</td>
<td>2,195.50</td>
<td>2,669.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>7,228.00</td>
<td>9,331.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nickel</td>
<td>18,400.00</td>
<td>22,819.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>2,195.50</td>
<td>2,281.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tin</td>
<td>20,800.00</td>
<td>25,468.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zinc</td>
<td>1,900.00</td>
<td>2,444.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steel-HRC</td>
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<td>871.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold ($/ounce)</td>
<td>1,660.05</td>
<td>1,690.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver ($/ounce)</td>
<td>32.64*</td>
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### ENERGY

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<tr>
<td>Crude Oil ($/bbl)</td>
<td>107.71*</td>
<td>102.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas ($/mmBtu)</td>
<td>3.02*</td>
<td>3.79</td>
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### AGRICOMMODITIES ($/tonne)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>249.80</td>
<td>229.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>270.60*</td>
<td>215.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>538.70*</td>
<td>589.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palm oil</td>
<td>880.00</td>
<td>1,160.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>4,125.26*</td>
<td>4,325.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robusta</td>
<td>1,223.00*</td>
<td>2,093.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>2,181.91</td>
<td>2,264.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conversion rates: 111.0242316 gms 211 US dollar = 749.08.
*As on Sep 27, 1800 hrs IST.

Notes:
1. International rates are LME spot prices and domestic rates are Mumbai local spot prices except for steel.
2. International crude oil is Brent crude and domestic crude oil is Indian basket.
3. International natural gas is Nymex near month future & domestic natural gas is MCX near month future.
4. International wheat, white sugar & coffee robusta are UIFF future prices of near month contract.
5. International maize is MATIF near month future, rubber is Tokyo-IDCOM near month future and palm oil is Malaysia FOB spot price.
6. Domestic wheat & maize are NCDEX future prices of near month contract, palm oil & rubber are NCDEX spot prices.
7. Domestic coffee is Karnataka robusta and sugar is MSP Mumbai local spot price.
8. International cotton is cotton no. 2 in US/TOC near month future & domestic cotton is NCDEX spot prices.
9. International metals, Indian basket crude, Malaysian palm oil, wheat UIFF and coffee Karnataka robusta refer to previous day's price.

Source: Bloomberg  Compiled by IS Research Bureau
गोवा सरकार ने कसा शिक्षा

परणी (एनजी)। गोवा के शासन एवं पुलिसतन्त्र विभाग अरविंद मलिनकरन ने नवम्बर में आए एक परिषद में कहा, ‘तीन वर्ष में नए, बिना प्रशिक्षण से नियुक्त’ के साथ सहन का कार्यक्रम है। वे लगातार शिक्षाद्वारों की जिम्मेदारी के पूर्व लिये दे दिया गया था। यह अनुकूल है कि शिक्षाद्वारों को नए लोगों के लिए प्रशिक्षण के लिए सपने का साथ देने का क्रियान्वयन किया जा सके। अलावा, यह भी सही है कि नये शिक्षाद्वारों को अनुभव प्राप्त करने का साथ देने का क्रियान्वयन किया जा सके।
Govt to parade India as investment paradise

BS REPORTER
New Delhi, September 27

DETERMINED to shed the charge of policy paralysis, the finance ministry today took a slew of decisions like conducting road shows abroad to showcase India as a lucrative investment destination.

The ministry, at a meeting here chaired by Economic Affairs Secretary R Gopalan, also decided to monitor the progress of 10 to 15 big public sector infrastructure projects. The decision assumes importance since infrastructure is construed as a big bottleneck in the way of sustaining high economic growth.

The decision to this effect came on a day when eight core industries growth fell to an 11-month low of 3.5 per cent in August.

Today's meeting of finance ministry officials, while taking forward suggestions of a meeting of India Inc with Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma last month, also decided to have a meeting with some of leading players on boosting the corporate bond markets in India.

Finance Ministry officials will now meet secretaries of 11 important ministries like civil aviation, coal and mines, commerce and industry, communication and IT, agriculture and, environment and forest tomorrow so that suggestions put forward by industrialists at the last month meeting could be implemented expeditiously. Then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee will hold a meeting with his cabinet colleagues of these ministries after Durga Puja, which would end on October 6.

Talking about the road shows, a finance ministry official said, "when interest rates are near zero in (developed) countries, we should try our best to attract funds."

The proposal for road shows came amid the government streamlining policies to attract greater investment from abroad. Earlier, it had liberalised external commercial borrowings, allowed individual investors from abroad to invest in mutual funds, liberalised infrastructure bonds scheme for foreign institutional investors.

Yesterday, the finance ministry also talked of considering reduction in securities transaction tax on stocks.

The finance ministry will hold a meeting on September 29 with Morgan Stanley ICICI Securities officials among others on the issue of boosting the corporate bond markets. Subsequently, it will also meet with officials of professional services firm Ernst & Young on the issue on October 7.

Some of the suggestions given by industrialists last month included enhancing External Commercial Borrowings limit, increase in ceiling for automatic approval for infrastructure making the bond market more vibrant, addressing the issues in the supply chain and a single-window clearance for environment-and, forest-related issues.
₹226.04 cr illegal mining of minerals

Minerals worth ₹226.04 crore were illegally mined in various states across the country in the last fiscal, according to the findings of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), which monitors and prevents such unlawful activities. In the 2010-11 fiscal year, 14,204 cases of illegal mining of 43.584 lakh tonnes of major minerals, valued at ₹71.52 crore, were detected. 

PTI
JSW Steel may close Karnataka plant

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: India's largest steel plant, the 10-million tonne per annum Vijayanagar Steel plant in Karnataka, may see a temporary shut down if raw material supplies do not improve, JSW Steel said on Tuesday.

JSW Steel, India's third-largest steelmaker has been facing acute shortage of iron ore, a key raw material in steel making, after an order by the apex court last month banned mining in key districts of Karnataka. JSW is still dependent on merchant miners as it does not have captive raw material linkages unlike competitors such as Tata Steel and SAIL.

"We may have to shut entirely (Vijayanagar plant). There is a good possibility of that (closure) if the situation does not improve," said Sajjan Jindal, vice chairman, JSW Steel. "We don't have any inventory. We are running the unit at 80% capacity and managing to source iron ore from here and there, Chattisgarh and Orissa, which is too costly. It is pretty unfortunate."

The court had given permission to India's largest iron ore miner National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) to extract and sell 1 million tonne of ore every month and supply it to steel makers who are dependent on raw material from the state. But in another ruling last Friday, it ordered the state-run firm to sell ore through e-auction resulting in the firm slashing supplies to steel companies like JSW. The ruling stood irrespective of the long-term supply agreements that NMDC may have had with various steel units in the state.

"Steel prices are likely to go up quite a bit because the largest plant of the country is being shut down. It will have an impact on inflation and steel imports will have to take place to continue to meet the domestic requirement," said Jindal. "I can not tell you right now by how much, but it's obvious."
ALUMINIUM LEADS THE NON-FERROUS PACK

Aluminium has been an outperformer among non-ferrous metals. Between January and now, its price on the London Metal Exchange (LME) has fallen by 12%, only half of the decline suffered by base metals such as copper, zinc and lead. The market is not showing any tightness. Primary aluminium production is steady and so are inventories—both with producers and LME warehouse stocks. Inventories are up compared with the beginning of the year. Maybe, an improved outlook for key consuming sectors such as aerospace, automobiles and beverages may explain the optimism. Either way, aluminium producers aren’t complaining.
भारत के लेखक | अद्वितीय

देश में-भूमि नीति की महत्व को लेकर ग्रामीण जनता के लिए केंद्रसरकार भारत सरकार ने केंद्रीय परिषद और प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा समन्वय में दी गई नीतियों को साफ किया। 2007 में जननीतियों के साथ सरकार ने समन्वय से दर्जनों दिनों ने कई बार काम नहीं किया। हालांकि अब जनसतपाया पदार्थ की नीति में सुधार हुआ है। 

उल्लेख किया जाता है कि देश में भूमि हन्दीकरण, आवासीय स्थापना कांग्रेस के साथ समन्वय कार्य के लिए लागू है। यह भूमि से है। 

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कसा शिकंजा | नक्सलियों को आर्थिक मदद पहुँचाने का मामला

एस्सार के जीएम गिरफ्तार

पुलिस जन-जन से संबंधित सांगिक विषय में मौजूद जानकारी

मार्गदर्शन (मांडल) में विशेष उल्लेख

एस्सार के जीएम किरण गिरफ्तार

एस्सार ने आरोपों को गलत बताया
Jindal may shut down K’taka plant.

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT: Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel today said it may have to shut down its 10 million ton per annum (MTPA) Vijaynagar plant in Karnataka due to a continuous shortage of iron-ore.

"We may have to shut entirely (Vijaynagar plant)... There is a good possibility of that (closure) if the situation does not improve," JSW Steel vice-chairman and MD Mr Sajjan Jindal told reporters here on the sidelines of an Assocham conference on mining.

He added that the plant is currently running at 30 per cent capacity and the company does not have any inventory of iron-ore, the key raw material for steel making.

"We don't have any inventory. We are running the unit at 30 per cent capacity and managing to source iron ore from here and there... Chhattisgarh and Orissa, which is too costly," he said.

On Saturday, the Sajjan Jindal-led firm had cut down production from the Karnataka unit by 70 per cent, following a cut in supplies of iron-ore from NMDC on Friday.

Termining the acute shortage of iron-ore as unfortunate, Mr Jindal said it has a damaging impact on the steel industry. "It is pretty unfortunate, what has happened, because industry has got collateral damage. You know without any fault of industry, it is suffering," he said. pti
Essar Group manager held

RAIPUR, 27 SEPT: Chhattisgarh police on Tuesday arrested Essar Group general manager Mr DVCS Verma for his role in the company providing ‘protection money’ to various factions of the Maoists to allow the group to reopen a 267-km iron-ore supply pipeline in Dantewada, the district’s SP said today.

The Essar GM, based at Kirandul in Chhattisgarh’s Dantewada district was arrested after police obtained sufficient evidence on Essar Group’s role in transferring huge cash amounts to the Maoists who are waging an armed movement against government, Mr Ankit Garg, superintendent of police (Dantewada), told The Statesman.

Mr Garg hinted that more Essar officials in Chhattisgarh and outside the state could be arrested for channelising cash in phases to the Maoist guerrillas.

The Essar GM, who was arrested on charges of sedition, was remanded in police custody for two days by a local court. He was arrested after intense interrogation of two persons arrested on 9 September at a weekly market in insurgency-riddled Dantewada district, including an Essar contractor, Mr BK Lala, whom police said was caught red-handed while handing over an amount of Rs 15 lakh to one Lingaram Kodopi.

Police said Kodopi was receiving the money on behalf of Maoists, though human rights activists have strongly denied this and said the tribal youth had been falsely implicated.

Reacting to the arrest of its officer, the Essar group said it ‘vehemently rejects all allegations made regarding payments to Maoists. Essar would like to state that such baseless allegations are being made to hurt the image and reputation of the group, which is a law abiding Corporate. Essar has been making meaningful contribution for the growth of the country for the last forty years. It has always put the country’s interest first in all its dealings.”

The company said that Essar Steel is the largest private sector investor in Bastar region that includes Dantewada district and has been operating in that region for the past 10 years.
IBM detects illegal mining of minerals worth ₹226.04 cr

Press Trust of India

NAGPUR, 27 SEPT: Minerals worth Rs 226.04 crore were illegally mined in various states across the country last fiscal, according to the findings of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), which monitors and prevents such unlawful activities.

In the 2010-11 fiscal year, 14,204 cases of illegal mining of 43.586 lakh tons of major minerals, valued at Rs 71.52 crore, were detected. In 775 cases, FIRs were lodged with authorities and legal proceedings have been launched in 514 cases. Fines to the tune of Rs 122.33 crore were realised from the defaulters, official sources said today.

About 766 FIRs were lodged with the police and court proceedings initiated in 9,078 cases. Penalties to the tune of Rs 143.94 crore have been recovered from the illegal miners, they said.

Through the IBM, the Centre constituted a task force and conducted an inspection of mines in areas where the problem of illegal mining was rampant by taking the help of satellite imaging.

IBM controller-general Mr CS Gundewar said the inspections were conducted between December 2009 and March 2011, in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa.

He said about 434 mines holding minerals like iron ore, manganese ore, dolomite, limestone and bauxite were inspected by the task force.