



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Per. untholaiyar Kamarajar"

# Copper: Strategic Mineral Price Surge

Published On: 02-01-2026

**In the News:** Copper prices reached an all-time high of over **\$12,500 per tonne** on the London Metal Exchange (LME) in late December 2025, driven by supply chain constraints and the energy transition.

## The "Doctor Copper" Phenomenon

- **Economic Barometer:** Copper is known as "Dr. Copper" because its price is a leading indicator of global economic health due to its use in almost all sectors.
- **Supply Scarcity:** Factors include mining disruptions in **Chile and Panama**, combined with a "rush" to stock metal in the US ahead of potential tariff changes.
- **Demand Drivers:** The global push for **Electric Vehicles (EVs)** and **Renewable Energy** (wind/solar) requires 4–5 times more copper than traditional fossil fuel systems.

## India's Strategic Position

- **Import Dependency:** India is a net importer of copper ore. High prices impact India's **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** and the cost of the **National Infrastructure Pipeline**.
- **Policy Focus:** Mention the **Critical Minerals Mission** aimed at securing overseas copper assets (e.g., in the "Copper Belt" of Zambia and DRC).

**Kamaraj IAS Academy**

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthy Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477** / Whatsapp : **09710729833**