

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN.

August 22, 2022 | Issue 3

# MIRA Updates.

#### A Tribute to Vimalbhai



MIRA pays tribute to Vimalbhai, well-known social and environmental activist, who passed away on August 15 because of severe complications related to lungs, liver, and kidney. Vimalbhai led several people's movements in India for more than four decades- from anti-dam and ecological movements to supporting basti-dwellers of Khorigaon, to helping anti-mining struggles in Rajasthan, being at the forefront of campaigns against hate and communal violence via Aman ki Pehel, to standing up for trans and queer rights, to supporting the release of political prisoners and asserting the right to self-determination of Kashmiris. Our deepest condolences!

Roundtable Discussion on Rajasthan's District Mineral Foundation Survey

<u>Findings</u>



One-day roundtable discussion to be held on August 29, 2022, in Jaipur, Rajasthan on the finding of the District Mineral Foundation Survey and Mine Workers Welfare Board, co-organised by Mine Labour Protection Campaign (MLPC) and Mineral Inheritors Rights Association (MIRA). <u>FLYER</u>

## Policy Updates.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)'s Mining Audit related updates:

<u>CAG to Audit PRI use of DMFT Money in Odisha</u>

CAG going to audit Mining with special focus on Illegal Mining in Uttar Pradesh

CAG to focus on auditing Mining Sector in Jharkhand during 2022-23

Updates from the Ministry of Mines:

'Industry consultation' on the issue of Utilization of Low and Lean Grade Iron Ore resources in the country

Public consultation on DMF & PMKKKY (Last date: 27th Aug 2022)

## India News.

#### Amended Policy For Long-Term Ore Linkage Approved By Odisha Govt

The Odisha government on Friday approved the amended policy for long-term ore linkage to industries through the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC)

#### <u>Vedanta-Iron and Steel signs MOU with IIT-B to develop technology for 'Green</u>

#### Steel' production

Vedanta-Iron and Steel business has partnered with IIT, Bombay for an R&D project to develop cost-effective technology for producing green-steel using hydrogen thereby targeting significant carbon footprint reduction in iron and steel space.

#### <u>Another Okay for New Biodiversity Bill Is a Reminder To Remember Its Dangers</u>

The report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was made public on August 2, 2022.

#### Centre proposes uniform tariff for renewable energy procurement by states

In a sweeping change, the Union Ministry of Power has proposed a uniform tariff for renewable energy (RE) procurement by states. This will apply to the projects offered by the Centre through SECI (the erstwhile Solar Energy Corporation of India), a Central government enterprise and nodal renewable projects tendering body.

#### Explained: Samudrayaan, India's First Manned Submersible To Study Unexplored

#### **Deep-Sea Areas**

India has launched the big ocean mission "Samudrayaan" in an effort to uncover the mysteries hidden within the deep sea. The nation intends to deploy a group of experts into the deep sea to conduct various deep underwater studies.

#### First coal mining took their homes. Now unemployment is adding to their

#### <u>suffering</u>

Jharia is among the oldest coal mining regions of India. Located in the Dhanbad district of Jharkhand, it is infamous for rampant underground fires and sinking land owing to the large deposits of coal beneath it.

#### India@75: How India helped shape international climate policy

It may be hard to believe looking around you, but India, sitting right at the bottom of the Environmental Protection Index, has played a critical role in the shaping of international environmental treaties.

On the occasion of the 75th Independence day, PM Modi in his Independence Day Speech from Red Fort, Delhi, spoke about India expanding the Deep Ocean Mission and Space Mission, while Indian Space Missions gets a lot of coverage, let us find out what the Indian Deep Ocean Mission or Samudrayaan mission is all about.

#### Power ministry for pausing emission control gear setup after phase-1

The power ministry has recommended implementation of emission control equipment in select power plants to observe the benefits before rolling out the estimated ₹2 lakh crore of investment in all projects that could raise electricity tariffs.

#### ONGC signs deal with ExxonMobil for deepsea exploration in India

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on Wednesday signed a Heads of Agreement (HoA) with global oil giant ExxonMobil Corp for exploration of oil and gas in the deepsea on the country's east and west coasts.

#### Over 107 coal mines to be made available for auction: Pralhad Joshi

The Centre on Wednesday said that the Ministry of Coal would soon make more than 107 coal blocks available for auction.

# <u>Black Flags Against Vizhinjam Project, Kerala Fishermen Hold Protests; Here's Why</u>

Fishermen had raised the black flags outside the construction site of Vizhinjam port, clamouring that their requests had not been met and many of their concerns were not addressed properly. Extending support to the protestors, the Latin Catholic Church has also demanded answers from the state government over the unmet demands.

#### Adani Power buys DB Power for Rs 7,000 crore

Gautam Adani-led Adani Power Ltd has agreed to buy the thermal power assets of DB Power Limited (DBPL) from Dainik Bhaskar Group for around Rs Rs 7,017 crore enterprise valuation, the company announced on Friday.

### बेरमो : ONGC के खिलाफ विस्थापितों ने दिया धरना, जल्द मांग पूरी नहीं हुई तो उग्र आंदोलन

गोमिया प्रखंड अंतर्गत हजारी पंचायत के खुदगड्ढा गांव के निकट ONGC प्लांट के सामने स्थानीय विस्थापित बेरोजगार संघर्ष समिति ने एक दिवसीय धरना दिया.

### International News.

**Exclusive: Shocking figures reveal severity of the ocean crisis** 

The analysis also reveals that to protect 30% of the oceans by 2030, the minimum scientists say is needed to give them a chance to heal, 11 million square kilometres of ocean must be protected annually between now and 2030, an area larger than the whole United States.

# Pacific nations are extraordinarily rich in critical minerals. But mining them may take a terrible toll

Plundering the Pacific for its rich natural resources has a long pedigree. Think of the European companies strip-mining Nauru for its phosphate and leaving behind a moonscape.

#### **Leaders make fifth attempt to pass UN Oceans Treaty**

World leaders will meet at the UN in New York later for more talks to save the world's oceans from overexploitation. The UN High Seas Treaty has been through 10 years of negotiations but has yet to be signed.

#### Campaigners call on UN Women to pull out of BlackRock partnership

The UN agency responsible for promoting gender equality is being urged to pull out of a partnership with BlackRock, the world's biggest investment fund manager, over the company's "record of prioritising profits over human rights or environmental integrity".

#### THE METALS COMPANY: From Riches to Rags... to Penny Stocks?

This marks a further deterioration in the company's financial status which has seen its share price fall from over \$12 after it listed almost a year ago to \$0.99 at close of business yesterday. Before the merger that launched it, TMC boasted it would be worth \$2.9 billion, but today only has a market capitalisation of around \$225 million.

#### The Guardian view on rare earths: mining them can't cost the Earth

Rare earth elements may be in short supply but they are not rare. Even the rarest, thulium, is more than 100 times more common than gold. But only a few countries - such as the US, Australia and Brazil - contain deposits substantial enough to mine.

#### From resistance to power: Building climate justice in Colombia

Colombia's new government was formed in the grassroots organisations of its most

marginalised people. Now it must translate one of the world's boldest climate justice platforms into policy. Progressives around the world should watch closely.

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