

IRON ORE

The Simandou iron ore project in Guinea is set to significantly reshape global seaborne iron ore market dynamics, according to Wood Mackenzie, emerging as the largest driver of supply growth over the next decade. Rather than simply adding new volumes, Simandou's high-grade output is expected to displace higher-cost production, altering the global cost curve and intensifying competition based on both quality and efficiency. The project is also likely to accelerate the shift toward premium-grade raw materials, supported by structural trends such as steel sector decarbonization and increased demand for cleaner inputs. While the short-term impact on established producers—particularly in Australia—may be limited due to blending advantages, competitive pressure is expected to increase over time, especially for lower-grade suppliers, as Africa becomes an increasingly important and diversified source of iron ore supply. (Steelorbis.com)

India's state-run miner NMDC Limited reported a strong operational performance in March 2026, with iron ore production reaching 5.35 million mt, marking a sharp 50.7 percent increase year on year. Sales during the month also rose significantly to 5.90 million mt, up 40 percent compared to the same period last year. On an annual basis, the company achieved record output of 53.15 million mt in fiscal year 2025–26, reflecting a 21 percent rise year on year, while total sales climbed 13 percent to 50.23 million mt, highlighting robust growth and sustained demand in India's iron ore sector. (Steelorbis.com)

COAL

State-owned Coal India Ltd plans to offer 25.62 million tonnes of coal through online auction in the current month, a move expected to mitigate the impact of energy supply shocks on industries amid the West Asia crisis. The disruptions in LNG, LPG and crude oil supplies from West Asia have increased demand for coal, driving up its import prices. Coal India had offered 32.532 million tonnes of coal through e-auction in March against 20.5 million tonnes in February this year. The state-run coal producer plans to offer coal through the Single Window Mode Agnostic (SWMA) auction. SWMA auction is a unified, simplified e-auction system launched in 2022 to consolidate multiple existing auction windows (Spot, Special Spot, Forward) into a single platform, making coal procurement easier, more transparent, and market-driven for all buyers. (thehindubusinessline.com)

Coal India's sales in March grew for the first time in six months, the company said on Wednesday, indicating a ramp-up in coal stocks ahead of peak summer amid a shortfall in gas supply due to the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran. Coal India's offtake, or sales to customers, rose 0.7% to 69.5 million tons in March, despite a 1.5% drop in its provisional output to 84.5 million tons, the company said in a stock exchange filing. (Reuters)

GRAIN

Recent developments in global grain markets point to a shifting supply outlook driven by input costs and planting decisions. U.S. farmers are expected to reduce corn acreage to around 95 million acres while increasing soybean plantings to roughly 85 million acres, largely due to elevated fertilizer prices linked to geopolitical disruptions, including the Iran conflict (Reuters, WSJ). At the same time, U.S. wheat planting is projected to fall to its lowest level on record, reflecting weak profitability and high input costs (WSJ). Although global grain inventories remain relatively high—helping to cap prices in the short term—markets are increasingly volatile as fertilizer shortages, weather risks, and geopolitical uncertainty raise concerns about future yields and tighter supply conditions (Business Insider, DTN, Agriculture.com).

OIL

India's imports of Russian crude oil jumped by 90% in March versus February, following the major supply disruption in the Middle East and the U.S. waiver of purchases of Russian crude already loaded on tankers. Following subdued purchases between November and February, India's imports of Russian crude soared last month by 90%, although overall Indian crude imports slumped by 15% due to the de facto closed Strait of Hormuz, The Times of India reported on Friday, citing data from Kpler. While crude supply to India from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) plunged in March compared to February, deliveries from one of Africa's top producers, Angola, tripled, although the share of Angolan crude remains small, the data showed. (Oilpro)

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