

## Weekly News Bulletin

### 4<sup>th</sup> January – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026

#### Alcircle

##### [NALCO and CSIR-NML collaborate on the first-ever scandium recovery initiative from red mud recycling](#)

Advancing towards a sustainable future, CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory (CSIR-NML) has partnered with National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) to upgrade its indigenously developed red mud recycling technology to a giant 10-tonne-per-day (TPD) pilot plant. Stemming from the rising demand for scandium and the persistent need to rehabilitate red mud. The signed agreement would play a transformative role in sustainable aluminium production, enabling the extraction of alumina, iron, titania and scandium oxide from other critical minerals in bauxite residue and red mud.

#### Financial Times

##### [EU recycling backfires as Chinese buyers snap up aluminium scrap](#)

Novelis executive says European metal sector in terminal decline despite consumers willing to pay more for recycled products. The EU's recycling system is being weaponised against the bloc by Chinese buyers snapping up aluminium scrap, smelting it and exporting it back to Europe as newly produced metal, according to the industry's largest recycler.

#### Alcircle

##### [LME aluminium contract crosses \\$3000/t as supply deficit deepens with China's 45-MT cap, smelter cuts, and US tariffs](#)

Tightened supply outlook and long-term demand bets have taken the three-month LME aluminium contract to USD 3,015.50 per tonne for the first time in more than three years, as of Friday, January 2, 2026. Perhaps, this is the beginning of price rally as projected by many market analysts for 2026. China's self-imposed 45-million-tonne cap on primary aluminium production, trade restrictions driven by tariffs, and smelter shutdowns caused by prolonged energy crises have constrained global supply of the metal. Meanwhile, demand remains resilient, creating a widening gap that has set the stage for a price surge.

#### Moneycontrol

##### [China output cap, tight supply and energy transition may keep aluminium prices on upward trajectory this year: Analysts](#)

Aluminium prices in domestic and global markets are expected to keep an upward trajectory this year as China's output cap restricts supply while energy-transition demand from electric vehicles, renewables and infrastructure continues to underpin the market, analysts said.

## Alcircle

### [Global bauxite production refused to blink in 2025, leading to an output exceeding 475 MT](#)

The global bauxite production for 2025 stands at an estimated 475-480 million tonnes, as per AL Circle research. The year has seen it all. From sanctions to initiations, hikes to deflations and a series of volatilities hitting the industry over and over. But the bauxite industry has pushed through all obstacles and maintained the year's forecast. What all shaped the industry last year? Here's a list of major to minor incidents that influenced global bauxite 2025.

## Alcircle

### [Alumina production costs continue to decline in December yet nearly half of plants face cash cost pressure](#)

In December, the national weighted average full cost of alumina fell by 1.93 per cent month-on-month. Key factors driving the cost down included a weaker US dollar exchange rate, lower [caustic](#) soda prices, and a slight decline in thermal coal prices. According to SMM statistics, the monthly average alumina index price in December was RMB 2,722 per tonne. Based on this average, nearly 40 per cent – 50 per cent of alumina plants had cash costs higher than the monthly average price, indicating significantly increased operational pressure on enterprises.