Public offers of big-ticket PSUs to be advanced

With bourses doing well, govt plans to move larger issues ahead to get better valuations and attract more interest

Surabhi

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

KEEN to cash in on the ongoing bull run in the stock markets, the government is planning to push forward disinvestment of big ticket public sector firms. As per the plan being finalised by the department of disinvestment, the initial public offer by Coal India Ltd is likely to be followed by offers by Power Grid Corporation, Steel Authority of India Ltd and Hindustan Copper Ltd over the next two months till December. Issues by other state run firms including Manganese Ore India Ltd and Shipping Corporation of India are expected to be pushed to the next calendar year starting January 2011.

"The bourses are doing well and the government is obviously keen to capitalise on this. The idea is to move the larger issues ahead so that they can get better valuations and attract more interest," a merchant banker involved in managing one of the PSU issues said.

The Rs 16,000 crore initial public offer of Coal India Ltd is scheduled between October 18 and 21, where the government will disinvest 10 per cent of its equity. The FPO of steel major SAIL is expected to raise Rs 8,000 crore through the sale of 5 per cent government stake and 5 per cent fresh equity and that by PowerGrid is also expected to raise a similar amount. "These are all large issues and the government will obviously try to ensure that they do well as it is in need of money," another banker said, referring to the Rs 40,000 crore target set from disinvestment proceeds in 2010-11.

Led by the heavy buying by foreign institutional investors, the Bombay Stock Exchange's 30-share sensitive Sensex has breached the 20,000 level. Public sector Hindustan Copper Ltd and Manganese Ore India recently filed their draft red herring prospectus with the market regulator Sebi, indicating their keenness to launch their public offers soon.

"The favourable market conditions are a good omen and though there is no set calendar, public offers by a few large PSUs will hit the market by December," a disinvestment department official said. While the Centre is also planning to divest equity in oil majors ONGC and Indian Oil, their public offers could be early next year as they are yet to get Cabinet and regulatory approvals in place.

Recently, SAIL chairman CS Verma had said, "We are planning to go for the FPO by early December as it will be winter vacation thereafter. In case we miss the deadline, we'll try to bring it by January or early February."
Sesa Goa’s Cairn open offer unlikely by October 11

Vedanta group company Sesa Goa’s proposed open offer to non-promoter shareholders in Cairn India may not open on October 11 as planned earlier as necessary approvals are still awaited, Vedanta group executives said.

Vedanta Resources said on Thursday its investments in India could be $2 billion less in the next two years than earlier thought as the Centre’s decision to deny approval to mine bauxite in Orissa’s Niyamgiri hills has forced the group to put its expansion plans on hold.

The group had plans to invest up to $8-10 billion in India over a period of time. It is now in talks with the Orissa government for allocation of new bauxite deposits, the group stated in London while announcing production details for the first half of the fiscal.

Vedanta group CEO M S Mehta said at a conference call that putting expansion plans on hold in the aluminium sector will have an impact of up to $2 billion on capital expenditure. “It will have an impact of between $1.5 billion and $2 billion in two years... these numbers are very tentative as of now; these numbers will be developing as we go forward,” Mehta said.

“Since final clearance was not granted for bauxite mining at Niyamgiri, we have reviewed our capital expenditure programme. Accordingly, further work on the refinery expansion project has been put on hold, and the first metal tapping at the 1.25 mtpa Jharsuguda-4 smelter and the 325 ktpa Korba smelter projects is also being temporarily deferred,” Vedanta Resources PLC stated in London. The delay in Sesa Goa’s open offer to Cairn India shareholders for 20% interest is because the company is yet to get clearance from capital market regulator Sebi. Vedanta Resources is acquiring 40 to 51% stake in Cairn India through a combination of stake purchase from UK-based Cairn Energy Plc and an open offer to non-promoter shareholders.

Sesa Goa had on August 17 approached Sebi for the clearance. “It is not likely that we will be able to launch the open offer for Cairn India by October 11. We are still awaiting Sebi clearances,” PTI quoted Sesa Goa managing director P K Mukherjee as saying. "The deal, worth $9.6 billion including the open offer, hinges on completing the open offer. If Sesa Goa acquires only 11% through the offer, then Cairn Energy would sell more shares to Vedanta to complete 51% acquisition in Cairn India. The UK parent is holding a shareholder meet in Edinburgh on Thursday to ratify the deal. Sesa Goa is offering a price of Rs 355 a share, Rs 50 less than what Vedanta is paying Cairn Energy for the majority stake. Vedanta recorded growth in mineral output from its various verticals including Vedanta Aluminium, Sterlite, Hindustan Zinc and Sesa Goa in the first six months of this fiscal.”
The Indian Express, Delhi
Monday, 11th October 2010, Page: 18

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Sept gold import soars 30 pc

MUMBAI: Skyrocketing price has not deterred India’s love for the gold as imports have zoomed 30 per cent to 34.8 tonne in September over the previous month. In August, gold import stood at 26.8 tonne, as per data given by the Bombay Bullion Association. “Even as gold is trading over Rs 19,000 per 10 grams, the demand has gone up on the back of the ongoing festive season,” Bombay Bullion association director Suresh Hundia said.
Chile reinforces shaft for miners' escape

Chilean rescuers on Sunday reinforced an escape shaft to hoist 33 miners to freedom two months after they were trapped deep underground in a cave-in, as a stunning survival story that gripped the world nears its climax. Engineers finished drilling a nearly 2,000 foot-long (600-meter) shaft just wider than a man's shoulders to evacuate the men, and the miners used explosives to make room for a special capsule dubbed "Phoenix" that will hoist them one at a time to the surface. Spontaneous celebrations broke out across Chile on Saturday as news of the drilling breakthrough spread, with horns honking in the capital Santiago and flags waved in towns across a country still recovering from the ravages of a massive February 27 earthquake.
NEW MINING RULES TO CREATE NATIONAL AND STATE FUNDS

SUDHEER PAL SINGH
New Delhi, 10 October

Sharing of 26 per cent of annual profits by mining companies with tribes is not the only legislative measure proposed in the Bill being finalised by the 10-member Group of Ministers (GoM) after discussions spanning six months. A final meeting of the GoM is likely soon to approve the draft.

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2010, the text of which has now been finalised by the GoM, headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, has provision also for creation of funds, at both national and state level, to check illegal mining and ensure investment in local development for areas affected by mining operations.

For creation of a National Mineral Fund (NMF), the government will levy a cess on major minerals. “The central government shall establish a fund to be called the National Mineral Fund. The proceeds of the cess levied shall first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the central government may, if Parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf so provides, credit such proceeds to the National Mineral Fund from time to time,” states Section 50 of the draft.

The cess to be credited to the fund will be levied as excise duty where the ore is sold to an end-user and as customs duty where the ore is exported, at a rate which will not be increased more than once in five years. There are provisions in the revised draft for creation of a similar fund in each state. The proceeds from the NMF will be utilised for various purposes including prevention of illegal mining through commissioning of surveys, making grants for whistle-blower is a person who provides credible information of illegal mining.”

The state-level fund will also be channelised for financial assistance to the District Mineral Foundation. Which, in turn, will make payments of monetary benefits on a monthly or quarterly basis to all members of families affected by mining operations.

After its introduction in the winter session of the Parliament, the Bill is likely to go to a standing committee of both Houses for further deliberation. Private sector mining companies are already opposing the 26 per cent profit sharing provision. The Tatas, for instance, which run the private sector giant, Tata Steel, had recently said the government should not charge the profit shared as separate tax, as social obligation forms a part of the operating cost of the company.

The new mining legislation also has provision for setting up a central regulator for the mining sector to check the rampant illegal mining practices in India.
एचसी के खदान की बोली

भ्रमणसारी सर्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी हिंदुस्तान कॉफ़्फ़्र ने राजस्थान के सीकर-सिशंका बालिकावही-भी-भाषण में कॉफ़्फ़्र खदान के लिए निविदा आमंत्रित की है। निविदा के जरिए, कंपनी एक ऐसे अनुभव का उज्ज्वलादायक एवजसी की तलाश में है, जो इस स्थान पर कॉफ़्फ़्र व भैंस शाखाओं के उपरान्ती की संरचना की तलाश में है। यह निविदा 4 अक्टूबर को एक महोत्सव की आवश्यकता के लिए सूचीबद्ध है। कंपनी के एक सूचना का मान्यता बना कि भारीवाली-भी-भाषण के साथ ही कॉफ़्फ़्र की एक दूसरी खदान भी है। (व्यूरी/प्रेष)
आस्ट्रेलियाई कंपनियां आते

नई दिल्ली • राजमंडर खेलों की तैयारी से जुड़े कर भारत आई आस्ट्रेलियाई कंपनियों की भारतीय कार्यालयों की स्थापना के अनमोल स्वागत पर आपसमें भाषा बदल कर आती हैं।

लेकिन केवल आंचलिक ही क्षेत्र में आती हैं। आस्ट्रेलिया से केवल एक कंपनी की स्थापना की गई है। इस कंपनी का नाम आस्ट्रेलिया है। यह एक अन्य स्क्रिप्टिव कंपनी के रूप में काम करती है।

इस कंपनी के कारोबार की कमी के लिए यह इंडियान निंदीप्त में बिजली निर्माताओं द्वारा मूल्याधिकृत किया गया है। इस कंपनी के खेलों के समय में भारत के खेलों में शामिल होने का काम कर रही है।

इस कंपनी के खेलों में भाग लेने वाली कंपनियों की संख्या 47 है। इनमें से 30 कंपनियों के खेलों में भाग ले रही हैं। इनमें से 10 कंपनियों के खेलों में भाग लिए गए हैं। इनमें से 10 कंपनियों के खेलों में भाग लिए गए हैं। इन कंपनियों के खेलों में भाग ले रही हैं।

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इन कंपनियों के खेलों में भाग ले रही हैं。
Rescue of miners in Chile from Wednesday

San Jose (Chile): The rescue of 33 miners trapped in a Chilean mine is likely to start on Wednesday, Mining Minister Laurence Golborne said hours after a drill shaft broke through to the trapped men. "We are setting the likely start date of the rescue around Wednesday," Golborne told reporters on Saturday, adding that engineers needed time to stabilise the shaft through which the men will exit.
सितंबर में 34 टन सोना आयात

भारत में सितंबर में सोने का आयात 30 परसल के करकर 34.8 टन हो गया। बाले वृहत एसोसिएशन के अनुसार अगस्त महीने में देश में 26.8 टन सोना आयात किया गया था। एसोसिएशन के प्रमुख सुरेश सुंदर ने कहा कि सोने के दाम 19,000 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम हो जाने पर, स्थानीय स्थानीय चेतावनी के चलते मार्ग में बढ़ती रीढ़ की आ रही है। हालांकि पिछले साल सितंबर महीने में ज्य्यादा सोना आयात किया गया था। पिछले साल सितंबर में आयातित सोने की मात्रा 37.8 टन थी। बाजार से जुड़े लोग लगातार अबतर महीने में और ज्यादा सोना आयात होने की खबर कह रहे हैं। वैदिक तेजी के चलते पिछले हजार सोना अवर के रूप में उपभोक्ता के स्तर 19,000 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम पर पहुँच गया है।
IRONY

Govt to move SC to revive Kudremukh

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The Government has said it will file a petition in the Supreme Court seeking permission to allow public sector unit Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd (KIOCL) to lift the ore left in its mines in Karnataka, as well as to undertake underground mining in the same region.

The apex court had in 2005 ordered closure of the mines in the Western Ghats citing ecological hazard.

Interestingly, the Kudremukh fiasco has an uncanny resemblance to the recent government decision to disallow Sterlite Industries bauxite mining leases at Niyamgiri mountains in Orissa.

Sterlite may as well use the KIOCL as a precedent to push its own case.

"KIOCL was a flourishing company with very high level of efficiency and profitability," said Virbhadra Singh, minister for steel. "We want to go to the SC and file a petition so that the iron ore that is already mined and left on the ground can be lifted. Surely there is no ecological damage in that. It will meet the firm’s ore requirement for full 3 years. Also we want underground mining to be allowed so that the company can be back on its feet and the resources fully utilised."

The ministry of steel had last year proposed to merge KIOCL with PSU mining firm National Mineral Development Corporation through a share-swap.

That proposal was however shot down by an expert committee under P Ganesan, former chairman of KIOCL, which found no synergies between the two firms.

The export oriented KIOCL needs around 4.5 million tonnes of iron ore annually to produce 3.6 million tonnes of pellets and 2.16 lakh tonnes of pig iron. In 2009-10 its turnover stood at ₹992.72 crore with a net loss of ₹177.27 crore.
Outlook for aluminium bright on higher demand

The outlook for aluminium producers appears bright in 2010 and in 2011 as well, if present conditions hold up. After dropping sharply in the June quarter, along with other metals, aluminium prices have recovered smartly, quoting at $2,306 (₹ 1,05,890) on the London Metal Exchange and crossing the highs reached earlier in April before dropping.

Alcoa Inc, a large US-based aluminium producer, announced its results last week. On a sequential basis, Alcoa’s realisations fell by 2% in the September quarter, due to lower aluminium prices, although they were higher by 15% year on year. Indian producers, too, are likely to see a similar trend in realisations.

But Alcoa also revised its aluminium growth forecast for 2010 to 13% from 12%. Though small, the revision is significant because only one quarter is left for the year to end. Among user markets, Alcoa expects aerospace to do significantly better.

North American can packaging, a key market, is forecast to slip but European markets will grow better than expected. China, and to a smaller extent Europe, appear to be the two key markets driving the revision.

In India, aluminium demand is forecast to rise by 14%, next only to China and Brazil.

Rising gross domestic product and demand for houses, cars and commercial vehicles will continue to propel aluminium demand. That’s good for big aluminium producers like Hindalco Industries Ltd and Sterlite Industries Ltd, which owns a majority stake in Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd and a 30% stake in Vedanta Aluminium Ltd.

Last week, National Alumin-
छम में भी वेदान्ता की खादन पर लगें रेक : जोगी

रायपुर। (वार्ता): 'छमीसागर' के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री अजीत जोगी ने वेदान्ता की कवर्धा में बाक्साइट खादन से आदिवासी जनजाति बेगा के समाज होने तथा नम्दा के उत्सर्जन स्थल को नुकसान पहुंचाने का आरोप लगाते हुए इस पर तत्काल प्रतिबंध लगाए जाने की मांग की है। श्री जोगी ने रिवाज को प्रेस कार्यालय में कहा, 'इस बार में श्री जेल्द आरंभ संज्ञान में नहीं लिया गया तो पवित्र नम्दा नदी का आर्धित समाज हो जाएगा।' उन्होंने कहा कि हालत बदतर विचारजनक है और इस पर उन्होंने कारणों अध्यक्ष सीमावर्ती गांधी एवं पाँच महासचिव राहुल गांधी की पत्र लिखकर ध्यान आकृतिक निकाला है। श्री जोगी ने कहा कि पर्यावरण मंत्री से उन्होंने स्वयं या अधिकारियों के दल की कवर्धा भेजकर वहां के हालत को जानकारी लेना का अनुरोध किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि श्री जोगी ने बर्ताव को लखनऊ से कहे कुछ दिन अपने जाने तथा ज्यादा देर बाद के आलोचना करने वाले संगठनों के साथ कवर्धा से भी कवर्धा के पहुंच रहा वेदान्ता कवर्धा से हालात का जायजा लेकर इसके बारे में संभाल लाने का अनुरोध किया। उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि राजस्थान सरकार कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि कम्पनी के खिलाफ उठाया जाने वाला है।
Centre ignores state’s plea on restricting mining area

The reason for allotting 5-hectare site instead of one hectare, as sought by the state, is to provide enough area for scientific excavation, dumping of muck and afforestation.

— CS Gundewar, Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines

The Tribune, Delhi
Monday, 11th October 2010, Page: 10

The Centre has ignored the state’s plea for restricting the minimum mining area to contain the environmental fall out of mining activity in the state where land is extremely scarce.

The state had suggested that the minimum area for mining projects should not exceed one hectare in view of the non-availability of land. Also, it should effectively address the environmental concerns but as per the Draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Bill, 2010, approved by the Group of Ministers, the minimum area has been kept 5 hectares.

The main reason for the state government insisting on restricting the minimum area was that almost 38 percent of the geographical area is classified as forest land and there is hardly any land available there. As a result, it was facing problems in providing suitable land even for institutions like Central University.

However, Controller General of the Indian Bureau of Mines CS Gundewar, who was here to launch a four-night-long campaign against illegal mining, said the main reason for having a large area was to ensure that enough area was available for scientific excavation, dumping of muck and afforestation. He said the state could allocate the 5-hectare site to about six parties who could use common dumping sites and take other measures to mitigate the environmental concerns. He said Himachal might have a valid point but no other state had objected to the provision of minimum land.

The provision of making it mandatory for the developer of the mine to share 26 percent profit with the local community whose land was acquired for the project would go a long way in ensuring adequate compensation for the affected people. With the new Act in place, it would be possible to effectively check illegal mining across the country.

However, the Centre was confined to the role of regulating mining of major minerals while the states had the full authority to regulate the mining of minor minerals like sand, stone and grit, which were used directly without processing.

The bureau had stepped up inspections to check violations of law and it had conducted task force for the purpose that was working with the help satellite imageries. Already 212 mines in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat had been inspected and mining activities had been suspended in 82 cases. Further, the bureau had recommended termination of mining leases in three cases and issued show-cause notices for minor violations in 64 cases.
Munda allocates Ministries, retains Energy, Road depts

VIJAY DEO JHA™ RANCHI

Two days after expanding the Cabinet, Chief Minister Arjun Munda allocated portfolios to the Ministers, a notification for which was issued on Sunday. Despite the JMM's demand for the Energy and Roads departments, Arjun Munda managed to keep both the departments with him.

The Mining Department has been allocated to Deputy Chief Minister and JMM leader Hemant Soren along with Finance, Commercial Tax, Urban Development and Housing, Drinking Water and Sanitation and Civil Aviation.

Munda had forwarded a letter to Governor Mohd. Farook on late Saturday night for assent after marathon meeting with Hemant Soren of the JMM and Sudesh Kumar Mahato of the AJSU.

Munda has retained Personnel, Administrative Reform, Cabinet Secretariat and Coordination, Home, Vigilance, Planning and Development and all those departments not allotted to any other Minister.

Under the agreed formula, reported by The Pioneer on September 9, the BJP and the JMM had given nod to swap their respective portfolios that both the parties had in the Shibu Soren Government.

Road Construction Department came as a considerable loss for the AJSU as Deputy CM Sudesh was keen to retain this department. However, he retained the Rural Development along with NREP, Youth Sports and Cultural Affairs, NREP, Panchayati Raj Institution, Forest and Environment.

Former Water Resource Minister Chandra Prakash Chaudhary got Science and Technology, Building construction, Labour employment. The departments that he held in the previous Government like Drinking Water and Sanitation, went to the JMM.

There was a mutual swap of the HRD, Health and Family Welfare between the JMM and the BJP. While HRD Ministry went to BJP's Baidyanath Ram, Hemlal Mtrnau of the JMM will look after the Health Department now.

Cabinet's only minority face Haji Hussain Ansari of the JMM remained Minority Welfare and Development Ministry with minor addition of Cooperative Department.

Mathura Mahato of the JMM will look after Food, Public Distribution System, Consumer Affairs and Revenue and Land Reform.
At the surface, a taxing new life will begin for them

Emily Dugan

There will be celebrations and euphoria in the next few days, as the trapped Chilean miners see daylight for the first time since August 5. But as yet unknown is the impact of the long incarceration on the minds and bodies of these 33 men.

Psychologists warn that once the initial jubilation has died down, the long-term effects of the ordeal could show. Most common is likely to be recurring flashbacks. Peter Kinderman, professor of clinical psychology at the University of Liverpool, said: When you are exposed to a life-threatening incident, you are likely to have episodes where you go through this emotional reimagining of the trauma from time to time. You can expect to wake up in the middle of the night with traumatic memories.

Anything likely to trigger a recollection, whether that is the smell of damp stone or a sound that was familiar like dripping water – can cause a sudden emotional reaction. Rebuilding relationships with wives and girlfriends after the experience could also be a test.

Christine Northam, a relationship counsellor, said: The separation is one thing, but it is the way the couples cope with the trauma they have been through that will be the test. Relationships can be enhanced when you have been through a drama and proved you can survive it, but the long-term mental health problems for someone buried alive could cause relationship breakdown.

One miner, Yonni Barrios, whose 10-year affair was exposed when his wife and mistress were both calling his name from the mine edge, is likely to face a tumultuous few weeks. Ms Northam said: The normal feelings around affairs and betrayals will be intensified because of the events, meaning relationship breakdown and change is more likely to happen.

The miners could also experience the physical impact of their entombment in the coming weeks. While they used giant elastic bands to stretch and keep fit, and maintained a diet of 2,200 calories a day until the eight-hour fast each miner must undergo before getting in the rescue capsule, there were some aspects of daily life it was not possible to recreate, above all, daylight.

Derk-Jan Dijk, professor of sleep and physiology at Surrey University, said: Because the miners have not been exposed to natural light, their sleep cycles will be affected. As they readjust to the hours of daylight and night, they will experience what is effectively jet lag. They could also suffer from stress-related sleep problems if they relive their experiences in their dreams. — The Independent
Miners with political links shell out record advance tax

Tanu Pandey

New Delhi, Oct 10: Individuals engaged in the mining business have emerged the country’s top taxpayers along with film stars, professionals, top-notch CEOs and promoters of large corporations. These individuals, most of whom are prominent politicians or having direct links with the political elite, have shown a quantum jump in their advance tax payments this September, data gathered by FE show.

As advance tax is an indication of the earning expectations of any taxpayer—individual or corporate—it can be gauged that the individuals engaged in the mining business have made astronomical profits during the first half of this fiscal and expect to do so in the coming months as well.

Congress leader and Andhra Pradesh chief minister aspirant YS Jagan Mohan Reddy paid Rs 84-crore advance tax in September; more than 1,000% jumpover what he coughed up last year during the same period. For individuals, September being the first installment of their advance tax payments, income expectations in the coming months seem to be very high. Reddy, son of late Karnataka chief minister YSR, had paid an overall advance tax of Rs 6.7 crore last fiscal.

Another individual taxpayer who has enriched the government coffers this fiscal with Rs 7 crore (367% up compared to last year) is wife of politician Janardan Reddy from Karnataka. Gall Lakshmi Aruna has a mining company floated in Bellary. Her husband, Janardan Reddy is Karnataka’s minister for tourism and infrastructure and Gall was a strong ally of YS Rajasekhar Reddy.

Continued on Page 2
Miners with political links shell out...

Also on the list is Ramamurthy Praveen Chandra of Jhon Mines who paid Rs 20 crore as advance tax for the April-September period this fiscal, almost 100% up compared to what he paid last year during the corresponding period. His company also features among suppliers to Kineta International, a big name in the minerals industry.

Also on the list of top advance taxpayers is one Kamal Jeet Singh Ahluwalia who is in the field of mining of iron ore in Rourkela and Barbil in Orissa. He has paid Rs 20 crore as advance tax this September as compared to Rs 12 crore in the last year period. His total advance tax payment for the whole of last fiscal was Rs 47.5 crore. Similarly, his brother Prashant Kumar Ahluwalia also engaged in the same business paid Rs 10 crore in the September quarter.

The mining industry has been on the government radar for sometime over their transactions and also for the people displacement that takes place in the mining process. The government recently has said it is going to make registration of miners and traders mandatory for proper accounting of all minerals-related transactions. The Centre has also asked all the state governments to constitute high-level committees to crack down on illegal mining.

From Goa, Radha Satish Tambio who is the owner of Timbilo enterprises, a mining firm, has paid Rs 9 crore as advance tax compared to Rs 6.8 crore in the September quarter last year. She is from a mining family and has great clout in the area for her political connections.

However, there is also someone whose advance tax payments during this fiscal has declined as compared to the last fiscal. Indranil Patnaik who has mines in Keonjhar that belong to a political family with deep roots in mining trade has paid Rs 15 crore as compared to Rs 26 crore during the last fiscal in September. Patnaik was facing charges from the vigilance department that had stumbled across mine leasehold of her company that was illegal. Against a permission of 0.21 million tonne (MT) ore from an area of 106.1127 hectares (of which 163.3422 patch was forest land), the miner was allowed to raise from an area of 36.27 hectares.
**Moisture freezes ore loading**

Remember the disasters involving iron ore ships at Paradip and New Mangalore ports? As a safety measure, the Union Government stipulated the maximum transportation moisture limit of iron ore for exports. Accordingly, ore having more than 10 per cent moisture must not be loaded onto any ship, particularly during this time of the year when the mineral gets soaked in rain. Prior to shipment, the moisture content in the ore will be checked by the mercantile marine department of the government along with surveyors. This has created problems for some iron ore exporting ports. Some East coats ports handling iron ore exports are now holding large stocks of iron ore with moisture content beyond the permissible limit. Several ships are waiting for the ore to be loaded. Thankfully, the problem has not yet assumed alarming proportion, presumably because of less than normal rainfall in the East and limited mining activity in several areas due to a variety of reasons. Interestingly, the country's largest iron ore exporting — which is from the West coast — remains unaffected by the government diktat.
Chile rescue on Wednesday

SAN JOSE MINE: After more than two months trapped deep in a Chilean mine, 33 miners enjoyed a Sunday tantalisingly close to rescue. Drillers have completed an escape shaft, and Chile's Mining Minister says a video inspection shows the hole's walls are firm enough to allow the men to be hoisted out as early as Wednesday.

Officials said late on Saturday that workers first must reinforce the top 100 metres of the tunnel and had begun welding steel pipes for that purpose.

The completion of the 71-cm-diameter escape shaft on Saturday morning caused bedlam in the tent city known as "Camp Hope," where the miners' relatives had held vigil for an agonizing 66 days since a cave-in sealed off the gold and copper mine August 5.

Miners videotaped the piston-powered hammer drill's breakthrough 622 metres underground and could be seen cheering and embracing, the drillers said. On the surface, the rescuers chanted, danced and sprayed champagne so excitedly that some of their hardhats tumbled off.

Later, a video inspection of the shaft gave rescuers enough confidence in the tunnel's stability that they decided they will excavate only its first 96 meters. The plan is to insert 10 sections of 1.27 cm-thick steel pipe into the top of the hole, which curves like a waterfall at first before becoming nearly vertical for most of its descent. — AP
Hind Copper invites bids to develop Rajasthan mine

NEW DELHI: Within days of getting rights to prospect a copper mine in Rajasthan, state-owned Hindustan Copper has invited bids to map the reserves. “Last week, the company had invited tender for prospecting of the Banewali Ki Dhani (copper) mine in Sikar district of Rajasthan, for which it was recently granted such rights,” a person in the know of the development said. In an advertisement, the company said it “wishes to engage an experienced and reputed agency to carry out exploration in the area for copper and base metals.” The processes of tender, which opened on October 4 and closes on November 4, would be complete in next three months. “The company wants the prospecting to be over in exactly two years from the date of issue. The prospecting license for the mines was granted on September 28, 2010,” the source added.
Gold prices likely to head higher this week

DUBAI: Gold prices are expected to head higher this week. The weaker than expected U.S. employment report released on Friday 8 October should provide support to gold prices. This is the last employment report that will be released before the next United States Federal Reserve meeting in November, which has led to increased speculation that the Fed will favor monetary stimulus in response to the greater than anticipated weakness in US employment. This could continue to weigh on the US dollar, which would be positive for gold prices. This week gold prices could once again test the intraday high of $1,366 touched last week. If prices settle above this level, a move toward $1,380 should not be ruled out. However, prices could slip toward $1,320 on profit-taking at these elevated price levels. If prices settle below this level they could decline toward $1,300. Such a decline would most likely occur on an intraday basis, with market participants using any decline in prices as a buying opportunity.
Silver prices may continue to trend higher this week. Dubai: Silver prices may continue to trend higher this week. Healthy fabrication and strong investment demand, strength in gold prices, and weakness in the U.S. dollar are all factors that are expected to keep investors interested in silver in the near future. Investor buying could drive silver prices as high as $25 this week. However, prices could decline briefly albeit sharply during the week. Profit-taking could drive silver prices toward $20, or even as low as $18.75. While market participants are very optimistic about the future price of silver, a sharp decline cannot be ruled out, given the volatile nature of silver prices. Any such weakness in silver prices would be expected to be very short-lived. Investors are likely to view any such declines as a buying opportunity, plus the silver market is likely to remain tight through the end of the year.
The third International Diamond Conference, Mines to Market 2010 organised by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council will be held in October, Mumbai. Since its inception, the conference has become an international platform for a significant exchange between all stakeholders of the diamond industry across the pipeline, receiving an enthusiastic worldwide response. It has hosted presidents and ministers, heads of diamond and jewellery companies, top international laboratories and financial institutions. Mines to Market, a biennial event held every two years since 2005, has received enthusiastic response from all stakeholders in the diamond industry. The third edition of the conference will be held in Mumbai on October 12th and 13th 2010.

Over the last few years, India has not only maintained its position as the leading diamond manufacturing centre, but has emerged from the period of recession with an increased share of the world polished market. It is the largest importor of rough diamonds, and its cutting edge factories are capable of cutting and polishing diamonds of all shapes and sizes. The last five years have seen an accelerated development on the jewellery front both in terms of quality of the product and the expansion of the industry.

India is one of the most vibrant all-round centres of the gems and jewellery industry worldwide. It has been acknowledged for its prowess in diamond manufacturing; is an established source of coloured gemstones and has progressed to being a design-led manufacturing base for precious metal jewellery both studied and plain. What is more, India’s burgeoning economy and vast population with significant purchasing power has made it also the most promising consumer market. It is therefore, most fitting that the country should host a comprehensive dialogue between various segments of the industry on wide-ranging topics of contemporary relevance ranging from mining to consumer issues.

The conference will bring together the senior representatives of all major players in the diamond world from the mining and retail ends of the diamond pipeline. It will also have participants from important gemological institutes and labs, financial institutions and senior representatives of the governments of important diamond mining countries. The conference will act as an important forum to discuss major issues with the world diamond community from the mining, diamond manufacturing and jewellery manufacturing sectors.

There will be an impressive line-up of speakers which will include Gareth Penny, CEO De Beers Group; Varda Shine, managing director, DTC; Jacob Thamage, Coordinator, Diamond Hub presenting on behalf of Ponnathhego Kediikwile, Minister of Minerals, Energy & Water Resources, Republic of Botswana; Obert Mphu, Minister of Mines and Mining, Zimbabwe; Pierre De Bosscher, Antwerp Diamond Bank; Victor Van Der Kwaast, executive vice president, ABN/AMRO NV; Jacky Tache, director, Tache Diamonds, Antwerp; Elliot Tannenbaum, Partner, Leo, Schachter Diamonds, Israel; Jean Marc Lieberherr, general manager sales and marketing Rio Tinto Diamonds; Mark Brauner, Co-CEO, IGI Worldwide; Tom Moses, senior vice president, GIA; Cecilia Gardner, president and CEO; Jewellers Vigilance Committee, US; Russel Mehta, Rosyblue Group; Rajiv Mehta, CEO, Dimexon Diamond Ltd.; Anil Shah, Partner Venus Jewel; Praveen Shankar Pantula, chairman Diamond India Ltd.; Mehrul Choksi, chairman and managing director, Gitanjali Group; Ashit Mehta SDSIL.
खनिज पट्टों के आबंटन में सही प्रक्रिया का पालन नहीं: जोगी

गयापुर, 10 अक्टूबर (प्रॉफेसर)। जीवनसमग्र के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री अजीत जोगी ने आरोप लगाया कि राज्य में खनिज पट्टों के आबंटन में सही प्रक्रिया का पालन नहीं किया गया जिसके कारण कई एम्पोरियल रूप से क्रांति पड़ गई है।

जोगी ने रविवार को कहा कि राज्य में भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने कोल्हापुर, उधन और साहिल राज्य के खनिज पट्टों के आबंटन में सही प्रक्रिया का पालन नहीं किया है। राज्य में इस मामले में चोर अनियमितता परस्पर गई है और भारतीय प्रदेश के मामले गया है।

उन्होंने कहा कि जीवनसमग्र में जिला कोल्हापुर और पार्टी उपलब्ध नहीं है, और प्रशिक्षण की मदद का व्यवस्था स्थान उसे अभिक श्रमक के लिए योग सरकार ने एम्पोरियल सहायता कर दी गई है जिसका नतीजा यह हुआ है कि कई एम्पोरियल का राह पड़ गया है। जोगी ने कहा कि राज्य में जंगली का अंदाज कटाई हो रहा है। राज्य में रमेश सिंह के सरकार ने नहीं किया कि वहाँ के स्थानीय लोगों को राह सिंह की विधि दी गई है। आंकड़ों में यह साबित हुआ कि 44 पेस पर वाले इस राज्य में आबंटन 41 पेस पर वाले इस राज्य में 35 हजार हेक्टेयर ने शिकार दिया जा रहा है।
POLICE SUSPECTS STOCK DIVERTED TO BLACK MARKET

MP: 1,200 tonnes explosives missing

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Bhopal

Oct. 10: After the shocking revelation earlier this year that hundreds of tonnes of explosives have gone missing in Madhya Pradesh, the Sagar district police broke news on Sunday that 400 truckloads of explosives (1,283 tonnes) procured by a single explosives dealer — Sangam Explosives of Chanderi in Ashoknagar district of Madhya Pradesh — have gone missing and the stock was probably diverted to the black market over a two-year period from 2008 onwards.

The Sagar district police stumbled on this crucial information while interrogating Shivcharan Heda, the main accused arrested earlier in connection with the mysterious disappearance of 163 truckloads of explosives. This consignment was despatched by Rajasthan Explosives and Chemicals Limited in Rajasthan for Sagar and Chanderi in Madhya Pradesh over a short period this year.

This newspaper had published news titled, "Explosives for Illegal Mining" on August 28 highlighting the possibility of the explosives getting diverted for illegal mining activity in Madhya Pradesh.

Sagar inspector general of police, Anvesh Mangalam told this newspaper that following investigations and upon interrogating the accused, who was arrested earlier by the Bhilwara police in Rajasthan and was brought to Sagar on police remand, it was found that Shivcharan Heda had purchased 1,283 tonnes of explosives from RECL and other explosive manufacturing companies in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh since 2008 onwards and 80 per cent of this stock had been sold in the black market against cash payment. The accused has not maintained any record of these transactions.

The police have gathered that Shivcharan Heda started his explosives business in 1993 with an investment of about ₹4 lakh. Now he was doing an annual turnover touching about ₹15 crore. About 80 per cent of this was in black against cash payment. Besides investigating his role under the stringent Explosives Act, the police are also probing his involvement in money laundering and fudging of records to save taxes. The disappearance of explosives in such huge quantities is also being investigated from the security angle. The police authorities here said that Heda could be part of a larger network of those involved in black-marketing of explosives across the country.
Munda distributes portfolios, keeps Home

JHARKHAND Chief Minister Arjun Munda retained ministry of Home, Energy and Road Construction as he distributed portfolios among his cabinet ministers today, two days after expanding his ministry and a month after taking the oath.

He is in charge of the departments of Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Raj Bhavan, Law and Justice, Information and Public Relations, Planning and Development, Department of Registration and departments which have not been allocated to any minister, said an official release.

Deputy CM Sudesh Mahto has been allotted the departments of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Water Resources Development, Forest and Environment, Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs.

Another Deputy CM Hemant Soren has been allotted the ministry of Finance, Commercial Taxes, Urban Development, Housing, Drinking water and Sanitation, Civil Aviation and Mines.
Now, Vedanta lands in mining row in Chhattisgarh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 10

AFTER the Niyamgiri ban, a controversy is brewing in Chhattisgarh over bauxite mining by Vedanta Resources, the UK-based mining conglomerate, in the Maikal hill ranges in Kawardha district with the opposition Congress demanding a probe into alleged large-scale infringement of green and tribal areas and violation of panchayat laws.

“The devastation in Kawardha caused by mining activities of Vedanta Group is greater and worse than Orissa. Vedanta Group has managed to get mining rights of bauxite in Maikal hills, abode of Baiga tribes identified as ‘most backward’ and one of those tribes who are getting extinct,” senior Congress leader and former CM Ajit Jogi said at a press conference on Sunday.

“None of the laws are being followed by the mining major in Kawardha. Unlike in Niyamgiri, there is a lack of awareness among the masses. Hence, violations of environment, mining, forest and panchayat laws have not received similar kind of public attention,” he said.

In a letter to Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh, Jogi referred to the Centre’s stand on Bauxite mining at Niyamgiri, saying that the report of the expert committee, which examined the mining issue in Orissa, was a milestone regarding the welfare of the tribals not only of that state but of the entire nation also.

He urged the ministry to send a team of officials to Kawardha to inspect the bauxite mines at Maikal hills and to take necessary action. Rich in flora and fauna wealth, the Maikal hills are a range of hills in eastern part of Satpuras in Kawardha. The hills are inhabited by two prominent tribes—Baigas and Gonds.

Pointing out that a group of Congress MLAs had visited the bauxite mining areas in Kawardha, Jogi said they had reported large-scale violations in mining that could pose a severe threat not only to the environment but also to the tribals.

“The catchment area of holy river Naramda is being badly affected,” he added.

While the Vedanta Group had carried out some activities under its Corporate Social Responsibility in Niyamgiri, Jogi said the mining major have not yet done anything for the poor staying around the mining area of Maikal hills. “Besides Vedanta is taking the bauxite ore to Orissa instead of carrying out value addition within Chhattisgarh,” he alleged.

Jogi said he has written to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and general secretary Rahul Gandhi, seeking their intervention in the matter.
Iron ore mining 
lobby behind present crisis?

BANGALORE: There is widespread speculation that the two rival factions within the iron ore mining industry in Karnataka are at the heart of the horse trading and are responsible for the obscene amounts being quoted around.

Two JD(S) MLAs have accused the BJP of offering them amounts ranging from Rs 25 crore to Rs 40 crore ahead of a trust vote on October 11 to decide the survival of the BJP government in Karnataka.

Apart from the political reasons cited as being key to the crisis - like corruption in the government, the internal disquiet in the BJP, the tricky numbers in the Assembly and the desperation of the opposition - there is also the hidden hand of a section of the iron ore mining lobby, say state intelligence sources.
**Hind Copper invites bids for Raj mine.**

**NEW DELHI**: Within days of getting rights to prospect a copper mine in Rajasthan, state-owned Hindustan Copper has invited bids to map the reserves. "Last week, the company had invited tender for prospecting" of the Baniwali-Ki-Dhani (copper) mine in Sikar district of Rajasthan, for which it was recently granted such rights," a source said. — PTI