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London Metal Exchange : Friday 02, August 2019

	Pr. Sell (1)	Morning Session Buy	Morning Session Sell * (2)	Afternoon Session Buy	Afternoon Session Sell	Kerb	Change (2) - (1)	Stk(tns) change	MMR Landed Prices	Value
			$/ton							Rs/ton
Copper Grade A										
Spot	5876.00	5767.00	**5769.00**	5713.00	5714.50	5703.75	**-107.0**	286,600	MMR LP	428,155
3-mth	5903.00	5792.00	**5793.00**	5739.00	5740.00	5729.50	**-110.0**	-1200	14-D MA	438,303
Average	10-days - 5937.45		20-days - 5936.08		30-days - 5936.52				PP (HCL)	434,636
Tin High Grade										
Spot	17275.00	17250.00	**17300.00**	17240.00	17245.00	16971.00	**25.0**	4,890	--	--
3-mth	17300.00	17275.00	**17320.00**	17245.00	17250.00	16980.00	**20.0**	65	--	--
Average	10-days - 17563.50		20-days - 17797.50		30-days - 18105.33				--	--
Lead										
Spot	1974.00	1949.50	**1950.50**	1939.00	1940.00	1945.50	**-23.5**	85,375	MMR LP	152,275
3-mth	1986.00	1961.00	**1962.00**	1950.00	1951.00	1952.00	**-24.0**	6875	14-D MA	155,743
Average	10-days - 2023.15		20-days - 1995.75		30-days - 1962.05				PP (HZL)	169,600
Zinc Special High Grade										
Spot	2396.00	2351.00	**2352.00**	2338.00	2339.00	2341.00	**-44.0**	78,500	MMR LP	187,894
3-mth	2395.50	2358.00	**2360.00**	2345.00	2346.00	2350.00	**-35.5**	-850	14-D MA	191,241
Average	10-days - 2424.10		20-days - 2425.70		30-days - 2461.52				PP (HZL)	195,700
Aluminium										
Spot	1757.00	1748.50	**1749.00**	1746.00	1747.00	1741.00	**-8.0**	1,024,200	MMR LP	141,694
3-mth	1785.00	1776.50	**1777.50**	1774.00	1775.00	1770.00	**-7.5**	-3750	14-D MA	144,738
Average	10-days - 1781.00		20-days - 1795.08		30-days - 1787.43				PP (Nalco)	152,050
Aluminium Alloy										
Spot	1310.00	1250.00	**1251.00**	NA	NA	NA	**-59.0**	6,740		
3-mth	1310.00	1270.00	**1300.00**	NA	NA	NA	**-10.0**	0		
Average	10-days - 1301.60		20-days - 1278.35		30-days - 1254.73					
Nickel									Copper	01-Jul
Spot	14290.00	14515.00	**14520.00**	14480.00	14485.00	14448.00	**230.0**	143,658	Aluminium	19-Jul
3-mth	14315.00	14520.00	**14525.00**	14495.00	14500.00	14450.00	**210.0**	-12	Zinc	25-Jul
Average	10-days - 12973.90		20-days - 13225.95		30-days - 12922.63				Lead	25-Jul

Note: 1. MMR LP = MMR Landed Prices, excluding excise duty. 2. PP = Producer Prices ex-smelter, excl. excise

Minor Metals ($/LB)

Antimony	Cadmium	Cobalt HG	Moly.oxide	Selenium	Silicon	Tungsten	Fe Si Mangnesium
99.65%	99.95%	99.80%					
6,150	120.00	16.10	11.90	9.85	1675.00	225.00	150

Week ended Avg of Steel Prices : 26/07/2019 (Excl. GST)

Mandi Gobindgarh - Punjab					Mumbai	Kolkata	Delhi	Chennai		Mumbai	Bhiwadi	Kanpur
Sponge Iron	24,200	**HMS OLD**	26,800	**HMS**	23,500	23800	24200	21400	**MS Ingots**	34,000	31450	31550
Pig Iron	32,500	**HMS Fresh**	28,100	**CRP(LSLP)**	28,500	-	-	-				

Alum. Alloy : Basic prices excl. CST/VAT		ADC 12		AlSi 9 Cu3		LM6	
	Mumbai Mkt rates in kgs : **30/6/2019**		125		127		150
	Ex. Delhi Mkt rates in kgs : **30/6/2019**		122		-		-

Indicative Domestic Market Rates (Rs./kg)

	Mumbai 02-Aug	Mumbai Prev	Delhi 02-Aug	Delhi Prev	Chennai 02-Aug	Chennai Prev
Virgin Metals					-	-
Copper Pat			**417.0**	419.0	-	-
Copper W/Bar	**446.0**	446.0	-	-	-	-
Alum Ingot	**141.0**	141.0	**140.0**	140.0	**143.0**	143.0
Zinc Slab	**190.0**	190.0	**210.0**	210.0	-	-
Lead Ingot	**148.0**	148.0	**148.0**	148.0	-	-
Tin Slab	**1,422.0**	1430.0	**1,425.0**	1,445.0	-	-
Nickel (4x4)	**1,015.0**	1,000.0	**1,042.0**	1,025.0	-	-
Scrap					-	-
Copper Heavy	**413.0**	414.0	--	--	-	-
Copper Uten.	**390.0**	395.0	--	--	-	-
Copper Mixed	--	--	**397.0**	399.0	-	-
Brass Utensil	**308.0**	310.0	--	--	-	-
Brass Huny	**308.0**	305.0	**320.0**	322.0	-	-
Brass Sheet	**325.0**	328.0	-	-	-	-
Alum Utensil	**122.0**	122.0	**118.0**	118.0	-	-

Comex Copper (cents/lb) / Comex Al (cents/lb)

	Copper Rate	Copper Change	Al Rate	Al Change
Jun'19	**256.50**	-9.5	-	-
Jul'19	**257.15**	-9.4	-	-
Aug'19	**257.75**	-9.3	-	-

Precious Metals : Indicative Rates

Metal	Market	Unit	02-Aug	Prev
Gold Std	Mumbai	Rs/10g	**35,413**	34,482
Silver	Mumbai	Rs/kg	**40,755**	40,015
Gold	London	$/tr.oz.	**1,441.75**	1,406.80
Silver	London	$/tr.oz.	**16.19**	16.00
Gold	Comex	$/tr.oz.	**1,445.60**	1,420.90
Silver	Comex	$/tr.oz.	**16.22**	16.12

Forex: August, 02, 2019 (Rs/Unit Currency)

	USD	GBP		YEN
Buy	69.64	84.38		0.6522
Sell	69.56	84.29	---	0.6512
	EURO	**SGD**	**AUD**	**SFR**
Buy	77.18	50.54	47.15	70.68
Sell	77.10	50.46	47.12	70.56

Customs Notified Rates : July 19th 2019 [Rs.(Imp/Exp)]: US$ 69.65/67.95;Pound Sterling 87.20/84.10;Euro 78.85/75.95

Stocks fell on Friday as President Donald Trump stoked U.S.-China trade fears with the announcement of more tariffs while investors digested U.S. employment data.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed 98.41 points lower at 26,485.01 after plunging 334.20 points earlier in the day. The S&P 500 lost 0.7% to end the day at 2,932.05. The Nasdaq Composite slid 1.3% to close at 8,004.07. The major indexes dipped below their 50-day moving averages, key technical levels watched by investors.

Equities took a major blow this week. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq dropped 3.1% and 3.9% this week, respectively, their biggest weekly drops of 2019. The Dow had its second-worst week of the year, sliding 2.6%.

Caterpillar and Deere, two stocks associated with trade because of their overseas revenue exposure, both fell more than 1.5%. The VanEck Vectors Semiconductor ETF (SMH) dropped 1.4%, led by a 4.2% decline in Skyworks Solutions.

In a series of tweets on Thursday, President Donald Trump said the 10% charge would be imposed on $300 billion worth of Chinese goods. The levy will take effect starting September 1. Trump said later on Thursday he was open to shelving that tariff if China stepped up its U.S. agricultural purchases.

"The markets were already up to their plateful digesting the impact on earnings and the economy before yesterday's announcement," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager at Globalt. "But China and the U.S. were working it out and as long as another shoe didn't drop and it didn't escalate, things were going to be OK."

"Then you get this announcement," Martin said. "There is some real uncertainty introduced with it." The move breaks a truce in the long-running trade war between the world's two largest economies, with investors fearful it could further disrupt global supply chains.

China's foreign ministry pushed back against Trump's latest tariff threat on Friday morning, reportedly saying the world's largest economy should give up its illusions, shoulder some responsibility and come back to the right track on resolving the trade war.

China's spokesperson at the foreign ministry, Hua Chunying, said at a daily press briefing that Beijing would have to take countermeasures if the U.S. was committed to putting more tariffs on Chinese goods, Reuters reported.

Trump's tariff threat came as a surprise to financial markets in the previous session, in large part because negotiators for the two sides had just met earlier this week in China.

John Augustine, chief investment officer at Huntington Private Bank, highlighted the consumer discretionary and tech sectors have fallen sharply this week. "The market is anticipating this could affect U.S. consumer spending, which we have seen strengthening recently," he said.

Jobs growth in line with estimates, wages rise more than expected

The U.S. economy added 164,000 jobs in July, just below a Dow Jones estimate of 165,000. The job gains pushed the size of the U.S. labor force to a record high.

Wages topped analyst expectations. They rose 3.2% on a year-over-year basis, surpassing a Dow Jones forecast by 0.1 percentage points.

The strong wage number could be seen by traders as a sign of rising inflation, which could keep the Federal Reserve from cutting rates multiple times later this year. The Fed cut interest rates by 25 basis points on Wednesday.

"The in-line July jobs report doesn't really change the macro outlook much. But equities have other problems," said Alec Young, managing director of global market research at FTSE Russell. "They're being squeezed by a double whammy. On the one hand, Wednesday's Fed outlook was less dovish than hoped, while President Trump's latest consumer-focused China tariffs significantly dented the already soft global growth outlook."

Currency Market

The dollar fell broadly on Friday as news of slower U.S. employment growth in July and heightened U.S.-China trade tensions fueled expectations that the Federal Reserve would cut interest rates again in September.

Nonfarm payrolls increased by 164,000 jobs in July, fewer than the month prior, and wages increased modestly, the Labor Department said. The report came a day after U.S. President Donald Trump announced an additional 10% tariff on $300 billion worth of Chinese imports starting Sept. 1, leading financial markets to almost fully price in a September rate cut.

The dollar fell 0.76% against the Japanese yen to its lowest since Jan. 3, last at 106.50. Versus the euro it was 0.22% weaker at $1.1109. The Swiss franc, which like the yen serves as a safe-haven investment in times of market volatility, was 0.83% stronger to 0.9818 franc per dollar.

"On balance it is probably a slightly dollar-negative number because I do think that the totality of the report increases the case for a Fed rate cut in September. We're already at the point where we're trading that," said Greg Anderson, global head of foreign exchange strategy at BMO Capital Markets in New York.

Precious Metals

Gold steadied on Friday in seesaw trade as the dollar retreated on lackluster U.S. jobs data, putting bullion on course to notch its best week in six weeks following a surge of more than 2% in the previous session as U.S.-China trade relations soured further.

Spot gold was steady at $1,442.46 per ounce, retracing earlier declines of about 1%. The yellow metal is up nearly 2% so far this week. U.S. gold futures settled 1.8% higher at $1,457.50.

Gold has been supported by a "big push by global major central banks to lower interest rates in light of deteriorating macro conditions," INTL FCStone analyst Edward Meir said.

"The one thing restraining gold a little was the strength in the dollar, but with the dollar weaker today, it seems to have opened up some running room for gold on the upside."

Bullion rose more than 2% on Thursday after US President Donald Trump said he would slap an extra 10% tariff on $300 billion worth of Chinese imports and would raise it further if trade talks do not progress.

"(It's) a bit of a psychological move. Prices have been around these levels ($1,440-$1,450/oz) a few times now, and it has difficulty to push higher, which makes investors a bit more nervous," ABN Amro analyst Georgette Boele said.

Data pointing to slow U.S. job growth in July, coupled with an escalation in trade tensions, could give the Federal Reserve fresh ammunition to cut interest rates again next month.

"The trend in gold is up," said Bob Haberkorn, senior market strategist at RJO Futures.

Lower interest rates tend to boost gold as they reduce the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion and also weigh on the dollar.

Spot gold may retest resistance at $1,449 per ounce, a break above which could lead to a rise into the $1,461-$1,474 per ounce range, Reuters technical analyst Wang Tao said.

Separately, palladium fell 1.5 % to $1,403.41 per ounce, after breaking below the $1,400 level for the first time since mid-June to its lowest in more than seven weeks at $1,378.50.

Platinum was up 0.3% at $846.30 per ounce, while silver fell 0.4% to $16.26 per ounce.

"The scenario is slightly more complicated for silver, as the component of the demand for this metal coming from the industrial sector is much higher than gold and the trade war could have a more significant impact," Carlo Alberto De Casa, chief analyst, ActivTrades, said in a client note.

Both silver and platinum appeared set for their first weekly decline in four weeks.

Base Metals

Copper prices on Friday posted their steepest weekly fall in a year after President Donald Trump said the United States would impose more tariffs on Chinese imports, escalating a trade war seen weakening economic growth and metals demand.

Trump's announcement sent shockwaves through global markets, pushing equities, bond yields, oil and industrial metals sharply lower, with zinc tumbling to its lowest in 11 months.

It also drove the dollar to a two-year high ahead of US jobs data, and pummelled China's yuan, making metals more expensive for Chinese buyers who are their biggest consumers.

Benchmark copper ended 2.9% lower at $5,729.50 a tonne after earlier matching a January low of $5,725.

It was around 4% lower this week, the biggest weekly fall since August 2018.

The US-China trade war and a deepening slowdown in factory activity in China and elsewhere have hit industrial metals hard, with copper down around 20% from highs in June last year.

Trump's announcement came after the US Federal Reserve tempered expectations of sustained interest rate cuts which could have stimulated growth and helped weaken the dollar.

"There was quite a bit of optimism around the trade talks earlier in the week and about the Fed," said ING analyst Warren Patterson. "Both have disappointed."

Trump said he would impose a 10% tariff on $300 billion of Chinese imports from Sept. 1, extending tariffs to nearly all Chinese goods the United States imports and ending a temporary truce in the two countries' trade row.

He also threatened to raise tariffs further if China's President Xi Jinping failed to move more quickly to strike a trade deal.

China said it would not be blackmailed and warned of retaliation.

Metals fell despite a weaker dollar after US job growth slowed in July and manufacturers slashed hours for workers.

Japan's economic growth is expected to have slowed in the second quarter, according to a Reuters poll.

BHP plans to start production of nickel sulphate in the second quarter of next year, an executive said.

LME zinc fell 2.2% to $2,351 a tonne, nickel eased 1% to $14,450, lead shed 1.9% to $1,952, tin lost 2% to $16,975 and aluminium was 0.6% lower at $1,770

Energy Market

The US oil and gas rig count fell by 8 again this week, according to Baker Hughes, adding to months of losses and bringing the overall rig count to the lowest in a year and a half.

The total number of active oil rigs in the United States fell by 6 according to the report, reaching 770. The number of active gas rigs increased by 2 to reach 171.

The combined oil and gas rig count is now 942 for the week, with oil rigs seeing a loss of 89 rigs year on year, with gas rigs down 12 since this time last year. The combined oil and gas rig count is down triple digits, at 102 year on year.

Year-to-date, the oil rig count has fallen from 858 active rigs since the beginning of the year to 770, while gas rigs have fallen from 187 to 171 during that same time.

Oil prices were trading up on Friday morning, but the 2+% gains was not enough to offset the massive loss seen the day before after President Donald Trump announced a further tariff would be levied on the remaining $300 billion worth of goods coming in from China, to go into effect next month.

The price recovery seen early on Friday suggest that the recent crude inventory draws in the US, along with the conflict in the Persian Gulf, are superseding the fears of slower economic growth sparked by the additional tariffs on China.

At 9:08am EST today WTI was up $1.23 (+2.28%) at $55.18—down just $0.70 from this time last week. The Brent benchmark was also up on the day, by $1.58 (+2.61%) at $62.08—a $1 decrease from this time last week.

US production recovered this week after slipping in the week prior, to 12.2 million bpd for week ending July 26, adding 900,000 bpd in the week.

Canada's overall rig count saw an increase this week of 10, adding to last week's 9-rig increase. Canada's oil rigs are down 61 year on year, with gas rigs down 25 year on year.

WTI was trading up 3.37%, recovering from yesterday's huge loss

News Report & Analysis

Anti-dumping duty likely on certain type of steel from Brazil, China, Germany

The government may impose an anti-dumping duty of up to USD 3,263 per tonne on imports of a certain type of steel from Brazil, China, and Germany for five years, according to a government notification.

The commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR has recommended the duty after concluding its probe on alleged dumping of 'High Speed Steel of Non Cobalt Grade' being imported from these three countries.

This steel is used for making high-speed steel-cutting tools.

It has concluded that the product has been exported to India from these nations below its normal value, which was resulting in dumping of the product.

The domestic industry has suffered material injury due to the dumping, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has said in a notification.

"The authority (DGTR) considers it necessary to recommend imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports" of the goods from these countries "for a period of five years," it said.

The anti-dumping probe was conducted following a complaint from Graphite India Ltd. It had asked for imposition of the duty on the imports.

The recommended duty ranges between USD 1,902.34 and USD 3,263.68 per tonne.

The final decision to impose the duty will be taken by the finance ministry.

A country conducts anti-dumping investigation on the basis of applications filed by the domestic industry with prima facie evidence of dumping of goods in the country.

The probe is a quasi-judicial process and is allowed under the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. India is a member of the WTO, which has been framing laws for global exports and imports since 1995.

During April 2018 to March 2019, DGTR initiated 24 anti-dumping (both fresh and review) investigations, and issued final findings in 50 such cases.

Anti-dumping duties are levied to provide a level-playing field to local industry by guarding against cheap imports.

All the three countries are members of the WTO.

Steel traders face crisis as prices dip, demand falls

Steel units in the MSME segment, including some of the larger players from the region, are facing a liquidity crunch, with fears that it may lead to a loan repayment crisis for many. Buoyed by the government's projections that India's steel demand may touch 300 million tonnes, big and small players in the segment had scaled up capacity, only to face a slow down now.

The prices of steel have come down by over Rs 6,000 since March. The last two months were worse, and the price eased by another Rs 500 for long products this week. The rates of steel bars have come down to Rs 32,000 a tonne and those of flat products like sheets have touched Rs 36,000 per tonne, said market sources.

This has led to inventory losses for traders. Manufacturers are hit since rates of iron ore, the raw material for steel making, have still not eased. Many claim to be operating at losses due to the slump in the price of finished products.

One of the major reasons is recession in the automobile industry, where steel is used as raw material, said sources. Special steel is used for making automobile components.

"There are over 10 vendors in MIDC's Butibori estate supplying the material to automobile units, which have shut down operations. These were small scale units employing 10 to 15 workers each, who have been rendered jobless now," said Nitin Lonkar, president of Butibori Manufacturer's Association (BMA).

Lonkar said his own unit, which caters to the automobile industry, has scaled down operations.

Praful Doshi, former president of Vidarbha Industries Association (VIA), said steel prices have constantly dipped due to lack of demand from different sectors. Even as infrastructure work is being carried out by the government, it is not enough to keep the industry afloat. Three years ago, the rates were at a high of Rs 44,000 a tonne, he said.

"Industries had scaled up their capacities based on the bullish projects also from the government side. However, as against projections of 300 million tonnes, the demand is not even 100 million tonnes. A majority of industries are now operating at close to half of their capacity," said Sanjay Agrawal of Sunflag Industries Limited, which has its unit at Butibori.

"Re-rolling units are operating on thin or negative margins. Iron ore, the basic raw material for making steel, is ruling at Rs 7,500 a tonne. Considering market rates steel is fetching, iron ore has to be within Rs 5,000 a tonne. At the current level, on an average re-rollers are incurring a loss of Rs 3,000 per ton after considering cost involving entire manufacturing process starting from making sponge iron to billets out or iron ore," explained a source in a manufacturing unit requesting anonymity.

Dipen Agrawal, a steel trader and president of Chamber of Associations of Maharashtra Industry and Trade (CAMT), said the liquidity crunch has led to troubles in debt servicing for businesses. This is not only for working capital loans but also term loans, he said.

Chartered accountant Julfesh Shah said the debtor turnover ratio has come down. This means the realization of funds from buyers has slowed down. The last two months were bad as even demand from the government infrastructure works has slowed down, said a trader, also requesting anonymity.

SAIL iron ore mines achieve 15% production growth

The iron ore mines of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) produced and despatched 18.27 lakh tonne and 18.86 lakh tonne of iron ore in July 2019, posting a growth of 15.2% and 11.7% over same period last year.

The mines, which come under SAIL's Raw Materials Division (RMD), not only met the entire iron ore needs of SAIL's eastern sector steel plants but also supplemented the need of Bhilai Steel Plant to certain extent from time to time, an official statement said.

Individually RMD's Bolani, Kiriburu and Meghahatuburu mines crossed the July production target. Bolani, Kalta and RMD Mines in total achieved their best-ever July performance in lump production and despatch since inception. This was driven by improved operational efficiency and availability of rakes.

In Flux production, Kuteshwar Mines achieved best ever July producing 1.16 lakh tonne of limestone.

SAIL arm DSP records best ever July output performance

Durgapur Steel Plant, a unit of SAIL – a Maharatna PSU continued its journey on the path of high production and recorded the best July month production performance in almost all important items viz. hot metal, crude steel, saleable steel, special steel, saleable steel dispatch, blend mix and sinter in the recently concluded month.

Congratulating the employees for improved production performance, AV Kamlakar, CEO, ISP with additional charge of CEO, DSP & ASP said, "We have adopted multi-prolonged strategies

to improve the production performance in every front. Our strategies have yielded results with surge in production in the plant. DSP has maintained the momentum and has recorded the best July month performance in almost all important items. It has been made possible due to proactive strategy and collaboration among all departments and employees".

The production targets as envisaged in the Annual Business Plan have been exceeded in all vital items. Production of hot metal, crude steel and saleable steel were at 108 %, 107 % and 108 % of APP targets respectively in the month of July, 2019.

APP target were fulfilled in the areas of oven pushing (102 %), blend mix (110 %), sinter (129 %), hot metal (108 %), crude steel (107 %), CCP (106 %), saleable steel (108 %) and merchant mill (101 %).

Best July performance was achieved in RMHP tippling, production of sinter, hot metal, crude steel, CCP, merchant mill, saleable steel, special steel and value added products and saleable steel dispatch. Sinter plant registered best day performance by producing 12097T on July 24, 2019. Also production of 8000T at SMS has been the best monthly production surpassing the previous best production figure of 5000T in June 2019.

MCX makes delivery of July copper contracts

Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) has been witnessing active participation in deliverable base metal contracts from traders and industry stakeholders. The July 2019 copper contract, which was the first compulsory delivery based copper contract, has witnessed delivery of 50 metric tonnes (MT). The contract and delivery size of the compulsory delivery copper contract is 2.5 MT. LME approved brands of grade A copper cathodes was deliverable at the designated Bhiwandi warehouse in district Thane.

The exchange also witnessed total deliveries of 205 MT of LME approved lead ingots at the designated Chennai warehouse for its July 2019 lead contract. While lead moved from both options to delivery-based contract from June 2019 expiry onwards, delivery came in the July 2019 contract settlement. The trading lot and delivery size of Lead futures contract is 5 MT.Successful pay in and pay out was done for settlement of both these metal contracts.

PS Reddy, MD & CEO, MCX said, "With the seamless and successful physical deliveries witnessed in Copper and Lead futures contracts, it is indeed heartening to note that now all our base metal contracts have completed one or more full delivery cycles after being converted into compulsory delivery contracts. This also is a testimony of establishment of a robust built in exchange traded physical delivery mechanism for base metals in the country."

"We are delighted to see broad-based support from the industry and believe that

these delivery based contracts immensely boost domestic price discovery efficiency and convergence ." Reddy added.

K M Gandhi Metals via Arihant Futures and Commodities delivered copper cathodes. Mihir Gandhi, director , K M Gandhi Metals Pvt. said, "We are indeed glad to be the first company to deliver copper cathodes on the MCX platform in its very first copper delivery cycle. The entire process of delivering copper cathodes right up to the pay out on the Exchange was a seamless process and we hope to continue using the MCX platform for deliveries. We appreciate the support received from the MCX Team and our broker in going through the process. We hope to see the delivery based trading in a more integrated and market oriented way."

Mumbai-based Amex Resources via IIFL Wealth Management delivered lead ingots through the exchange system and the company stated, "We are regular importers of lead ingots and saw a great opportunity to deliver LME approved brand of Lead ingots on the exchange. The experience of delivering in the Chennai warehouse for lead was extremely smooth. The inclusion of district Thane as the additional delivery platform for Lead Ingots from the September 2019 expiry onward is a very welcome move."

All the base metal contracts have been made compulsory delivery based in the last 6 months.

During this period, 6,877 MT of aluminium, 2,221 MT of zinc and 255.50 MT of nickel have been delivered through the exchange mechanism.

According to Ministry of Mines, India's copper cathodes & primary lead production during FY18-19 stood at 4,57,245 MT & 1,97,838 MT respectively. The Indian consumption of refined copper per annum is around 6.6 lakh tonnes, which as percentage of world market is about 3%. Sterlite Industries (Vedanta), Hindalco Industries and Hindustan Copper are major producers of refined copper in India. Copper is used in building construction, power generation and transmission, electronic product manufacturing, the production of industrial machinery and transportation vehicles. While, the major uses of lead are in the manufacture of storage batteries, lead pigments, paints, ammunition and in gasoline.

Nalco, HindCopper, MECL form mining joint venture, KABIL

National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco), Hindustan Copper Ltd and Mineral Exploration Co Ltd (MECL) have inked an agreement to set up a 40:30:30 joint venture company called Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL).

"The objective of constituting KABIL is to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to the domestic market. While KABIL will ensure the mineral security of the nation, it will also help in realising the overall objective of import substitution," said Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi, in a statement.

A Mines Ministry statement said: "KABIL will carry out the identification, acquisition, exploration, development, mining and processing of strategic minerals overseas for commercial use and meeting the country's requirement of these minerals.

"The sourcing of these minerals or metals is to done by creating trading opportunities, government-to-government collaborations with the producing countries or strategic acquisitions or investments in the exploration and mining assets of these minerals in the source countries. The new company will help in building partnerships with other mineral rich countries like Australia and those in Africa and South America, where Indian expertise in exploration and mineral processing will be mutually beneficial bringing about new economic opportunities."

Novelis-Aleris deal faces EU hurdles

U.S. aluminum maker Novelis must offer concessions to European Union competition authorities by Aug. 9 to gain approval for its $2.6 billion takeover of aluminum processor Aleris, sources close to the matter said.

Novelis, part of India's Hindalco Industries, bid for Aleris in July last year as part of its diversification into the aerospace, automotive, beverage can and construction industries among others.

The European Commission conducted a four-month investigation of the acquisition and last month set out its concerns over how the deal could hurt competition, particularly for carmakers that use the companies' products.

The EU competition enforcer, which is scheduled to decide on the case by Sept. 16, and Novelis declined to comment.

Novelis and Aleris defended the proposed deal before antitrust officials at a closed-door hearing last week, hoping to address EU competition concerns and secure unconditional approval.

Trade unions from Belgium and Germany also attended the hearing to voice support for the deal, people with direct knowledge of the matter said.