Growth story took a hit; get back on track now: Parekh

Mumbai, Dec 11: Lamenting that the environment of negativity that has gripped the country had taken the wind out of India's ambitious growth story, HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh said the big boys of industry were taking investments to foreign lands and the UPA government needed to work as a team and get back on track.

In an interview to The Indian Express, Editor-in-Chief Shekhar Gupta for NDTV's Walk the Talk programme, Parekh echoed some of the sentiments expressed by Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata two weeks ago, saying he was disappointed that "everything that was going so well a few months ago" for the country seemed to have suddenly snapped and taken a downturn.

"We had really taken off and we were the darling of the Western world, of the multinationals, everyone wants to invest in India and suddenly there's a snap and it's amazing... It has really taken the wind out of our ambitions and I am very disappointed. Sudden more than disappointed to see what's happened," Parekh said and added that these were "tough times".

Tata too had expressed similar fears, also in an interview to Gupta. He had said that weeks before the spectrum scandal and the Nira Radia tapes sparked a furor, US President Barack Obama had hailed India's arrival on the world stage. But the scandals that made headlines since then had sparked a fear that India could go down the path of becoming a "banana republic", he had said.

A respected corporate leader courted equally by industry and government, Parekh said India's big businesses were finding it tough to grow in an environment of extreme pulls and pressures. He cited the Lavasa hill city project as an example: The Union government had stopped the project after it was approved by the state and large sums of money invested by banks over the years.

"What's happening, which is a very sorry state of affairs, if you look at the big houses in India, Tatas investing abroad not in India, they want to but they can't, because they don't get the land, they have old mines but they don't get extension of the mining, and then someone accuses them of mining illegally, all kinds of issues are there," Parekh said. "The big boys are looking outside because it is much more easier to do business, it's simpler to do business, it's straightforward business, it's easy and not, it's no grey matter, and you get to know. You may pay a higher price to acquire companies, we have bought banks, we've always had to pay a higher price when we do an acquisition, but in a year or two, you make up for that," he added.

In some uncharacteristically strong criticism of the government by a corporate leader, the housing finance veteran reserved some tough words for UPA-II. Comparing the government to a company, Parekh said the different ministries need to work as a team. "Why does a company do well? If each manager oreach departmental head is pulling in different directions, you will not have a good company, or a good result," he said. "The big boys in the government are pulling in different directions and not working as a team. (They are) following their own agenda, own departmental agenda, not looking at a broader picture, the prime minister has to get that organised."

Parekh said there was a limit to what the PM could do on his own but he needed to say something. "Incentivise" the team to work together rather than going to the press every time. Parekh also expressed shock over how the leaked Radia tapes had played out and contributed to the mood of negativity prevailing in the country.

"The simple question is, why was the phone tapping done? Because of the accumulation of large resources, large wealth in a short period of time, or foreign spy or something. (But) you can't have telephones tapped for two years; that is invasion of privacy. Even if it's a crook, even if someone's doing something wrong, does it take you two years to find out whether he is wrong? You take action against that individual, you arrest that individual, you question that individual. If you continue tapping the phone for two years then it is invasion of privacy, and then the leaks... if the IT department feels there was evasion of tax, but does it take two years of tapping a phone to find out?"
BHP lobbied to scuttle Rio-Chinalco deal

Agence France Presse
Sydney, Dec.11

Mining giant BHP Billiton lobbied the Australian Government hard to bring down a proposed $19.5 billion deal between its rival Rio Tinto and China’s Chinalco, a leaked US cable shows.

Spokesmen for BHP and Rio Tinto refused to comment on the US diplomatic cable released by whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks and published in The Sydney Morning Herald on Saturday.

But the confidential document reveals that the chief of staff to Treasurer Mr Wayne Swan had told US Embassy officials that BHP had out-played Rio and that US officials believed this had helped ensure that Chinalco’s planned multi-billion dollar cash injection into Rio Tinto collapsed in early June 2009.

The June 7, 2009 cable said Mr Swan’s chief of staff “has told us on several occasions that BHP has played its cards with consummate skill, in part due to the increasing marginalisation of BHP CEO Mr Marius Kloppers as BHP Chairman Mr Don Argus has taken the lead in lobbying the GOA [Government of Australia].”

“BHP has been lobbying extensively to block the deal, highlighting concerns about Chinese investment and the possibility that seats on the Rio board would give the Chinese representatives important insights into the producer side of the annual iron ore price negotiations,” it said.

The deal’s collapse spared Canberra from having to make a difficult decision on whether to approve the proposal, but left then prime minister Mr Kevin Rudd to face “an unhappy China,” the cable said.

“We noticed a very glum Chinese ambassador Mr Zhang Junsai waiting outside Mr Rudd’s office with the Chinalco CEO Mr Xiong Weling,” it said.

US officials said BHP’s lobbying caused the Rudd Government to delay its decision on the bid and that in the intervening time, global commodity prices recovered to an extent that Rio no longer needed China’s cash injection.
Raw materials fall on China’s move to ease inflation

Gold declines; crude oil settles lower at $87.79

Associated Press
Dec 11

Most commodities drifted lower on Friday after China took another step in its push to ease inflation.

Trading was light as traders awaited the outcome of two key meetings that could provide clarity about what may be next for commodities.

ECONOMIC MEET
Chinese leaders are holding an economic planning meeting amid speculation that they will decide to raise interest rates. That could strengthen the dollar and affect demand for raw materials.

Meanwhile, officials of the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries gathering on Saturday and said they will leave production quotas unchanged. OPEC, which is responsible for 35 percent of global oil production, has not changed its output quotas since late 2008.

On Friday, China ordered its banks to increase their reserves in an effort to curb lending. It was the third reserve increase in five weeks. The move is the latest in a series of measures the government has taken in recent weeks to ease inflation, which hit a 25-month high in October.

“If Chinese officials do raise interest rates this weekend, it could strengthen the dollar against other currencies,” JPMorgan Chase and Co. senior market strategist Mr. Richard Jackiw said. “If that happens, commodity prices are likely to weaken.”

Since most commodities are priced in dollars, a stronger dollar makes them less appealing to buyers who use other currencies.

Over the long term, the analyst believes commodities prices will continue to increase because demand remains strong in China and other emerging countries.

METALS PARE GAINS
Most metals gave up ground Friday. Gold for February delivery fell $7.90 to settle at $1,384.90 an ounce.

In other trading in March contracts, silver lost 21.2 cents to settle at $28.605 an ounce, copper added 2.5 cents to $4.1120 a pound and palladium dropped $8.90 to $732.70 an ounce. January platinum slipped $3.60 to $1,675.30 an ounce.

In energy trading, benchmark oil for January delivery dipped 58 cents to settle at $87.79 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

In other Nymex trading in January contracts, heating oil lost 0.93 cent to settle at $2.4575 a gallon, gasoline slipped 3.12 cents to $2.3093 a gallon and natural gas fell 1.8 cents to $4.4171/1,000 cubic feet.

In agricultural contracts, March wheat fell 13 cents to settle at $7.7550 a bushel, March corn was unchanged at $4.7425 a bushel and January soybeans lost 8.5 cents to $12.73 a bushel.
With 952 cases Rajasthan tops list of illegal mining

Jaipur: It’s official: Rajasthan tops the list of states where illegal mining takes place. The state reported the largest number of cases during 2009-10, according to a report with the Union ministry of mines.

The annualized quarterly return on illegal mining of major minerals for 2009-10 places Rajasthan far ahead of states such as Karnataka and Orissa in terms of illegal mining. Karnataka has been in the news because of the Reddy brothers alleged involvement in illegal mines, whereas mining leases in Orissa made headlines recently after cancellation of mines allotted to the Vedanta group.

However, despite the destabilizing trend in Rajasthan reaffirmed by the government audit report the state establishment, including chief minister Ashok Gehlot, has persistently denied illegal mining activity in the state.

These quarterly returns, which are also there with the Indian Bureau of Mines a subordinate office under the Union ministry of mines are filed by the state governments themselves. How can they deny it, questioned an IBM official. A cursory look at the data explains it all. The audit report suggests that across the country there were a total number of 2,956 cases of illegal mining of major minerals.
Gold looks brighter as dollar weakens

Kavita Sriram presents an outlook on metals as an investment avenue

As numerous infrastructure projects received tremendous bolster, the demand for steel and other metals headed upwards. The price of gold scaled over Rs 21,000 per 10 gm recently. It’s less expensive cousins set a new record of Rs 44,000 per kg in the Delhi bullion market. Will metals lend the much sought-after stability to your portfolio in these volatile times?

While the outlook for metals is bullish in 2011, investors need to exert more caution when investing. The demand for base metals is expected to surge as the global economy gets back on track.

Copper

Copper production is expected to encounter a plateau owing to shortage of copper ore mined and shipped across the globe. India’s copper consumption is expected to climb by 15 percent in the near future.

Aluminum

On the brighter side, aluminum production in the country is expected to touch five million tonnes per annum in the next 4-5 years. Currently, India produces 1.318 million tonnes of the metal in comparison to 40 million tonnes of world production. Aluminum finds wide applications in the infrastructure, construction and transportation sectors.

Steel

Steel’s ability to withstand greater tensile loads and its lower lifecycle cost, finds greater application in infrastructure projects, engineering services, automotive and FMCG sectors. Now the fifth largest producer of steel in the world, India is expected to emerge the second largest producer of crude steel by the year 2015-16 at the current pace.

Global demand high

Domestic demand for these metals remains robust, in line with global demands. In the last quarter, steel majors reported a high growth in steel sales. Numerous domestic and foreign investment proposals are lined up before steel companies to cater to increased demand. This metal is expected to keep investor enthusiasm alive.

Wary investors across the globe are focusing on these metals as an alternative investment opportunity on mounting worries of economic slowdown and market turbulence. Precious metals like gold and silver have not disappointed investors around the globe in these troubled times.

Gold

Considered a traditionally safe investment, cutting across different economic strata, Indians consume as much as 30 percent of the world’s gold production. The unabated increase in gold prices is fostered by increasing demand and dwindling supplies owing to mining constraints. Gold traverses a path inverse to the dollar. Embroiled in financial crisis in the US, the dollar is expected to weaken further, sending gold prices further upwards. Gold has emerged as an extremely popular and safe investment at the backdrop of a weak dollar. Even central banks of developed countries have increased their exposures to gold.

When yields on debt products come down, gold regains its sheen. When interest rates come down, people find the yellow metal a better investment option compared to the paltry returns on debt instruments. Festivals and marriage seasons are occasions that trigger increased demand for gold. With gold prices at all-time high, entering now may not deliver phenomenal returns.

Relevant factors to consider

Investing in metal sector can be tricky as investors need to be aware of supply and mining limitations, geographical issues, environment concerns, export restrictions in mining countries across the world and shifting global political and economic allegiances. The robust demand from emerging economies is set to retain the lustre of this sector.
ओवरलोडिंग और अवैध खनन को वैध बनाएगी नई खनन नीति

नवनीत कुमार
सहारापुर, 11 दिसंबर। खनन प्रक्रिया के दौरान खनन का सामयिक संचालन संपर्क से बच रहने के लिए आवश्यक है।

लेकिन यह संदर्भ खनन प्रक्रिया के दौरान खनन का सामयिक संचालन संपर्क से बच रहने के लिए आवश्यक है।

दरअसल क्रिया में लघुमात्र में लघुमात्र रामपत्र जो कसरती डेसाथर्म तक से जोड़े डेसाथर्म 15-20 गुना जोड़े डेसाथर्म बहार रहे।

इसके लिए अधिक कुल को मुस्लिम वायुमंडल और अवैध खनन का सामयिक संचालन संपर्क से बच रहने के लिए आवश्यक है।

राजनीति संचालन एक दृष्टि के मुद्दे के उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरांत यह उपरां�
Gold may fall around $1,340 an ounce

GOLD OUTLOOK

B G SHIRSAT

Gold futures for February delivery closed at the red on a weekly basis after reaching a record $1,432.50 an ounce on December 7. This week, the gold dropped 1.51 per cent or $21.30, the most since mid-November on concern that China may tighten monetary policy eroded demand for precious metals. China, the world's second-biggest gold buyer, ordered lenders to park more money with the central bank for the third time in five weeks.

A rate increase by China's central bank “would diminish the ability of Chinese consumers to use excess income on investments like gold, as well as their ability to buy other commodities,” said Tom Pawlicki, an analyst at MF Global Holdings Ltd. in Chicago. Gold lost some safe-haven appeal last week as euro zone debt concerns were placed on the back burner and investors focused on US economic fundamentals in a thinning market.

With the 4 per cent decline in gold over its peak level of $1,432.50 on December 7, gold holdings in the SPDR Gold Trust, the biggest exchange-traded fund backed by bullion, decreased 8.20 metric tons to 1,289.83 metric tons as of December 10, according to figures on the company's website. The gold February futures also witnessed drop in weekly volume by 12.7 per cent to 900,869 contracts as participants preferred to stay away as gold futures declined 4 per cent from high of $1,432.50.

The open interest (OI) in February futures decline by 11,712 contracts as speculators preferred to book profit. The weekly market picture (MKTP) chart suggests strong sell-side trades in February futures above $1,402. The value area (1,383-1,415) saw 57 per cent volume and 75 per cent price opportunities mostly through change of hands which is hinting at rejection of price level by volume buyers. The initial balance range (1,402-1,415) saw 12.8 per cent volume which indicates a complete rejection of price level. The time-price opportunities (TPO) data for the Friday session indicate resistance for gold above $1,410.25 while volume-based support is expected to come around $1,367.75. On the weekly basis, the gold poised to fall around $1,340, the TPO and volume picture chart suggest. The options participants sold $1,380-strike call options of January expiry for $21 premium while they $1,350-strike put options of the same series for $21 premium.

On the Multi-commodity Exchange (MCX), the gold futures for February delivery expected get support of ₹20,170 and likely to face resistance at ₹20,730, the weekly MKTP chart source from Bloomberg suggest.
The Pioneer, Delhi
Sunday, 12th December 2010, Page: 27
Width: 33.53 cms Height: 27.35 cms, Ref: pmr.2010-12-12.39.90

PRESIDENT OF THE TRIBAL AGENCY
Kailash Kansara

Government of India


EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

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Amount in Kgs

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14-3-2010| 100
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The Maoists have taken minimal action to prevent illegal mining and illegal mining is still prevalent in the region. According to the Ministry of Mines, there are 393 mining leases in the region, but only 362 of them are being actively exploited. The mining industry has a cash to cover costs, and the government has been busy trying to control the illegal mining activity. The government has taken several steps to control illegal mining, including the imposition of higher taxes, the cancellation of mining leases, and the imposition of penalties for non-compliance. However, illegal mining remains a significant problem in the region.