

Mines and Metals

Current Scenario:

Steel production increased by 4.9% in June 2015. Its cumulative index during April to June 2015-16 increased by 2.8% over the corresponding period of previous year.

The index for Minerals group rose by 0.3% to 248.5 from 247.7 for the previous month due to higher price of sillimanite (17%), crude petroleum (3%), copper ore (2%) and chromite (1%). However, the price of manganese ore (8%), magnesite (7%), barytes (6%), iron ore (4%) and zinc concentrate and phosphorite (1% each) declined.

Wholesale Price Index of Minerals

Month/Year	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
2015	242.9	247.7	243.3	246.6	247.7	248.5

Future Scenario:

Considering the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), objectives and allocation given in first three years of 12th Five Year Plan, the Ministry had proposed grants of Rs 527.04 crore for the Annual Plan 2015-16. Indian Steel industry is moving in the direction to become the second largest producer in the world by 2020. BY March 2016, the government owned SAIL's capacity would become 23 MTs per annum, and is expected to touch 50 MTs by 2025. Besides, Govt of India is also working on enhancing the capacity through green field projects in 4 states. In this regard, MOUs have already been signed for the states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Under this plan, using Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) route, a steel plant of 3 million tonne annual capacity would be created initially, which would later be enhanced to 6 MT in each of the four states. Thus a capacity of 24 MT would be added through this route. Hence future of East India's mining industry seems bright.

Policy Level Announcements:

Policies for Conservation of Mineral Resources

Aiming an adequate and effective legal framework with zero waste mining as the ultimate goal and commitment to prevent sub-optimal and unscientific mining, the Government has amended MMDR Act 2015. The Act provides transparency, exploration and welfare of local people. The Central Government has further empowered State Governments in respect of 31 minerals, which have been notified as 'minor' minerals on 10.2.2015, for regulation of grant of mineral concessions and for purposes connected therewith.

Steel & Mines Minister calls on Chief Minister, Rajasthan and hands over detailed exploration reports of 28 mine blocks to CM

Shri Tomar urged the Chief Minister to expedite the process of notification for auction of mine blocks. Union Minister appreciated the efforts of state government in identifying more than 30 blocks for auction of ML and PL-cum-ML, including those for limestone, manganese, potash and iron ore.

Ministry of Steel and Ministry of Mines sign MOU with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, for cooperation on Skill Development

Ministry of Steel and Ministry of Mines signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, for cooperation on Skill Development. Both the ministries will facilitate fulfilment of stated objectives, by encouraging active participation of central public sector enterprises and affiliated institutions. This will include budget allocation, course alignment, utilisation of idle infrastructure for training, maximising apprenticeship, skill certification and recognition of prior learning.

Ministry of Steel & Mines Minister Calls On Chief Minister, Karnataka To Deliberate On Steel And Mines Related Issues In The State Of Karnataka

Hon'ble Union Minister requested the state government to expedite the auction process so that mining activity gets a boost and state gets more revenue. The Ministry plans to set up a steel plant in the state of Karnataka through Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).