नहीं सुन पा रहा है अवैध खानन

प्रियवान संयुक्तदल @ गैवत

राजस्थान की सीमाओं से हटाने हुए भेजता की अंशकी मार्ग का दिन, खानन का सार्वजनिक एवं प्रकाशन के बीच गूहा-लिला का स्थान नहीं है। कुछ खानन मामलों द्वारा बाहरी में अवैध खानन करने वाले, पर मास्त को प्रकाशन द्वारा जागरूकता के कारण ज्ञात किया जा रहा है। उन्हें संयुक्त विभाग के साथ आयुक्त रूप से जोड़ा जाना चाहिए। अब तक देखा गया है कि इन मामलों के लिए उन्हें अपनी दायित्व सम्बन्धी भावना ही फिर से जागरूक कर दिया जाना चाहिए।

जान हो कि भेजता के गांव रवि की अंशकी मार्ग के साथ ही राजस्थान के नागरिक गांव का पाप है। उनमें खानन करने के लिए राजस्थान सरकार ने कुछ लोगों को जीवन पर अपराध लाना कर दिया है।

इसी एवं गांव में कुछ लोगों ने अपनी दायित्व सम्बन्धी भावना के बि-रा राजस्थान में अवैध खानन करने के लिए उन्हें अपनी दायित्व सम्बन्धी भावना के बारे में जागरूक कर दिया।

कांटे घाटन

कांटे घाटन का अपराध अभियान तीसरे सप्ताह के साथ ही राजस्थान के नागरिक गांव का पाप है। उनमें खानन करने के लिए राजस्थान सरकार ने कुछ लोगों को जीवन पर अपराध लाना कर दिया है।

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गंगा में खंन के मामले ने तूल पकड़ा
OZ BOARD CLEARS NMDC’S BID TO BUY STAKE IN LEGACY

Hyderabad, Dec. 9: Australian company Legacy on Friday said it has got the government’s approval for NMDC’s proposal to acquire 50 per cent stake in the company. State-run NMDC had earlier said it would invest $18.9 million to acquire 50 per cent interest in Legacy, a Perth-based iron ore explorer.

“It is pleasing to receive this notification (from Foreign Investment Review Board), which is one further positive step completed towards formalising NMDC’s investment into the company,” Legacy managing director Ms Sharon Heng, said in a statement.

“The Board of Legacy met with NMDC officials during the week, and was encouraged that both parties could agree on a path forward to advance Legacy and increase value for all shareholders,” she added.

India’s largest iron ore miner, NMDC had inked an MoU with Legacy to acquire 50 per cent equity in the Australian firm. Legacy will hold an extraordinary general meeting on December 16 to seek shareholders’ approval for NMDC’s proposed stake acquisition. NMDC and Legacy will jointly develop Mt Bevan iron ore project in Western Australia.

PP
Hindalco’s Novelis to spend ₹1,820 cr on Korea deal
Korean subsidiary to focus on Asia, North Africa

BS REPORTER
Mumbai, 9 December

Atlanta-based Novelis Inc, part of the Aditya Birla group’s Hindalco Industries, Asia’s largest integrated aluminium and copper producer, has raised debt of $235 million (₹1,170 crore) to complete the purchase of its Korean subsidiary. It will pay $125 million (₹650 crore) cash to seal the deal.

The stake purchase of 31.2 percent in Novelis Korea will raise Novelis Inc’s holding to nearly 100 percent. Novelis is the world’s largest recycler of aluminium cans used by beverage companies. The Korean subsidiary will service the Asian and North African markets.

"Our decision to buy out the minority shareholders in Novelis Korea represents another key step in Novelis’ strategy to prepare for future growth in Asia," said Phil Martens, president and chief executive of Novelis.

Through Novelis, Hindalco is trying to capture the upstream market of value added aluminium products such as beverage cans. Novelis also makes aluminium for cars.

Novelis plans to invest between $500-600 million (roughly ₹3,120 crore) in its global expansion plans in the current year.

Most of this capital expenditure is happening in its Brazilian and Asian rolling mill expansion, strategic automotive capacity increase in North America and recycling initiatives across its plants. In its Pinda plant in Brazil, Novelis is spending $300 million (₹1,560 crore) over the next two years to expand the aluminium rolling capacity by over 50 per cent.

In Asia, apart from the 31.2 percent stake to make Novelis Korea a complete Novelis subsidiary, the company is also spending $400 million (₹2,080 crore) in its aluminium rolling and recycling plants. The total capacity to make aluminium sheets in Korea will increase to 1,000 kilo tonnes per year in FY13, raising Novelis’ aluminium sheet capacity in Asia by more than 50 per cent.

Novelis’ can-body plant of Rotherstone, UK, is being shifted to India. The machinery has been transported to Hindalco’s Hirakud plant and it is scheduled to start in early 2012.
Input crisis hits sponge iron makers

Small units closing down, big ones cut output; sector wants revival of infrastructure spending

DILIP KUMAR JHA
Mumbai, 9 December

Sponge iron producers across the country are facing a severe raw material crisis in the wake of a nationwide crackdown on illegal mining.

Around 250 mini and medium-size independent sponge iron producers across the country have shut their units, while large ones have cut output by 30-40 per cent. The worst hit are those with annual capacity of up to 60,000 tonnes.

The badly affected units are dependent on iron ore and coal supply from elsewhere. When both availability and price vary, margins get squeezed.

"Today, margins for sponge iron units are virtually nil. Some are continuing business despite losses, due to lack of other opportunities," said Amitabh Mudgal, vice-president, marketing and corporate affairs of Monnet Ispat.

Large-size manufacturers are also facing problems, though from the consumption sector. Steel mills are falling to lift contracted quantities due to a slowing of demand from the construction and infrastructure sectors. "In April-September, the steel industry witnessed a mere 1.8 per cent growth in demand, negligible when compared to the 6.9 per cent growth of gross domestic product (GDP). Ideally, steel demand growth should have been par with GDP. The poor performance indicates a slowdown in housing and construction sectors," said an analyst.

The biggest worry is lack of spending on new projects. The government, say industry sources, has kept new funding on infrastructure depressed.

Also, latest data show that along with a slowing in the fast moving consumer goods sector, automobile sales have taken a hit, reducing the consumption of flat steel. The demand for long steel was already in bad shape, due to the lack of fresh initiatives in infrastructure and housing. Fresh investment in this sector has taken a beating due to high interest rates.

The hope for revival is the 12th five-year Plan, in which the government has proposed $1 trillion of spending on infrastructure. Hence, the sponge iron industry may see a turnaround only next year, said Mudgal.

Meanwhile, the price of sponge iron has fallen by five to seven per cent in the past month, to $22.500 a tonne. Capacity addition is expected to gather pace in the next two years. Around 2.28 million tonnes is expected to be commissioned in 2011-12 and another 1.35 mt in 2012-13. This will push up the country’s total sponge iron manufacturing capacity to 38.3 mt by March 2013.

POOR DEMAND TOO: In April-September, the steel industry witnessed a mere 1.8 per cent growth in demand, compared to the 6.9 per cent growth of gross domestic products.
लिगेसी सौदे के लिए एनएमडीसी को मंजूरी

सार्वजनिक उपक्रम नेशनल मिन्सल एक्स्प्रेसन कोर्पोरेशन (एनएमडीसी) द्वारा ऑफरिंग की लिगेसी में 50 परसेंट हिस्सेदारी खरीदने को ऑफरिंग के फॉर्म एफएलएमएच शेयर बोर्ड (एनएमडीसी) के मंजूरी दी गई। इसमें एनएमडीसी ने कहा कि यह ऑफरिंग को लौट-अस्थक रहने वाली कंपनी हिस्सेदारी में 50 परसेंट हिस्सेदारी का अधिग्रहण करने हेतु आरोपित व्यक्ति एनएमडीसी के बुनाकर यह संदर्भ 1.89 लाख यूनिट का है।

इस बार में लिगेसी की उम्मीद रायें टेंडर 24 दिन का एक वक्ता में कहा कि एनएमडीसी द्वारा यह संदर्भ 24 दिन के लिए चालू रहे हुए हैं इसमें साथ ही एनएमडीसी द्वारा कंपनी में निवेश सुरक्षित रहने की दिशा में हम एक परमाणु और नीतियों आदि के हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि इस संदर्भ लिगेसी के बोर्ड द्वारा एनएमडीसी के अधिकारियों ने यह व्यक्ति को दोहरी है, लेकिन उन्होंने दोहरी की ही पहले की अधिक नहीं दी। इसके बाद लौट-अस्थक का जानकारी निष्कर्ष करने वाली कंपनी को घोषित करने पर रखी है।

भारत में लौट-अस्थक का जानकारी निष्कर्ष करने वाली कंपनी के लिए एनएमडीसी ने कहा है यह संदर्भ 24 दिन के लिए चालू रहे हैं।
NMDC gets Australia board nod on Legacy

Hyderabad: Australia’s Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) has cleared
The state-run NMDC Ltd's proposal to acquire a 50% stake in Legacy Iron Ore Ltd. The Indian iron ore producer and exporter had earlier said it would invest $18.9 million in order to acquire a 50% interest in Legacy, a Perth-based iron ore explorer. "It is pleasing to receive this notification (from FIRB), which is one further positive step completed towards formalizing NMDC's investment into the company," Legacy managing director Sharon Heng said in a statement. PTI
Krishna, HDK, Dharam in FIR on illegal mining

Lokayukta special court orders probe

BANGALORE/NEW DELHI: Trouble arrived for External Affairs Minister S M Krishna as the Karnataka Lokayukta police registered a First Information Report (FIR) against him over allegations that he indulged in corruption in illegal mining and caused loss to the exchequer.

In the same FIR, the names of two other former Karnataka chief ministers Dharam Singh and H D Kumaraswamy have also been included for their alleged roles in promoting illegal mining in the State. The FIR was filed on the orders of the Special Lokayukta Court in Bangalore.

The court directed the Lokayukta police to investigate the allegations made in a private complaint filed by T J Abraham, regional director of the NGO, Y's Men International and a businessman, stating that the former chief ministers—Krishna is External Affairs Minister—along with 11 officials were responsible for indulging in corruption in illegal mining and causing loss to the exchequer.

A special team headed by Lokayukta SP of Tumkur S M Jagadeesh Prasad will conduct the State-wide probe.

The Special Lokayukta Court has sought a report on the case on January 6. The police lodged the FIR under Prevention of Corruption Act, the Karnataka Forest Act and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act. The complaint accuses Krishna of committing illegalities in relation to granting of leases for mining in Karnataka during his tenure as the chief minister between October 1999 and May 2004. As far as the others are concerned, the complaint points out that no action has been taken, even though they have been implicated in the first and second report on illegal mining submitted to the government by former Lokayukta Santhosh Hegde.

In New Delhi, Krishna refute the allegations, saying he had no role in issuing licences for mining as chief minister and expressed confidence that the judiciary will put to rest “unholy attempts” at his character assassination.

> Complaint, Page 13
Krishna, HDK, Dharam in FIR on mining

Official named in the complaint

- Gangaram Baderiya (IAS): Caused a loss of Rs 1.26 crore during his tenure as Secretary (Mines), Commerce and Industries in 2005
- V Umesh (IAS): Caused a loss of Rs 6.90 crore as MD, MML from 1999 to 2000
- I R Perumal (IAS): Caused a loss of Rs 5.02 crore as MD, MML from 2000 to 2002
- K S Manjunath (IAS) (Retd): Caused a loss of Rs 4.04 crore as MD, MML in 2002-03
- D S Ashwath (IAS) (Retd): Caused a loss of Rs 95.23 crore as MD, MML in 2003-04
- Jija Madhavan Hari Singh (IPS) (Retd): Caused a loss of Rs 299.42 crore as MD, MML from 2004 to 2006
- Mahendra Jain (IAS): Caused a loss of Rs 219.56 crore as MD, MML from 2006 to 2008
- Dr Basappa Reddy (Retd): Causing a loss of Rs 6.41 crore as Director Mines and Geology
- K Srinivas (Retd): Causing a loss of Rs 14.84 as Dy GM of MML from 2000 to 2005
- M Ramappa (Retd): Causing a loss of Rs 6.10 crore as Dy GM of MML from 2003 to 2004
- Shankarlingaiah: Causing a loss of Rs 63.38 crore as Dy GM of MML from 2004-07

Complaint, from Page 1

The External Affairs minister said: “I find from media reports that a private complaint has been filed in the Hon’ble Court dealing with Lokayukta cases in Bangalore. I am given to understand that allegations have been made against me, two other ex-chief ministers and a number of officers.” Krishna said while his legal team would take “appropriate action at the appropriate time”, he considered it necessary to clarify matters as “silence on my part would give rise to speculation.” Krishna stated: “I wish to point out that I never retained the portfolio of Mines and Geology. Further, to the best of my knowledge, no mining licence was issued during my tenure.”

According to the complaint, during his tenure as chief minister Krishna illegally amassed wealth in the name of his family members, including his children and in-laws, and also in the names of his erstwhile close Cabinet colleagues in return for de-reserving forest land for private companies. In one case, an agreement with Kalyani Ferrous required Mysore Minerals Limited (MML) to pay an interest of 10 per cent on the advance amount paid by Kalyani, even though such an agreement was not to be found with other companies. It also indicates losses of Rs 25.72 crores caused to MML due to its mining agreement with Vijayanagar Mines Private Limited and Jindal.

De-reserving forest land

In yet another case, Krishna is accused of de-reserving thousands of acres of forest lands in Bellary and other places and sanctioning it to 10 private companies in 2003, despite opposition from the then Minister of Forests and the Secretary of the Forests Department. The complaint further states following the de-reservation, 32 mining permits were issued in 2004 and 89 permits were issued in 2006 and were the precursor to the large scale illegal mining that was traced in the Lokayukta reports.

The complaint accuses Dharam Singh of issuing temporary transport permits for movement of iron ore and manganese ore from agricultural lands not held under mining lease and violating rules. This has resulted in a loss of Rs 23.22 crore. It also states that the money obtained was directed towards investments in properties acquired by Dharam Singh’s family.

H D Kumaraswamy is accused of approving illegal mining licence to Sai Venkateshwara Minerals in Bellary and renewing the lease of Jantakal Enterprises in Chitradurga illegally. The complaint accuses him of diverting the illegal money obtained through these favours, in the name of H D Balakrishna, his elder brother who is already the subject of another private complaint for amassing wealth disproportionate to his income.

DH News Service
India, US aluminium bodies sign pact

Our Bureau
Hyderabad, Dec. 9
The Aluminium Association of India and its US counterpart, The Aluminium Association, concluded an MoU to promote the use of metal in emerging sectors on the concluding day of the three-day INCAL here on Thursday.

"The MoU will be promoting the benefits of the metal in three key sectors, transportation, packaging and construction. The two bodies will also interact on other issues related to the metal such as market information and safety practices," Prof K.S.S. Murthy, AAI’s Hon General Secretary, said.

The memorandum will also facilitate exchanging of information on effective recycling of the metal in these sectors.

While the US is the fourth largest producer of the metal and the second largest consumer, India is the eighth largest producer and fifth largest consumer.

"The MoU will also help increase per capita consumption of the metal in India," he said.

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Global demand for aluminium may touch 75 mt by 2020

China, India and Brazil to drive demand, says industry forum

Our Bureau
Hyderabad, Dec. 9
The demand for primary aluminium is set to touch 75 million tonnes by 2020, primarily with India, China and Brazil emerging as the new growth centres for aluminium-based products.

In 2010, the production of the metal globally had increased to 40 million tonnes. In addition to this, 10 mt of the metal came from recycling industrial scrap and another 10 mt was produced through recycling of the metal.

“The 20 million tonnes of re-cycled metal will remain stagnant and, in fact, reduce over the years. There will be a strong demand for primary aluminium from China, India and Brazil, as the construction, electrification and manufacturing sectors are growing at a healthy pace,” according to Mr Chris Bayliss, Director of Global Projects, International Aluminium Institute (IAI).

DOMESTIC DEMAND UP
While China continues to remain the top aluminium producer and consumer in the world, the demand for the metal touched its peak in India last year with a 11-per cent growth, although per capita consumption here is amongst the lowest in the world.

However, there are concerns relating to production of 75 million tonnes of aluminium by 2020, as capacity addition has been very poor over the last few years, Mr Bayliss said on the sidelines of the INCAL meet here on Thursday. “China had initially decided to cap smelting capacity because of various reasons. But now we hear that they will reverse that decision. Only China has the capability to add smelting capacity in quick time,” he noted.

The IAI expects additional smelting capacity to be added in Western Africa to the tune of five mt and India with two mt in the next five years. “But we still face a deficit of about 28 mt,” he said.

Supply of bauxite, the primary mineral for aluminium production, is another area of concern, as mining has not been developed at the desired pace. “Indonesia may not be in a position to supply adequate bauxite to China, as it has major plans for smelting aluminium on its own to meet its domestic demand. This can be a problem unless China finds new sources of the mineral. The bauxite reserves in China are likely to last for another decade,” Mr Bayliss pointed out.

Against this background, mining firms are pushing for expanding operations in Australia, India and West Africa.

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NMDC production up

NMDC Ltd’s iron ore production in November rose 23% from a year ago to 2.32 million tonnes (mt), a source said. NMDC’s output in the month was good because weather in Oct-Nov was favourable and there were no disruptions in the company’s mining operations, the source said.
Copper advances on speculation over Chinese move to curb inflation

Bloomberg Dec. 9
Copper rose in London, trimming a weekly decline, on speculation top global consumer China might take more steps to stoke growth after inflation slowed and industrial production climbed less than forecast.
Copper for three-month delivery increased 1.8 per cent to $7,848 a tonne by 11:21 a.m. on the London Metal Exchange. Copper for March delivery rose 1.8 per cent to $3,561.5 a pound on the COMEX in New York.
Copper stockpiles monitored by the LME fell 0.3 per cent to 386,075 tonnes, capping a 10th weekly drop. Inventories in Asian warehouses, down 10 per cent this month, shrank for a 21st week in 22. Orders to draw copper from LME stocks, or cancelled warrants, declined 7.4 per cent to 22,900 tonnes.
Aluminium for three-month delivery on the LME climbed 0.8 per cent to $2,082 a tonne. Inventories gained 43,000 tonnes, the most since Aug. 19, to 4.59 million tonnes. Lead gained 0.8 per cent to $2,120 a tonne and nickel increased 0.7 per cent to $18,428 a tonne. Zinc rose 1.3 per cent to $2,010 a tonne and the advanced 0.5 per cent to $20,250 a tonne.