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BRAJ BINANI GROUP

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London Metal Exchange - Monday 02, November 2020

	Pr. Sell	Morning Session		Afternoon Session		Kerb	Change	Stk(tns)	MMR Landed Prices	Value
	(1)	Buy	Sell * (2)	Buy	Sell		(2) - (1)	change		
	$/ton								Rs/ton	
Copper Grade A										
Spot	6694.50	6712.50	**6712.50**	6478.00	6479.50	6762.00	**18.0**	169,600	MMR LP	387,622
3-mth	6706.00	6725.00	**6725.00**	6758.00	6759.00	6753.00	**19.0**	-1700	14-D MA	395,768
Average	10-days - 6791.95		20-days - 6732.13		30-days - 6683.47				PP (HCL)	524,607
Tin High Grade										
Spot	17650.00	17755.00	**17755.00**	17784.00	17789.00	17769.00	**105.0**	4,530	--	--
3-mth	17640.00	17725.00	**17725.00**	17785.00	17790.00	17770.00	**85.0**	-25	--	--
Average	10-days - 18153.60		20-days - 18212.20		30-days - 17989.50				--	--
Lead										
Spot	1790.00	1776.00	**1776.00**	1782.00	1783.00	1785.25	**-14.0**	124,400	MMR LP	145,604
3-mth	1804.00	1789.50	**1789.50**	1794.00	1795.00	1798.00	**-14.5**	-1400	14-D MA	141,764
Average	10-days - 1618.50		20-days - 1697.73		30-days - 1729.80				PP (HZL)	157,400
Zinc Special High Grade										
Spot	2524.50	2526.00	**2526.00**	2540.00	2541.50	2528.00	**1.5**	219,200	MMR LP	163,469
3-mth	2536.50	2536.50	**2536.50**	2552.00	2553.00	2540.50	**0.0**	-725	14-D MA	162,202
Average	10-days - 2526.45		20-days - 2463.75		30-days - 2436.85				PP (HZL)	214,300
Aluminium										
Spot	1820.50	1834.50	**1834.50**	1852.00	1853.50	1868.25	**14.0**	1,461,025	MMR LP	133,031
3-mth	1823.50	1839.50	**1839.50**	1858.00	1859.50	1866.00	**16.0**	-1900	14-D MA	138,512
Average	10-days - 1819.80		20-days - 1816.70		30-days - 1786.15				PP (Nalco)	154,150
Aluminium Alloy										
Spot	1510.00	1510.50	**1510.50**	NA	NA	NA	**0.5**	5,560		
3-mth	1530.00	1530.00	**1530.00**	NA	NA	NA	**0.0**	0		
Average	10-days - 1538.15		20-days - 1523.40		30-days - 1514.48					
Nickel									Copper	01-Oct
Spot	15256.00	15113.00	**15113.00**	15121.00	15126.00	15123.25	**-143.0**	239,016	Aluminium	13-Oct
3-mth	15289.00	15148.00	**15148.00**	15160.00	15165.00	15160.00	**-141.0**	19091	Zinc	29-Oct
Average	10-days - 15591		20-days - 15343.90		30-days - 15019.77				Lead	29-Oct

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

Minor Metals ($/LB)

Antimony	Cadmium	Cobalt HG	Moly.oxide	Selenium	Silicon	Tungsten	Fe Si Mangnesium
99.65%	99.95%	99.80%					
5,600	100.00	15.50	7.90	7.00	1840.00	245.00	172

Week ended Avg of Steel Prices : 23/10/2020 (Excl. GST)

	Mandi Gobindgarh - Punjab				Mumbai	Kolkata	Delhi	Chennai		Mumbai	Bhiwadi	Kanpur
Sponge Iron	24,800	**HMS OLD**	26,000	**HMS**	31,500	29,500	29,800	25,500	**MS Ingots**	37,000	36,000	34,000
Pig Iron	37,500	**HMS Fresh**	29,500	**CRP(LSLP)**	33,250	-	-					

Alum. Alloy : Basic prices excl. CST/VAT							
	Ex. Mumbai Mkt rates in kgs : **30/9/2020**	**ADC 12**	132.5	**AlSi 9 Cu3**	134.5	**LM6**	151
	Ex. Delhi Mkt rates in kgs :**30/9/2020**		130		-		-

Indicative Domestic Market Rates (Rs./kg)

	Mumbai		Delhi		Chennai	
	02-Nov	Prev	**02-Nov**	Prev	**02-Nov**	Prev
Virgin Metals					-	-
Copper Pat			**399.0**	399.0	-	-
Copper W/Bar	**517.0**	517.0	-	-	-	-
Alum Ingot	**154.0**	155.0	**141.0**	141.0	**140.0**	140.0
Zinc Slab	**210.0**	212.0	**163.0**	163.0	-	-
Lead Ingot	**152.0**	154.0	**141.0**	141.0	-	-
Tin Slab	**1,475.0**	1,478.0	**1,280.0**	1,280.0	-	-
Nickel (4x4)	**1,160.0**	1,189.0	**980.0**	980.0	-	-
Scrap					-	-
Copper Heavy	**482.0**	484.0	--	--	-	-
Copper Uten.	**430.0**	433.0	--	--	-	-
Copper Mixed	--	--	**370.0**	370.0	-	-
Brass Utensil	**330.0**	332.0	--	--	-	-
Brass Huny	**313.0**	314.0	**288.0**	288.0	-	-
Brass Sheet	**348.0**	350.0	-	-	-	-
Alum Utensil	**123.0**	123.0	**107.0**	107.0	-	-

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

	Comex Copper Rate	Change	Comex Al Rate	Change
NOV'20	**307.35**	2.2	-	-
DEC'20	**307.70**	2.1	-	-
JAN'21	**308.10**	2.1	-	-

Precious Metals : Indicative Rates

Metal	**Market**	**Unit**	**02-Nov**	Prev
Gold Std	Mumbai	Rs/10g	**51,037**	50,840
Silver	Mumbai	Rs/kg	**61,867**	59,926
Gold	London	$/tr.oz.	**1,889.90**	1,870.30
Silver	London	$/tr.oz.	**23.97**	23.01
Gold	Comex	$/tr.oz.	**1,890.40**	1,865.60
Silver	Comex	$/tr.oz.	**24.00**	23.33

Forex: November 02, 2020 (Rs/Unit Currency)

	USD	**GBP**		**YEN**
Buy	75.06	96.89		0.7186
Sell	73.63	94.92	---	0.7004
	EURO	**SGD**	**AUD**	**SFR**
Buy	87.32	55.01	52.61	82.06
Sell	85.59	53.64	51.51	79.96

Customs Notified Rates : October 02nd 2020 [Rs.(Imp/Exp)]: US$ 74.50/72.80;Pound Sterling 96.95/93.60;Euro 88.05/84.90

Asian shares got off to a strong start on Tuesday, with investors buoyed by strong factory output data from major economies, while the dollar and gold held ground on political uncertainty ahead of U.S. elections.

President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden made a last-ditch push for votes in battleground states as their campaigns prepared for post-election disputes that could prolong a divisive presidential election.

U.S. stock futures traded higher, even though many market participants expect short-term volatility, especially after a jittery week. S&P 500 futures rose 0.5%, EUROSTOXX 50 futures gained 1% and FTSE futures put on 0.9%.

Strategists at Blackrock Investment Institute said polls were suggesting a greater likelihood of a Democratic sweep in the election.

"We are starting to incorporate themes we believe would outperform in that event, moving toward a more pro-risk stance overall despite last week's market pullback," the strategists said in a report. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan added 1%, up for the second straight day. The gauge is just 1% shy of a 2-1/2 year high struck in mid-October and up 5% so far this year. South Korea's main index advanced 1.7%, markets in Hong Kong and Sydney rose 2% and Chinese blue chips put on 0.8%. Japanese markets were closed for a holiday.

"We are upgrading Asia ex-Japan equities and Asia fixed income to overweight, as China and other Asian economies have done a better job of containing COVID–19 and are further ahead in the economic restart," BlackRock Investment Institute said. "We expect this dynamic to continue over the months ahead."

Data showed economic activity was improving across the board.

U.S. manufacturing activity accelerated more than expected in October, with new orders jumping to their highest in nearly 17 years, while Chinese factory activity expanded the fastest in a decade and euro zone manufacturing also sped up.

Analysts said the prospect of no immediate winner in the presidential race was the biggest drag on markets. Trump trails Biden in national opinion polls, but polls in the swing states that will decide the election show a closer race.

"The key for the stock market in the short-term is a concern over an uncertain and timely election result and the possibility of a disputed outcome," said Marc Chaikin, founder of Chaikin Analytics, a quantitative investment research firm based in Philadelphia.

Australia's ASX 200 gained the most in three weeks ahead of a widely anticipated cut in the benchmark interest rate by the country's central bank.

Oil prices steadied after two weeks of selling, with Brent futures down 0.1% to $38.90 a barrel, but hanging on to most of an overnight bounce.

Still, the uncertainty of the U.S. election and a resurgence in COVID-19 cases in Europe and the United States supported the dollar and gold prices, as some investors sought safety.

Currency Market

The U.S. dollar hovered near a one-month high on Tuesday as investors opted for caution in the hours ahead of polls opening on election day in the United States.

Traders are on edge over the result and rather than betting outright on a particular outcome, many have lately flocked to the safety of dollars so that they are well positioned to take advantage of volatility when results arrive.

Against a basket of currencies, the dollar held at 94.050, just below a month-high hit on Monday. The safe-harbour yen has also ground higher in recent weeks and it was steady at 104.75 yen per dollar early in Asia trade.

The risk-sensitive Australian dollar was steady at $0.7054 ahead of a crucial central bank policy meeting where markets expect a rate cut and a shift to quantitative easing. "We have pared back a lot of our positions," said Stuart Oakley, a London-based executive at Nomura.

"It's a bit reckless to position ourselves for one outcome of the election... We've positioned ourselves to trade the post (election) volatility."

Opinion polls have consistently showed Democrat challenger Joe Biden leading President Donald Trump. Analysts said a Biden win could weaken the dollar as he intends to spend big on stimulus, while a steadier foreign policy could lift trade-exposed currencies.

But with battleground states too close to call and with the prospect of either a Trump victory or an inconclusive result likely to support the dollar, moves on Tuesday were slight.

Precious Metals

Domestic gold futures recovered early weakness to push higher on Monday, despite strength in the dollar overseas, which made the yellow metal more expensive for those trading in other currencies. Multi Commodity Exchange gold futures - due for a December 4 expiry - rose as much as 0.59 per cent to touch the Rs 51,000 mark during the session, before giving up some of those gains. The contract rose 0.38 per cent to end at Rs 50,890 for the day. Concerns about rising COVID-19 cases in the US and Europe and uncertainty over the upcoming US presidential election is supporting the gold rates, say analysts. Silver followed suit, gaining by Rs 748 - or 1.24 per cent - for the day to Rs 60,920. Globally, Comex gold ticked higher on Monday as caution crept in ahead of Tuesday's hotly contested US presidential elections, attracting some bids for the safe-haven metal. Spot gold rose 0.4% to $1,884.98 per ounce by 0758 GMT, while U.S. gold futures were up 0.2% at $1,884.00 per ounce.

Base Metals

Copper prices rose on Monday as sentiment was boosted by robust manufacturing data from China and the United States, though gains were limited by a firmer dollar as the market awaits the outcome of the U.S. presidential election.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was up 0.7% at $6,725 a tonne at 1710 GMT.

"China dominates copper demand, economic activity is back to normal, so more stimulus is unlikely. It would be difficult to justify higher prices," said Julius Baer analyst Carsten Menke.

"The U.S. election, depending on who wins, could be positive for sentiment. But it (the United States) consumes less than 10% of the global total; it wouldn't move the needle in terms of demand from infrastructure investment."

Activity in China's factory sector accelerated at the fastest pace in nearly a decade in October as domestic demand surged, adding momentum to an economy that is quickly recovering from the coronavirus crisis.

U.S. manufacturing activity accelerated more than expected in October, with new orders jumping to their highest level in nearly 17 years.

"Copper turned up decisively after the U.S. data," one metals trader said.

A stronger U.S. currency makes dollar-denominated metals more expensive for holders of other currencies, which could subdue demand and prices.

U.S. President Donald Trump is trailing rival Joe Biden in national opinion polls ahead of Tuesday's election.

But the race is seen as close in enough swing states that Trump could still piece together the votes needed to prevail in the state-by-state Electoral College that determines the winner.

Worries about nearby supplies on the LME market have narrowed the discount for cash metal over the three-month contract CMAL0-3 to its lowest since December 2019.

Behind this concern is a large holding of aluminium warrants and a 30-39% long futures position for November settlement.

Three-month aluminium gained 1.2% to $1,870.5 a tonne.

Zinc rose 0.7% to $2,542, lead slipped 1.1% to $1,799, tin firmed by 0.3% to $17,780 and nickel was down 0.1% at $15,135.

Energy Market

Oil clawed back earlier losses amid signals that a key OPEC ally is in discussions about possibly postponing the group's planned output hike in January.

Futures were higher in New York, after earlier falling to a five-month low. Discussions between Russian oil companies and Energy Minister Alexander Novak over the possibility of delaying a planned OPEC+ output bolster optimism the group won't add more supply than the market can absorb as Europe enters a new round of lockdowns. At the same time, China increased the 2021 private-firms import quota by more than 20% compared to this year, presenting a bright spot for an otherwise precarious demand picture. Uneven global demand and a looming U.S. election is "creating overall uncertainty," said Gary Cunningham, director of account management and research at Tradition Energy. Yet, the discussions in Russia show "a willingness by the OPEC+ conglomerate to help support the market."

Futures had earlier come under pressure from the double whammy of rising Libyan supply and a dwindling demand outlook as England joined the string of European countries to renew lockdowns. That could be just the curtain-raiser for a turbulent week of trading as Americans head to the polls Tuesday in an election that could reshape U.S. policy on everything from fiscal stimulus to Iran and fracking.

OPEC+ faces an increasingly complicated decision on whether to add more supply to the market when the group meets at the end of the month. New threats to the fragile demand recovery coupled with fresh supply have spurred oil futures to take back their meager summer gains. The second wave of the virus around the world could push global oil demand to as low 88 to 89 million barrels a day, down 11% or 12% from last year, Trafigura Group boss Jeremy Weir said at a conference.

"Positive supply developments in Libya will only raise the probability that the OPEC+ group will explicitly consider a delay to the taper of its planned voluntary output cuts," said BNP Paribas oil strategist Harry Tchilinguirian. West Texas Intermediate for December delivery rose 29 cents to $36.08 a barrel as of 10:31 a.m. in New York. Brent for January settlement gained 42 cents to $38.36 a barrel.

Despite the recent price weakness, Vitol Group, the world's biggest independent oil trader, characterized the latest lockdown measures as just a "speed bump," with tightening global inventories likely to cushion the downside. The bigger picture is still a world in "stock-drawing mode," Mike Muller, Vitol's head of Asia, said in an interview Sunday with Dubai-based consultants Gulf Intelligence.

News Report & Analysis

Tata Steel announces new working models for employees with option to work from home for 365 days a year

Domestic steel maker Tata Steel on Monday announced a new work model for its employees which allows them to work from home for up to 365 days a year. The new 'Agile Working Models' policy is effective from Sunday, Tata Steel said in a statement.

Tata Steel said that it is moving towards a "trust and outcome-based working culture" and to give more flexibility to its employees.

Under the new models, effective November 1, even officers who are required to be based out of a particular location can now work from home for unlimited days in a year, it said.

Once the pandemic situation normalises, the policy will enable company's officers to move to a location of choice, giving the employee the flexibility to operate out of any location in the country, the company said adding the policy will be piloted for a year and based on adaptability and feedback, the policy will be reviewed after one year.

Suresh Dutt Tripathi, Vice-President, Human Resource Management, Tata Steel said that flexible working not only portrays an organisation's intent to create a workplace for the upcoming generations but also solidifies its intent to cater to the needs of its diversified workforce across geographies.

The pandemic has helped move away from the traditional thinking of productivity being contingent upon fixed hours of work within an office environment and bust many of the myths around remote working, he said.

The policy will ensure better work-life balance, will give more flexibility to choose where one lives as the daily work commute shifts out of consideration, provides working opportunities to new parents at their convenience, and ensures continuity of work for persons with disabilities in their respective work enabled environment.

"Flexible working provides greater freedom to choose locations and make essential life decisions such as supporting families, be it ageing parents or spouses with non-transferrable jobs. This will help in retaining and enriching our key talent from across the country and attract workforce for location agnostic roles," Tripathi added.

JSW Steel expects SC verdict on BPSL on Tuesday

After executing the resolution plan of Asian Colour Coated successfully, JSW Steel expects the Supreme Court to pronounce its final verdict in Bhushan Power and Steel insolvency case on Tuesday and complete the deal before this quarter-end.

BPSL insolvency proceedings has been on for the last three-years and the Rs.19,700-crore resolution plan of JSW Steel itself was approved by NCLT in September, 2019.

Seshagiri Rao, Joint Managing Director, JSW Steel, said the Supreme Court is expected to give its verdict on Tuesday and the company will make the payment after the order is published.

“We hope to close the deal this quarter once the verdict is pronounced as the funds required for the acquisition has already been tied up,” he added.

The case was last listed in Supreme Court for hearing on September 24 but could not be taken up as the Registrar suddenly pruned the list of cases for hearing.

Following NCLT approval, JSW Steel moved NCLAT seeking immunity from the ongoing investigation against the promoter of BPSL Sanjay Singal. In February, NCLAT provided the immunity and approved JSW Steel resolution plan.

However, the Enforcement Directorate moved the Supreme Court challenging NCLAT authority to provide immunity to JSW Steel in a case against BPSL promoter under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Last July, state-run lender Punjab National Bank declared loan exposure of Rs.3,805 crore to bankrupt BPSL as fraudulent and filed a case in the ED against the company’s promoters. The ED had not only attached the properties under insolvency but also dragged JSW Steel into the investigation as it a had tie-up with BPSL in a mining venture.

JSW Steel dismissed the contention on the mining joint venture stating that the mining was allotted by the Government to a consortium of four companies and the allotment has since been cancelled.

NCLAT decision questioned

Meanwhile, Singal had questioned the NCLAT's decision to approve JSW Steel's bid despite the Enforcement Directorate attaching BPSL's asset under the PMLA.

He had also questioned, the NCLAT decision to allow the winning bidder JSW Steel to retain the EBITDA of Rs.3,000 crore made during the insolvency period.

Amid many twist and turn, the Supreme Court had announced that it will pronounce its final verdict in the case on November 3.

JSW, Liberty group may participate in strategic sale of NMDC steel plant

Sajjan Jindal-controlled JSW Steel and Sanjeev Gupta-led Liberty Steel Group may look at participating in the strategic disinvestment of NMDC's Nagarnar Steel Plant (NSP).

NSP has a capacity of 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) and is likely to be commissioned by June-July next year. The decision to demerge and divest the plant was taken by the Cabinet last month. The disinvestment process is expected to be completed by September 2021.

JSW Steel's joint managing director and group chief financial officer, Seshagiri Rao, said, "We have not done due diligence. If the opportunity comes up, we will examine it." He added it would have to be seen what kind of facilities the plant had.

Sanjeev Gupta, who lost out on the chance to acquire a mega steel plant under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), said his company would look at every opportunity that emerged in India in steel, aluminum, and renewable energy. "We don't want to comment on processes that we have not yet made public. These are our three core sectors and in these three, we would definitely like to participate wherever there is a good asset, where we think it is good value and we can play a role," he said.

In the last two years, Gupta had made some unsuccessful bids for assets under the IBC, including the 3-MTPA Bhushan Power & Steel (BPSL), before he bagged Adhunik Metaliks (1 MTPA).

JSW, on the other hand, acquired BPSL. It has also lined up organic expansion, and combined with inorganic options, its capacity next year is likely to be around 27 MTPA. Through the organic route, JSW would have 23 MTPA; the rest would be inorganic, which includes BPSL and Monnet Ispat.

The industry is expecting NSP to generate interest from other investors as well, as most of the mega steel plants have already changed hands under the insolvency law. Rao, too, said there was not much left in India in the upstream or downstream.

Five stressed steel assets were auctioned under the IBC from the Reserve Bank of India's first list of non-performing assets (NPAs): Essar Steel, Bhushan Steel, Bhushan Power & Steel, Electrosteel Steels, and Monnet Ispat.

Among the bigger ones, Essar Steel (9.7 MTPA) was acquired jointly by ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel; Bhushan Steel (5 MTPA) by Tata Steel; and BPSL (3 MTPA) by JSW Steel. The BPSL case, however, is in the Supreme Court and is posted for final hearing on November 3.

Vedanta entered the steel sector with the acquisition of Electrosteel Steels. The stressed steel assets had fetched good valuations largely because greenfield projects in India are often marred by delays.

Priyesh Ruparelia, vice-president, co-head (corporate ratings), ICRA, explained, "Given that there is a paucity of steel capacity expansion projects in India currently and the fact that any fresh project announced now would take at least three to four years for completion, a sizeable fresh steel capacity would be attractive for domestic steel players. However, since most of these companies have a leveraged balance sheet at present, investment/capex requirements will be a key consideration."

Industry sources said a major game changer for the disinvestment process of NSP would be mine linkages.

Sources indicated that under NMDC, a Bailadila deposit with mineable reserves of up to 107.59 million tonnes was earmarked for the steel plant. Whether the buyer would be assured of a negotiated price for raw material linkages was not clear at this point, they added.

NSP is the only greenfield project slated for commissioning in the near term. The commissioning of the project got delayed due to Covid-19 pandemic.

"Because of the pandemic, foreign experts are unable to come. They have to come and certify before some of the packages are handed over," said a source.

As on July 14, 2020, the revised estimated cost of setting up NSP was Rs 23,140 crore. NMDC has invested Rs 17,186 crore in the project, of which Rs 16,662 crore is from NMDC's own funds and Rs 524 crore has been raised from the bond market. Once NSP is demerged, shareholders of NMDC will also be shareholders of the demerged company in proportion of their shareholding.

Srikalahasthi Pipes net falls 31% to ₹25 crore

Srikalahasthi Pipes Ltd. (formerly Lanco Industries) has posted standalone net profit of Rs.25 crore for the second quarter ended September against Rs.36 crore in the year-earlier period.The maker of ductile iron (DI) pipes had posted a net loss of Rs.8 crore during the first quarter following COVID-019-led lockdown. SPL produced 64,872 tonnes of DI Pipes against 77,407 tonnes. Total income contracted to Rs.414 crore from Rs.475 crore.

Normalcy has been resorted at the plant since September 2020 and it is functioning at full capacity. The company is having sufficient orders in hand, said G.S. Rathi, wholetime director, SPL. The on-going expansion projects in respect of commissioning of new blast furnace and creating DI pipes capacity of four lakh tonnes is on as per schedule, he said.

Copper futures fall on weak demand

Copper futures on Monday slipped by 90 paise to Rs 525.50 per kg as participants cut down their positions amid muted demand in domestic market. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, copper contracts for November delivery eased by 90 paise, or 0.17 per cent, to Rs 525.50 per kg in a business turnover of 4,845 lots. Analysts said trimming of positions by speculators due to muted demand in spot market mainly led to the fall in copper prices here.

Nickel futures slide on tepid demand

Nickel prices on Monday fell by 0.32 per cent to Rs 1,139.10 per kg in futures trade as participants offloaded their positions amid weak demand in spot market. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, nickel contracts for November delivery traded lower by Rs 3.60, or 0.32 per cent, at Rs 1,139.10 per kg with a business turnover of 1,717 lots. Analysts said subdued demand in spot market mainly led to the fall in nickel futures prices.

Zinc futures rise on spot demand

Zinc prices on Monday rose by 45 paise to Rs 202.25 per kg in futures trade tracking a firm trend in physical markets on the back of pick up in spot demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, zinc contracts for November delivery traded higher by 45 paise, or 0.22 per cent, at Rs 202.25 per kg with a business turnover of 3,139 lots. Marketmen said widening of positions by participants following pick up in demand from consuming industries kept zinc prices higher in futures trade.

Commercial coal mining: 1st day of auction sees strong competition

The auction of coal blocks for commercial mining which kickstarted on Monday saw Vedanta bidding the highest for a mine in Odisha, while Hindalco bid the most for a block in Jharkhand.

Vedanta made highest bid for Radhikapur West mine at 21 per cent revenue sharing, the coal ministry said in a statement.

Hindalco Industries bid the highest for Chakla coal mine in Jharkhand at 14.25 percent revenue sharing, it added.

With regard to MarkiMangli II mine in Maharashtra, Yazdani International big the highest at 30.75 per cent revenue sharing.

JMS Mining Pvt Ltd bid the highest for Urtan mine in Madhya Pradesh at 10.50 per cent revenue sharing, it said.

For Takli Jena Bellora North and Takli Jena Bellora South block in Maharashtra, Aurobindo Realty and Infrastructure Ltd made the highest bid of 30.75 per cent revenue sharing.

All the five blocks will generate an annual revenue of Rs 1,556.68 crore for the states, the ministry said.

The blocks put on auction by the ministry generated wide interest from bidders who had submitted their bids for various blocks on offer.

"The technical bids submitted were evaluated and the list of technically qualified bidders was declared. Pursuant to this, Ministry of Coal has commenced the electronic auction of the coal mines for commercial purpose today at 11:00 AM," it said.

The first day auction witnessed strong competition, with auction of some of the mines going on for more than three to four hours.

"In all the mines auctioned, the final offer received is above 10 per cent signalling strong demand of coal mines in the market," it noted.

Hindalco Industries, Adani Enterprises and Agarwal Mining were also in the race for the Chakla coal block.

In case of Radhikapur (West) coal block, besides Vedanta, Jindal Steel and Power Ltd and two other firms had put in bids.

In June, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the auction process for 41 coal blocks for commercial mining, a move that opens India's coal sector to private players, and termed it a major step in the direction of India achieving self-reliance. The auction of coal blocks for commercial mining is expected to garner Rs 33,000 crore of capital investment over the next five to seven years.

The launch of the auction process not only marks the beginning of unlocking of the country's coal sector from the lockdown of decades but aims at making India the largest exporter of coal, the prime minister had said.

Despite being the world's fourth-largest producer, India is the second-largest importer of the dry-fuel.

NMDC board to consider share buyback on Nov 10

State-owned mining major NMDC on Monday said its board will meet next week to consider a proposal for share buyback. The company said its board will also approve the financial result for the quarter ended September 30, 2020.

"A meeting of Board of Directors of the company is scheduled to be held on November 10, 2020...to consider the proposal for buyback of the fully paid-up equity shares of the company of face value of Rs 1 each," NMDC said in a regulatory filing. The firm did not give details of the proposal. Buyback is done with the objective of returning surplus cash to the holder of equity shares of the company. Shares of NMDC were trading 2.06 per cent higher at Rs 84.10 apiece on BSE.

Vedanta, Hindalco among winners of coal mine auctions

Vedanta Ltd and Hindalco Industries Ltd were among the first private companies chosen to operate coal mines in the country without end-use restrictions, the government said on Monday.

The world's second largest consumer of coal, India allocated 38 coal mines for auction to the private sector, offering financial incentives to attract investment and reduce imports.

The auctions are conducted in two stages, the first of which is the submission of a technical bid, evaluated by the coal ministry. The bidders who qualify then submit financial bids in which they detail what percentage of revenue would be paid to the government. No technical bids were received for 15 of the 38 mines.

On the first day of the auctions, final offers for 5 mines with an annual production capacity of 13.75 million tonnes ranged from 10.5% to 30.75%, the coal ministry said. Vedanta won the biggest mine with an annual production capacity of 6 million tonnes. "In all the mines auctioned, the final offer received is above 10% signalling strong demand of coal mines in the market," the coal ministry said.

Gold rises by ₹103; silver gains ₹793

Gold prices rose Rs.103 to Rs.51,286 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday supported by strong global trends and rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at Rs.51,183 per 10 gram in the previous trade. Silver also gained Rs.793 to Rs.62,155 per kilogram, from Rs.61,362 per kilogram in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24 karat in Delhi were up by Rs.103, supported by strong global gold prices and rupee depreciation," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

The rupee depreciated 32 paise and settled at 74.42 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday tracking strong American currency.

In the international market, gold traded with gains at USD 1,885 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.83 per ounce. Gold prices traded up despite stronger dollar amid uncertainty over US presidential elections and fear of more lockdown measures in Europe, he added.

Silver futures up on spot demand

Silver prices on Monday rose by Rs 712 to Rs 61,577 per kg in futures trade as participants widened their bets on firm spot demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, silver contracts for December delivery gained Rs 712, or 1.17 per cent, to Rs 61,577 per kg in 14,233 lots.

Analysts said the rise in silver prices was mostly due to fresh positions built up by participants on a positive domestic trend.

In the international market, silver was trading 1.48 per cent higher at USD 24 per ounce in New York.