India’s only functional gold mine is not San Jose

‘Safety is paramount and profit is secondary and sometimes tertiary’

K V Ramesh

HUTTI (RAICHUR): As you get inside the cage that takes you down the Mallappa shaft descending into the bowels of India’s only working gold mine at Huttí, the mining engineer Murali Mohan is bawling out a supervisor for not locking the doors of the cage during an earlier descent.

Inside the iron cage, you share the room with some bags of cement and a dozen innocent looking boxes. Explosives, Prashanth, the young mining engineer, with a 21-year-old’s fuzz on his upper lip, explains cheerfully. For blasting at 2.45 am next morning, he adds. You stare at the silent boxes.

As the cage begins to creak in its descent, the talkative engineer explains the working of the mine. The shaft we are descending into is one of the three bore holes into the bowels of Huttí’s gold deposits.

Precise timing
The shaft leads to arious levels at which tunnels branch out, into workings. Into the holes of the sides of the tunnels that contain the gold ore, holes are bored into which the explosive charges with delayed fuses are placed with precise timings. The mine is cleared of every man jack.

And the explosives go off at the set time taking out huge chunks of ore dust and large chunks of rock with minute gold specks in them. Four hours later, when the first shift comes at 7 in the morning, the dust is cleared and the workers separate the dust and rocks through a giant iron sieve in the ground (for lack of a better word). The debris falls through the sieve at the bottom of the mine, where it is collected by workers and dumped into a skip to be hauled up, taken to the mill, powdered, and then through a complex process turned into a slurry containing gold which again is chemically processed and made into gold ingots.

Prashanth continues his commentary. This mine is as safe as any, anywhere in the world, he claims, with the confidence of the young.

Safety first
“We take all precautions,” he keeps repeating, a chant of the work force led by the Executive Director, D Y Venkatesh. “Safety is paramount. Profit is secondary, and even tertiary. What is profit over people’s lives? This is not China, where hundreds of mining accidents take place every year, and hundreds are not even reported,” Venkatesh says.

The cage halts. Level 2000, the inscription says on the rough rock of the tunnel. We get out. Two thousand feet. The exact depth at which 33 miners in another gold mine across the world were stuck for 70 days before being taken out on Wednesday and Thursday to the collective sigh of relief of the whole world. What is like to be entombed underground a trillion tons of hard rock?

What is life at 2,000 ft inside the maw of the earth? Inside the Mallappa shaft, unlike what imagined, it is not all dark and dank. The whole place is lit. Thanks to an engineering sleight of hand, there is fresh air blowing down from the shaft above. We head into one of the tunnels. It is just a huge long, horizontal hole bored into rock. There is rock everywhere. Rocky walls, rocky ground, rocky roof.

To start a discussion on safety, I ask the young engineer a clichéd question. What did he feel when he saw the miners being taken out of Copiapo shaft?

“Happy and relieved. After all, I am a miner, and I want miners anywhere to be safe, he replies, and then gets the drift. "I have been here for two years, I have not seen a single emergency," he says.

He points to a million steel bolts stuck all over the hard roof. "When we bore into the wall and create a hollow, we keep on boring holes of the depth of 1.5 metres into the roof wherever we feel the rock is loose. We stick capsules of quick setting cement and plug in steel rods with a retaining plate." As safe as a baby's crib.

After an hour and ten minutes inside the mine, we go up to the surface in the poor but murdier cousin of Phoenix 2, the capsule used to hoist Chilean miners to the surface. No big welcoming party there for those of us coming up after 70 minutes. Well, this was not San Jose either.

DH News Service
PM’s window to reshuffle
Cabinet closes Oct 24

BS REPORTERS
New Delhi/Mumbai, 15 October

If Prime Minister Manmohan Singh decides to reshuffle his Cabinet, the only window of opportunity he has for the next two months is one week beginning after Dussehra, October 17. On October 24, the PM goes on a tour to Japan and Malaysia. Days after he returns, US President Barack Obama comes visiting, followed by the winter session of Parliament.

Several imponderables have to be considered. If it is to be only a minor reshuffle, it may see the exit of urban development minister Jairam Ramesh and/or sports minister M S Gill. Ramesh is the only minister in the Union Cabinet from Telangana and this may save him from being axed. However, Gill got a renewed mandate from the Rajya Sabha only so that he could act as a buffer between Commonwealth Organising Committee chief Suresh Kalmadi and the Prime Minister. Gill is widely perceived to have punched below his waist.

The PM also has to decide if he wants to reshuffle only the ministers belonging to the Congress or he wants to include the allies in the Cabinet overhaul as well. In a major reshuffle, it is likely that environment and forests minister Jairam Ramesh and mines minister B K Handique might be moved. The latter is an old Congress hand from Assam but has been indisposed for some time and the PM might allot the portfolio to some other Congress minister. Handique is also the Union minister for development of the northeastern region.

The culture ministry has been vacant for some time.

Senior United Progressive Alliance (UPA) leaders maintain that the reshuffle — already dubbed by the Prime Minister as an exercise to give the Cabinet a younger look — will be undertaken after consultations between the PM and Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. Opinions of senior ministers like Pranab Mukherjee, A K Antony and Gandhi’s political secretary, Ahmed Patel, will also be sought.

The reshuffle — the first such exercise of the second UPA — will also be synchronised with the organisational reshuffle in the Congress party. The All India Congress Committee will meet on November 2 in Delhi’s Talkatora Stadium to form its new working committee, which is currently acting as the steering committee.

In December, after the formal re-appointment of Sonia Gandhi as the president, the party is going to get its new team of general secretaries and office bearers. A Cabinet reshuffle, if it finally takes place, will also keep these appointments in mind and share the workload accordingly. Ministers like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Prithviraj Chavan and Veerappa Moily hold organisational charges and there is a long-pending demand that the party should revert to its one-man-one-post formula.

But if the allies are to be moved, at least some of them are ready for it. Top sources told Business Standard that Nationalist Congress Party leader and civil aviation minister Praful Patel, who has held charge of the ministry for six years, would be happy to be entrusted with the commerce ministry. In that case, current commerce minister Anand Sharma will have to be shifted. It is possible that the PM might move A Raja out of the communications ministry, given that the allocation of the spectrum issue is being probed. The Trinamool Congress, the biggest ally of the Congress in the second UPA, is entitled to get another minister of state berth. Sudip Bandopadhyay, currently the chief whip of the party in the Lok Sabha, is the likely nominee of the party for the slot.
Manforce: No place for regionalism in MP

Manforce Truck, which has invested Rs 1,000 cr in setting up a truck manufacturing facility in the state, now also plans to roll out buses from the state.

Madhya Pradesh is a state where there is no regionalism as seen in many states of country. The people of state prefer to be called Indian rather than having regional identity says Sudheer Mehta, Managing Director, Manforce Truck Private Limited. Mehta says this is why whoever comes to this state is welcomed with open arms. This is very important thing for the investors. Company is in the business of manufacturing heavy commercial vehicles.

MANForce Truck Private limited is a joint venture of India’s Force Motors Limited and Germany’s MAN Nutzfahrzeuge AG. Both the companies have 50:50 partnerships each in the venture. Domestic partner company Force motors is manufacturing light commercial vehicles since last 50 years. With this joint venture company has stepped in heavy commercial vehicle market. Force motors’ long experience and MAN’s latest technology has given this venture a strong base. MANForce has set up their plant in Pithampur. As of now this plant is manufacturing tipper, tractor and multi axle trucks used in construction and mining. Company has invested around Rs. 1,000 Crore in this plant. Production capacity of this plant is 24,000 trucks per annum. Company had set a target of 6,000 vehicles for the current financial year. Out of this 2,000 trucks would be exported and in coming years company is planning to export 50 percent of the total production. Company will export its products via sales network of MAN. As of now company is producing 500 trucks per month.

Trucks manufactured in Pithampur plants are being exported to 19 countries which include South Africa, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Kenya. Company is planning to start full production in the next three years. MANForce is also planning to enter the bus market very soon. Those buses will also be manufactured in the Pithampur plant. Company will start the production of the buses by next year. Initially company will produce 1,000 buses.
Luigong : Ushering in a new era of Heavy Machinery

Chinese heavy machinery producer Luigong is planning to invest Rs 500 crore in the state by 2015 and among all the companies that had decided to invest in the state during the Investment Summit, Luigong is the first one to start their production. The fact that the company started its production within two years speaks of the success of the state government's policy and bureaucracy.

Speaking about the Madhya Pradesh Government and the industrial environment here, Weisen Liang, Managing Director, Luigon India, said that our establishing a plant and starting production speaks for itself. When we had spoken of starting production at the earliest, the Madhya Pradesh government had assured us of support at every level. After that, whenever we needed any help, the ministers and officers took initiative and helped us. The government never disappointed us. Under the capable leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh, the state government has presented Madhya Pradesh very well in the world scenario. And with this, people's interest in the state is growing quite fast. Up until now, investors were not aware of the specialties of the state, but this has changed after the recent efforts made by the government. Now, investors are observing that the state and its government are serious about the industrial development of the state. Weisen says that the Vijayargiya has made the road for investors a lot easier with TRIFEC.

The company has initially invested Rs. 150 Crores here and has future plans for second and third phase expansion as well. The company plans to invest Rs. 500 Crores here, by the year 2015. The company has started their production last year and among all the companies that had decided to invest in the state during the Investment Summit, Luigong is the first one to start their production. The fact that the company started its production within two years speaks of the success of the state government's policy and bureaucracy.

Speaking about the Madhya Pradesh Government and the industrial environment here, Weisen Liang, Managing Director, Luigon India, said that our establishing a plant and starting production speaks for itself. When we had spoken of starting production at the earliest, the Madhya Pradesh government had assured us of support at every level. After that, whenever we needed any help, the ministers and officers took initiative and helped us. The government never disappointed us. Under the capable leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh, the state government has presented Madhya Pradesh very well in the world scenario. And with this, people's interest in the state is growing quite fast. Up until now, investors were not aware of the specialties of the state, but this has changed after the recent efforts made by the government. Now, investors are observing that the state and its government are serious about the industrial development of the state. Weisen says that the Vijayargiya has made the road for investors a lot easier with TRIFEC.

It is only as a result of this that we have been able to start production within a span of two years. On the basis of the support received from the government, we can say that Luigong will be the initiator of the new era in the heavy machinery market.

Speaking on the Investor Summit organised by the State Government, Weisen states that it is in such programmes that foreigners get to know about the state. I would suggest to all the investors visiting Khajuraho Investment Summit to seriously consider investing in Madhya Pradesh and be a part of the industrial development.
राष्ट्रिय सहर, दिल्ली
बुधवार, 16 अक्टूबर 2010, पृष्ठ: 14

मामले के पीछे खानन लॉबी: वेंकैया

आदर्शवाद (एम.सी.)। कर्नाटक में चक्कर समाप्त करने के प्रयत्न के पीछे खानन लॉबी का हाम होना का अवसर लगाते हुए वरिष्ठ पक्षी नेता एम. वेंकैया नाडु ने शुरुआत की है कि सरकार खानन लॉबी करने के लिए चांगले बातें खाने। नाडु ने नए संबंधित घोषणाओं में कहा--"पूरी पत्ता पाना है कि सरकार खानन लॉबी समाप्त हो गया हो।" उन्हें तीव्र अवसर के निश्चित रूप से उन्हें आवश्यक रूप से नियुक्त करते हैं, ऐसे में इसके राज्य स्तर के प्रतिनिधि से उनके अधिकारों के लिए चांगले बातें खाने। दिखाए चित्रों के लिए नाडु को जानता है कि वहाँ एक लोग रहने वाले हैं किन्तु वे पूरी तरह से समाज के तहत जितने पुरुष का दर्शन कर देते हैं और वह एक संगठन को जाना जाता है कि वह आत्मा भरि चांगले बातें खाने वाले हैं।" लेखक जब उनके फाइल पर जाते हैं तब उन्हीं ने बताया कि भारतीय उप-शिक्षा में वेंकैया नाडु ने फैसला लिया।

नाडु ने कहा कि मैं देशवासी सरकार ने तीन सरकार के निर्णय पर प्रतिबंध का सम्मानित निर्णय लिया। उन्होंने देशवासी सरकार को सार्वजनिक जीत को प्रतिनिधित्व की जगत सभा और सरकार-जयदिह आदि उनके सर पर जदयु भारत। उन्होंने जयदिह वक्ता के अनुसार उन्होंने नेताओं के अभियान दर्ज करने के लिए राज्य के पैगाम्बरों को निर्देशित करते हुए कहा कि इस फैसले से दलितबल और वाणिज्यिक ऊर्जा की नीति-रीतियों के लोगों में गमन गमनियां।
PM congratulates Chile on miners’ rescue

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has congratulated Chilean President Sebastián Pinera on the successful rescue of 33 miners trapped for 69 days in a San Jose mine. In a letter to Pinera, Singh said, “We rejoice with the people of Chile that the miners are free safe and reunited with their dear and loved ones.”
Gold crosses ₹20,000 in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Gold breached the crucial ₹20,000 per ten grams level in the national capital on Friday, on frantic buying for the ongoing festivals. While the gold spurted by ₹75 to an all-time high of ₹20,120 per ten grams, silver jumped up by ₹1,200 to ₹37,000 per kg, a level never seen before.
DIAMOND BOURSE SET TO SHINE ANEW

MUMBAI: The country’s first diamond exchange, which opens next week, expects turnover to rise 10-15 per cent annually in the next five years, challenging the dominance of traditional centres like Belgium and Israel.

Bharat Diamond Bourse, which shifts to a bigger site on October 17 after a near-two-decade delay, currently has a turnover of $28 billion (₹1.23,200 crore), and hopes to grow on higher participation from diamond traders across the globe.

“We expect diamond traders from Israel and Belgium to start trading over here. And we also expect primary producers to come and sell their produce in India,” said Anoop Mehta, president of the exchange.

The exchange, with over 2,300 members, will be housed over an area of 20 million sq ft at the Bandra-Kurla complex.

The exchange proposes to get buyers, sellers, bank officials under one roof to facilitate exports of polished diamonds, Mehta said, adding, State Bank of India and Bank of India will also have a presence.
Now, Modi woos Vedanta
OUT OF ORISSA After Nano, Gujarat eyes ₹10,000cr aluminium investment

Mahesh Langa
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AHMEDABAD: After getting the Tata Group to move their Nano project from West Bengal to Gujarat, the western state’s Chief Minister Narendra Modi seems interested in getting UK-based Vedanta Resources Ltd to shift its aluminium refinery from Orissa to his state.

A senior Gujarat government official said Vedanta could be persuaded to take up the aluminium project the state government had earlier planned to set up with Mumbai-based Ashapura Minechem Ltd.

The Modi government has recently asked the state-owned Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) to scrap its deal with the Ashapura group for setting up an aluminium refinery plant.

“We have asked GMDC to scrap (aluminium) project with Ashapura Group.”

M. Sahu, Principal Secretary (Industries and Mines)

The official said a fresh expression of interest (EoI) would be invited for the plant, which will require an investment of around ₹10,000 crore.

“We have asked GMDC to scrap the project with the Ashapura group because no progress was made and now a fresh EoI will be invited to award the project in joint venture with GMDC,” Principal Secretary (Industries and Mines) M. Sahu told Hindustan Times on Friday.

Does this pave the way for a fresh agreement with Vedanta?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
VEDANTA
SHIFTING TO
GUJARAT?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pawan Kakulik, the head of the company's corporate communica-
tions wing denied any such move. "We have no plans to shift our refinery from Orissa."

If we are not allowed to undertake mining operations in Orissa, we will procure raw materials from outside," he told HT on Friday. But sources in the company did not rule out setting up a refinery in Gujarat.

Vedanta’s Orissa plans are currently in deep trouble. Its bauxite-mining lease has been cancelled. And now the environment ministry has alleged that the expansion of the company's aluminum plant took place without its clearance.

"The violation of environment norms is clear and unam-
biguous," Environment and Forests Minister Jairam Ramesh said on Friday.

With inputs from HTC, Delhi
Mining lobby may be behind Karnataka govt crisis: Venkaiah Naidu

HYDERABAD/BANGALORE, 15 OCT: Alleging that "mining lobby" could be behind the attempts to destabilise the BJP government in Karnataka, senior BJP leader Mr M Venkaiah Naidu today said an investigation would be ordered to bring out the truth over the issue.

"The entire mine owners have ganged up, I am told. Because they are aggrieved by the order of the state government banning the export of iron ore, which is fetching them thousands of crores of rupees. Once it stabilises, we will order an inquiry into the entire episode and find out who are the people who provided this money, who are the people behind this, how the money has changed hands," he told reporters.

Asked to elaborate on the proposed probe, he said the chief minister would take a decision on the matter. He asserted that the Yeddyurappa government has taken a courageous decision in banning the export of iron ore.

"The victory of the Yeddyurappa government in the confidence vote is a triumph of democracy and a slap on the face of the Congress-JD-S combine and their co-conspirator, Governor HR Bhardwaj,"

Mr Naidu said. Describing the decision of the Speaker to disqualify the dissident MLAs as "historic", he said the decision would go a long way in "arresting unethical acts of defectors and horse traders".

Finding fault with the Governor for allegedly behaving in an extra constitutional manner, Mr Naidu demanded that he be recalled immediately.

"It is shocking to note that the Governor even now is continuing with extra constitutional political acts. It was reported even yesterday that he held talks with the disgruntled Congress and JD-S along with defectors for hours together," he said.
Gold crosses Rs 20k

NEW DELHI, 15 OCT: Gold breached the crucial Rs 20,000 per 10 gm level in the national capital today, on frantic buying for the ongoing festivals. While gold spurted by Rs 175 to an all-time high of Rs 20,120 per 10 gm, silver jumped up by Rs 1,200 to Rs 37,000 per kg, a level never seen before.

Buying activity in the precious metals picked up for the ongoing festivals of Navratri, an auspicious week in Hindu mythology for buying new things.

In Mumbai, however, gold price retreated from its overnight all-time high today on emergence of profit-taking at higher levels by speculators despite strong global price movement.

On the other hand, silver continued to scale new peaks on the back of highly speculation driven trade.

"Gold turned speculative, as stockists turned opportunistic and offloaded large chunk of yellow metal to take advantage of the rising trend," traders said. pti.
नेत्र्य के नौवें दौर के लिए 34 ब्लॉकों की पेशकश

बीमारी लगाते ही अतिक्रमण 18 मार्च
मिलिकों को आकारित बनाने के लिए 18
अक्टूबर का सुबह में होगा रोड शो

विज्ञान महाकाश | नई दिल्ली

भारत ने शुक्रवार को नई उत्तरप्रदेश शहरीय नीति (नेट) के नौवें दौर में उल्लिखन के लिए 34 तेल एवं गैस ब्लॉकों की पेशकश की। पूर्वोत्तरीय एवं पूर्वोत्तरीय गैस मंडल सुरजी
देवधा ने जिन्होंने यह घोषणा की शहरीय नीति नीति (नेट) के नौवें दौर में उल्लिखन के लिए 34 तेल एवं गैस ब्लॉकों की पेशकश की। पूर्वोत्तरीय एवं पूर्वोत्तरीय गैस मंडल सुरजी
देवधा ने इसकी पेशकश के 8,9, 10 और 17 पृष्ठपर हैं। जमीनी सभा वाले ब्लॉकों में 8 चोटी
ब्लॉकों में विभिन्न पृष्ठपर हैं जिनमें एक जोड़ी लगाने के लिए एक टेक्निकल
व्यक्तिगत संगठन दिनदह तथा रोड ब्लॉकों को उल्लिखन करने के 8,9, 10 और 17
पृष्ठपर हैं। इस दौर के लिए विभिन्न पृष्ठपर हैं जिनमें एक जोड़ी लगाने के लिए एक टेक्निकल
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पृष्ठपर हैं। इसके लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय रोड ब्लॉक भी व्यवस्थापित किए जाएगे, जिन पर
फैसला भारत में लिए जाएगा।

उत्तराखंड के नौवें दौर में अपने तक 235
ब्लॉकों को आकारित बनाने के 8,9, 10 और 17
पृष्ठपर हैं। इसके परिप्रेक्ष्य परिप्रेक्ष्य
2000 से 2010 के दौरान भारत के सीहोमेंटी ब्लॉकों का उल्लिखन के 8,9, 10 और 17
पृष्ठपर हैं। इसके परिप्रेक्ष्य परिप्रेक्ष्य
2000 से 2010 के दौरान भारत के सीहोमेंटी ब्लॉकों का उल्लिखन के 8,9, 10 और 17
पृष्ठपर हैं।

देवधाने ने नक्सली कि देश के सहाय या छोटे खेतों में की हालातकारक मंडल मिला है, वह 64 टेल एवं 10 लाख टन
के बारक इन ब्लॉकों में शहरीय नीति (नेट) के नौवें दौर के लिए जिन्होंने यह 34 ब्लॉकों की पेशकश की गई है उनमें 19
नए ब्लॉक हैं, जबकि 15 रिसालित हैं।

Dainik Bhaskar, Faridabad
Saturday, 16th October 2010, Page: 13

Width: 6.31 cms Height: 16.68 cms, Ref: pmin.2010-10-16.16.58.69
सोना कितना सोणा है

ईटीएफ

एमएसटी देश भर में ईटीएफ की भूमिका के प्रभाव कहने के लिए भी सबसे बड़ा लक्ष्य है। इसका उपयोग में हमें भी सबसे महत्वपूर्ण रूप से स्थापित है। इसका प्रभाव में हमें भी सबसे महत्वपूर्ण रूप से स्थापित है। इसका प्रभाव में हमें भी सबसे महत्वपूर्ण रूप से स्थापित है। इसका प्रभाव में हमें भी सबसे महत्वपूर्ण रूप से स्थापित है। इसका प्रभाव में हमें भी सबसे महत्वपूर्ण रूप से स्थापित है।
शांति की क्रीमत

पिछले दिनों भारत में कल्याण के उत्कृष्ट ने कई तैनाती और खुफिया सेवा के अधिकारियों को अपने देश का वीर देने से मना कर दिया। उत्तराखंड का कहना था कि कुछ महान तैनात नैसर्गिक और खुफिया एजेंसियां मानवाधिकारों के हनन और बुरे नैसर्गिक संकरों के खिलाफ काम कर रहे हैं।

उत्तराखंड की यह दिशाएं पर विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहीं आपात कारण को। लेकिन हाल ही में प्रधानमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने अपनी जम्मू-कश्मीर यात्रा के दौरान पेश किया कि इस सीमान्त के राज्य में सेना मानवाधिकारों का हनन नहीं कर रही है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि 'इसे अवश्य नहीं किया जाएगा।'

सुरक्षा और, माओवाद के संदर्भ में निपटने के लिए देश में सुनिश्चित तैनाती से सैन्य बलों के प्रयोग का महत्त्व रखता है। संदर्भ हर माओवादी चक्कर के बाद कूटनीतिक तौर पर सेना का भी काम कटाया है और सरकार को आवश्यकताओं की दृष्टि से सेना का प्रयोग करने की आवश्यकता है।

सरकारी बहार में पुलिस अभियानों में सेना या अर्धसेना बलों के हिस्से को कौन दिखाई दिया जाता है। यद्यपि देश को पुराने में दिखाई दिया जाता है कि बड़े बड़े लोगों को हालात की दृष्टि से लेकर सेना का प्रयोग करना उचित नहीं है। अन्य बातें हैं, सेना और अन्य सैनिक संबंधितों को लागू करने या लागू करने के लिए आवश्यकता है।

आज कोलंबो और अन्य सुरक्षा एजेंसियों पर लागू होने वाला यह दबाव रहता है कि वे कुछ ऐसा कर दिखायें जिससे वह वहाँ रहे हों जो वह अपनी सुरक्षा को सुनिश्चित करते हैं और देश का प्रयोग करते हैं। नागरिक क्षेत्रों में सेना का विस्तार तत्कालीन धर्मों को शामिल करना चाहिए।

इसके लिए आदेश दिनों बाद नहीं किया जा सकता। समय-समय पर अपने दिशानुसार उन्होंने सैनिकों और जनाधिकारियों के लिए सभी सेना को प्रादेशिक दृष्टि से लेकर लागू करने की आवश्यकता है।
In Maha, mining cos decide ecological impact of projects

Mumbai: It’s yet another glaring lacuna in the government’s skewed mining policy: Environment Impact Assessment reports for mining projects — which assess the long-term effect a project will have on the environment — are prepared by the mining firms themselves with the help of private agencies whom they appoint. This EIA report is then put up for public hearing, after which the draft, along with the minutes of the hearing, is sent to an Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) appointed by the ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) for final approval of the project.

TOI on Friday reported how the Maharashtra government has issued 49 mining leases in the eco-sensitive Sindhudurg district, out of which 32 permits are in the Sawantwadi-Dodamarg region, which has the highest forest cover within Sindhudurg. “The EIA reports of many of these mining leases will now be prepared and there is a genuine concern, looking at past records, that they will be a cut-and-paste job done by some private agency appointed by the mining company,” says D Stalin, project director, Vanshakti.

The EIA reports prepared by the Hyderabad-based Bhagwat Analabs for two of its proposed mining projects at Kalane and Asaniye in Sawantwadi are cases in point. “These EIA reports did not mention the water bodies or the rich flora and fauna here,” says Sandeep B Sawant, a Sawantwadi-based environmentalist. “The first EIA report on Asaniye village stated that there was no horticulture in our village when we have 110 acres of horticulture. It also said the village had medium-quality soil when we have one of the most fertile lands in Maharashtra. The report also said that we depend on borewells when we have 65 perennial streams running into the village and do not need borewells. This is all done to show that we do not have any occupation and the farm yield is low.”

According to Goa-based activist Claude Alvares, over 100 mines have come up in Goa in ecologically sensitive areas based on false EIA reports. Officials in the environment ministry say that flawed policy does often lead to EIA reports being fabricated. “The EIA report should ideally be vetted by an independent agency so that there is more accountability,” state environment secretary Vales Nair Singh said.
Mining law draft has stringent norms

Neeraj Thakur

The new draft of the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act 2010 (MMDR) has made provisions to strictly implement the compensation model for the people affected by the mining activity.

The defaulters will have to pay the penalty with 15% interest within 30 days of receiving the notice from the State government. Otherwise, the State government will have the power to cancel the defaulters’ lease, says the draft.

A group of ministers (GoM), headed by finance minister Pranab Mukherjee, on September 17 had approved sharing of 26% profits or the previous year’s royalty paid, whichever is higher, by the mining companies.

“The holder of the annual lease shall pay to the District Mineral Foundation an amount equal to 26% of the profit after deduction of tax paid of the previous year, or a sum equivalent to the royalty paid, whichever is more,” the draft states.

The draft of the mining bill, which has been reviewed by DNA Money, also says “where the holder of the lease is a mining company, it shall also allot at least one share at par for consideration other than cash to each person of the family affected by mining.”

It says the amount payable shall be in addition to any other amount or compensation payable to the person or family holding occupation or traditional rights of the surface of the land under any law for the time being in force.

The GoM is expected to clear the final draft in the coming days.

Explaining profit sharing, the draft mentions that the intention of the clause is to generate profits from mining-related operations of the lease holder, which should benefit the families affected by mining.

Industry lobbies including Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) had opposed the equity sharing model proposed in the GoM meeting.

Federation of Indian Minerals Industries (Fimi) has been protesting the concept of 26% profit sharing.
‘New rehabilitation policy within a month’

KOLKATA, Oct 11: The Group of Ministers would finalise within a month a new rehabilitation and resettlement policy for those displaced by mining projects, Coal Minister Sriprakash Jaiswal said on Monday. “We are making a policy. I think within one month the policy will be finalized. Twenty six per cent of profit or 10 per cent royalty, whichever is higher, should be given to the land losers every year. Coal ministry is ready for this,” he told reporters on the sidelines of a seminar organised by Merchants’ Chamber of Commerce here.

He said this policy would be applicable to both existing as well as new projects where 26 per cent profit earned from a particular mining project should be distributed proportionately among the land losers. A 10-member ministerial panel headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukerjee last month arrived at a consensus on the draft Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Bill 2010, which, among other things, makes it mandatory for companies to share 26 per cent of the profits from mining with project-affected people. The GoM will now clear the final draft of the Bill which would go to the Cabinet for approval before it is tabled in Parliament.

“Both public or private companies have to share its profit with the affected people,” he said. Jaiswal clarified that the mining projects, which are already operational, need not have to pay retrospectively. “The resentment that started 20 years back has taken the shape of Maoist problem or Naxalite problem. If the government does not take such a major step rehabilitation and resettlement policy) we cannot pacify the land losers and if we cant pacify them now after 10 years these law and order problems will become so big that it will be difficult to handle,” he said. Asked whether such rehabilitation and resettlement policy would increase coal prices in the long run, he said: “It might.”

IANS
Malabar Gold to open 100 outlets

The Kerala-based gold retailer Malabar Gold is targeting to cross the 100 outlets mark in the next two years by opening shops across the country and overseas. The jewellery retailer is betting big on Tamil Nadu market and has roped in Tamil music meastro Ilaveraja as its brand ambassador.
Copper futures rise
Copper futures prices rose by Rs 1, or 0.30%, to Rs 374.10 per kg on Friday, as speculators created positions, led by a firming trend overseas. At the Multi Commodity Exchange counter, copper for November delivery moved up by Rs 1, or 0.30%, to Rs 374.10 per kg, with a turnover of two lots.
Gold equities set to lag as yellow metal surges

London, Oct 15: The underperformance of gold mining shares against the price of bullion this year will be underlined in coming quarters as a spike in the yellow metal is largely discounted and the equities look expensive.

A falling dollar on signs of US monetary easing is bullish not just for gold, but also for oils, a key component of the mining cost.

Analysts said that firm energy prices and a stronger local currency would crimp a rise in miners' profit margins, though companies with ambitious expansion programmes and smaller miners could still be attractive picks. “Overall, since the last quarter of 2009, shares in gold miners have underperformed, and though they outdid bullion last quarter,” analysts say underperformance will resume and last for more than six months amid a further rise in gold.

Gold hit a record high of $1,387.10 an ounce on Thursday. World No. 1 gold miner Barrick predicts the price will cross $1,500 in 2011, while a poll of delegates attending the London Bullion Market Association's conference last month pegged gold at $1,450 by next September.

“Higher gold prices doesn't always mean higher margins. It means higher revenues potentially, but you have to be concerned about management competence, operational cost efficiency and underlying inflation, amongst other things,” said Charles Cooper, mining analyst at Oriel Securities.

Analysts say that uncertainties over the global economic outlook and expectations of a weaker dollar, which makes gold cheaper for other currency holders and thus raises demand for the metal, should continue to support bullion, generally seen as a safe haven investment.

Gold equities also look expensive to some other sectors, with the gold/silver index of top miners trading at 20 times its one-year forward earnings, against 9.7 times for the European healthcare sector, 10 times for the telecom sector and 10.9 times for basic resources.

But analysts said there are several interesting companies in the gold mining sector, with good quality ore reserves and impressive growth potential, and a carefully selected portfolio could yield strong returns. “If you invest in gold equities, you are taking a lot of other risks through which you may be rewarded,” said Tom Gidley-Kitchin, analyst at Charles Stanley.

By investing in mining shares, investors also take a certain exposure to a particular country's exchange rate, political risk, mining taxes and the management's ability to deal with situations, analysts said.
Gold holds steady near $1,380

London: Gold held steady near $1,380 an ounce in Europe on Friday, with the precious metal's sharp run higher losing momentum as the dollar steadied, but lingering doubts over the currency continued to support prices. Spot gold was bid at $1,377.65 an ounce at 1111 GMT, against $1,376.75 late in New York on Thursday. US gold futures for December delivery rose $1.10 to $1,378.70. Reuters
‘Gold may fall before rallying to $1,550/oz’

Oct 15: Gold, trading near a record, may decline this year before resuming an advance to $1,550 an ounce in 12 months, LGT Capital Management said.

The metal may decline to $1,200 in three months, before rising to $1,450 in six months, LGT analyst Bayram Dincer in Pfaeffikon, Switzerland, said today in a report. Immediate-delivery bullion yesterday
reached a record $1,387.35
and traded at $1,377.40 at 10:49
am in London on Friday.
“We see more upside poten-
tial if major central banks continue with expan-
sive monetary policy in the
course of 2011 and postpone
their exit strategy,” Dincer
said. Gold, up 28% this year,
is heading for a 10th annual
gain, the longest winning
streak since at least 1920. Bull-
ion futures have also
reached a record in India.

Bloomberg
Weak dollar supports copper

Reuters

London, Oct 15
Copper traded steady on Friday with a weaker dollar supporting prices and as the market awaited a speech by the head of the US Federal Reserve for clues on the economic outlook in the world's largest economy.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange traded at $8,401.50 a tonne by 10:10 GMT versus Thursday's close of $8,400.

Prices of the metal used in power and construction earlier dipped to $8,340 a tonne during a brief dollar recovery in Asian trade. Tin traded at $26,675 versus $26,950.

Aluminium traded at $2,403 a tonne versus Thursday's close of $2,410 a tonne. Zinc traded at $2,410 versus $2,415 a tonne. Lead traded at $2,406.50 a tonne. Nickel traded at $24,200 versus Thursday's close of $24,305 a tonne.
Mismatch with Vedanta case

In the Vedanta case, the Supreme Court had refused to give importance to the traditional beliefs of the Dongri Kondhs that the Niyamgiri Hills was the abode of their God Niyanraj. So, here is a window of opportunity worth exploring vis-a-vis Lord Ram and Ayodhya.

I do not remember another instance wherein issues framed before a trial court to resolve a dispute between two communities included matter of faith of one of the community. The second issue framed for the trial of the dispute was “Whether the mosque was built after demolishing a Hindu Temple?” The latter issue requires historical and archaeological expertise. There is no consensus among archaeologists and historians who have the expertise and training to interpret various documents and arrive at conclusions on such matters on whether there was a pre-existing temple before the construction of the mosque.

How are these issues relevant for the outcome of the trial of dispute over title of plot of land on which Babri Masjid existed till its demolition in the year 1992? Assuming that the court arrived at an unanimous conclusion that Bhagwan Shri Ram was indeed born on that particular spot and that there was a pre-existing temple where the Babri Masjid stood till it was demolished on December 6, 1992, how would such a conclusion be relevant for the outcome of the trial to decide ownership of the land? Ownership is determined only by adverse possession, agreement between parties, inheritance and/or registered title deeds. Courts only examine documents in possession of the rival parties and possession. The law of adverse possession is that if an intruder into a property holds possession unchallenged for 12 years or more, than not withholding that title deed is in favour of another, the intruders is deemed owner.

Justice Sharma opined that “the world knows where Ram’s birth place is”. How the judge arrived at the conclusion about “world’s” knowledge is anybody’s guess. Though Justice Aggarwal concluded that Lord Ram was son of King Dhrath and was born within 1,482.5 square yards of disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid premises over 9,00,000 years ago, to ask for positive evidence is only futile attempt but against all the canons of the principles of law. For Justice Aggarwal, “failing to find evidence to something does not necessarily result in that the thing does not exist.” In the judgment delivered by Justice Aggarwal, he observed that the court has to uphold a faith which continued for time immemorial and not seek for direct evidence of the exact birthplace. Having admitted that birthplace of Lord Ram cannot be proved by evidence, there is no material quoted from the records of the court as to how the court arrived at the conclusion of “faith which continued for time immemorial”? Justice SU Khan ruled that conclusion of Lord Ram’s birthplace is an “informed guess” based on “oral evidences of several Hindus and some Muslims” that establish the “precise birthplace of Ram” under the central dome. How those several Hindus and some Muslims who gave oral evidence about the birthplace of Lord Ram is again a good guess and the court is not supposed to rely on hearsay evidence. Faith (not supported by the material on record of the court) is clearly mislaging the court to misdirected conclusions based on conjectures and surmises.

The report of the ASI concludes that the remains of the massive structure predating the construction of the mosque indicated distinctive features found associated with the temples of north India. The conclusion of the report is hotly contested by prominent archaeologists. Justice Aggarwal himself admits that the report is inconclusive. Yet he concludes that the disputed structure was raised after demolition of the temple. Even a prudent man would require a lot of evidence to take the conclusion further from “existence of a structure pre-dating construction of a mosque” to structure raised “after demolition of a “Hindu” temple. For Justice Sharma, the report only “confirms” that the disputed site was and is the site of a temple “believed” by Hindus to have been “always the birthplace of Lord Ram”. If the judgment were to go unchallenged, apart from anything else, it will become a bad precedent in law and litigants would cite the precedent to prompt all kinds of conclusions based on unsubstantiated faith, surmises and conjectures. When the Dongri Kondhs, a primitive adivasi were objecting to Vedanta owned Sterlite Corporations mining for bauxite in Niyamgiri Hills and one of the grounds was that their god Niyanraj resides in the Hills of Niyamgiri, the Supreme Court rejected that argument as India is a secular country. Let us wait and see if appeal is filed, will the Supreme Court uphold faith over the law of the land?
Story of hope

The rescue of the 33 miners trapped under a half-mile of rock in the San Jose mine, Chile, is the epic story of hope in which the lives of a few became an inspiration for the hopeless around the world. The gigantic effort to rescue the brave men is an example of the bond that connects human beings. It required the determination of a nation to bring back these men from darkness.

I wish every nation learns a lesson or two from Chile. It disturbs our conscience when we see so many deaths caused by hunger, floods, drought and crimes as many of them are avoidable. Chile has reportedly spent millions of dollars to save the miners. Every dollar was worth it.

G.B. Vinay, Mysore

The tremendous efforts taken by the Chilean government with the aid of other agencies in liberating the 33 trapped miners from the fatal depths of the earth are indeed laudable. Chilean President Sebastian Pinera will be remembered as the quintessential people’s representative. I hope the meticulous operation will inspire nations in their task when faced with crises.

Salini Johnson, Thiruvananthapuram

The world stared at the rescue operation in stunning disbelief. Although miners are exposed to occupational hazards, the rare courage shown by the 33 trapped miners against all odds deserves universal praise. The rescue team did an admirable job, proving that when the going gets tough, the tough get going.

A. Michael Dhanaraj, Coimbatore

The rescue operation saw humanity at its best — the finest act of unselfishness, bravery and brotherhood. True to its traditions, The Hindu dedicated the entire letter column to the subject. A documentary on this great incident should be shown to all school children so that they develop lasting values.

N.G.R. Prasad, Chennai

While my friends insisted on seeing the miners’ rescue on television, I insisted on seeing The Hindu so that I could experience the event. The government of Chile and NASA should be congratulated on their continuous and bold efforts. The courage of the miners is unparalleled. The rescue has indeed inspired awe and admiration around the world.

B. Jambulingam, Thanjavur

Mines are prone to accidents. What made Chile’s case different was not the nature of the accident but the cautious approach, diligence and technique through which the trapped victims were rescued after two months. Chile has set an exemplary precedence on how to combat a mine disaster. It deserves a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

S. Nagarajan, Thiruvananthapuram

It is truly a euphoric moment for the rescue team. The challenge in the Atacama region of Chile is huge as it is one of the driest deserts in the world. The rescue operation will remain a memorable event in human history.

P.A. Jayan, Bangalore

Other disasters

The Hindu deserves praise for giving prominence to the miners’ rescue in Chile. The incident created a lot of interest throughout the world and rightly so. Many may remember the 1968 Chinakuri mine accident in West Bengal, in which 186 people died. Some miners survived for over a month. They were somehow brought out. Utpal Dutt, renowned actor and playwright, wrote a play on the tragedy and staged it to packed houses at Kolkata for a long period.

Tapas Sen who arranged the lights made the spectators feel they were inside the mine, struggling to save themselves from drowning. People dying in accidents is nothing unusual. But Chinakuri and, now, Chile, remind us of the glorious struggle of man against disasters.

Venuturuppally Suryam, Secunderabad

In 1972, a coal mine near the Sitarampur rescue station in West Bengal was drowned and 39 miners were trapped inside. Thanks to the availability of workings on the rise side (air pockets), the miners took shelter in the rise. The mine’s exit was not approachable as the workings were flooded.

An old drill rig from a nearby mine was shifted to a place located to drill a six-inch hole to connect up workings. The same was completed in two to three days. Communication with the miners was established, and food and medicines were sent in. An IIT professor was entrusted with the job of designing a skip to work in a bigger hole to bring up the trapped miners. The work was executed and all 39 miners were brought out safely after 18 days. This was perhaps the earliest instance of establishing an access and bringing the miners to safety.

S.V. Krishna Murthy, Palakkad
A miners’ story
India’s watching

G Ganapathy Subramaniam,
Debjoy Sengupta & Rakhi Majumdar
NEW DELHI | KOLKATA

A FEW days ago, Ramagya Kewat Dum realised he had better get used to receiving calls from reporters asking about his investment plans.

Until recently, the 46-year-old dumper operator at a mine run by Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd (CIL), in Dudhichua, Uttar Pradesh, had only a savings bank salary account. And in the 20 years Dum had been with NCL, his father of four never bothered about anything else other than making both ends meet. And yes, he has invested once before: “Mera ek LIC ka policy hai (I have taken an LIC policy),” he says.

But things are changing.

Dum has opened a demat account, and he says he will consult best friend and co-worker Surjit Singh on how much he should invest in the CIL initial public offering (IPO). For trading in stock markets, an investor needs a demat account where shares are kept in dematerialised (electronic) form.

Several CIL employees, especially those at the lowest rung, are excited at the prospect of owning a part of the company. Based in Jharkhand’s Ke-shpur, Sachidanand Kumar is a miner with Bharat Coking Coal, one of CIL’s eight subsidiaries. “Company ke officers ne help kia demat account khadne ke liye (The company’s officers helped me open a demat account),” says Kumar.

Co-miner Alexander Minz also plans to invest some ₹10,000-20,000 in the IPO because “dost log sa kartey hein (my friends are all going to subscribe to the CIL offering).”

Hopes are high for the world’s largest coal producer which will open an IPO for subscription on October 18. State-owned CIL is thrilled at several of its 4.1 lakh workforce opening demat accounts to subscribe to the primary issue.

In fact, more than 80% of the company’s employees fall in the workman category and it is this segment that the country’s capital market business is chasing like crusaders, despite logistic challenges.

ALL ABOUT HITCHING A RIDE

In the run-up to CIL’s public offering, which at an estimated mop-up of ₹16,000 crore is all set to become the largest IPO, capital market intermediaries find it a blessing that the government is making all-out efforts to encourage larger retail and employee participation in PSU listings and follow-on offerings; till now, the Reliance Power IPO was the largest, raising ₹11,700 crore in 2008.

For some time now, representatives of firms such as Kotak Securities and SMC have been active in remote mining regions such as Dhanbad in Bihar, Korba in Chhattisgarh, Talcher in Orissa and Jamshedpur in Jharkhand. You would also find them at Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh or Raniganj in West Bengal. Since most of CIL’s employees are clueless about stock markets and listings, finance companies have helped them open demat accounts and taught them about equity markets.
Challenges to get workers on board

WE ARE offering no-drills accounts and charging them very low rates. We have been working on this for the past three months," says B Gopikumar, executive vice-president at Kotak Securities. According to industry estimates, more than 50,000 CIL employees have opened demat accounts.

However, it is not easy to cover all of CIL employees. A majority of them live in far-flung areas such as North Karanpura in Jharkhand, Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh and Kalmi in Maharashtra. Then there is the stigma associated with investing in stocks. "It is also the mindset which plays a role here. Some PSU employees do not want to subscribe to the offering because their parents have warned them not to risk their money in shares," says disinvestments secretary Smiti Bhowmik.

Notes Partha Bhattacharya, chairman, CIL: "We are very keen that we get our employees as stakeholders in the company... we have asked the banks from which employees get their salary to help facilitate opening of demat accounts for employees... On the financial front, apart from loans being provided by these nationalised banks, we have also announced the ex-gratia payment ahead of the scheduled time so that employees have some money to invest."

SOME CHALLENGES
Despite these efforts not all the workers excited about the IPO are actually going to subscribe to the issue. In addition to inaccessibility and illiteracy of the workers, opposition from the union is another deterrent. Bhattacharya contends that trade union opposition to the public float is a cause for concern. "Most workers are attached to unions and therefore the response from workers may not be as good as we want," he says. The company has reserved 10% of the issue for employees.

But it is the view that the employee quota may not be subscribed 100% by past experience. "Initially, PSUs were allotting employee quota mathematically, assuming that all employees would subscribe to their full quota. Lessons are being learnt," says the man who looks after listing of PSUs and follows on offers for the listed ones.

While caution stems from the sheer size of the IPO—632 million shares on offer, buoyancy in the bourses has turned capital market veterans bullish. "The Coal India IPO is likely to see the largest ever retail participation and it is estimated that around two-and-a-half million applications will come in," said Narse Kothari, president, Edelweiss Capital.

TOWARDS FINANCIAL INCLUSION
Of the CIL employees subscribing to the IPO, a significant portion is expected to try out investments in other shares too. "In case of most IPOs, remote areas are not tapped because the distribution costs are not large enough. The Coal India IPO is very large and it is worthwhile to tap the remote pockets. Of course, this will not take the equity out to these areas in a jiffy, but a beginning will be made," said Nandini Vaidya, president in charge of retail brokerage at India Infoline.

While details would be known only after the CIL IPO opens on Monday, it is becoming increasingly clear that it will have good level of employee participation among large PSU offerings. "There are high chances that some of the new demat accounts being opened for Coal India could turn inactive. But a lot of people will get introduced to the universe of capital markets. This is an opportunity which the capital market should not miss," said Jagannadham Thunuguntla, equity head at SMC Global Securities.

Experts fear the trend of steady PSU offerings is likely to persist for years. Once the government starts cracking the whip on the maximum public shareholding norm of 35%, the long queue for tapping the capital market will only get longer. And seeds sown in the hinterland will come in handy there, providing another layer of cushion for India Inc when the scramble for mop-ups hit new gear. According to a consultation paper floated in 2009 by a committee on investor awareness, headed by former Punjab National Bank Regulatory Authority chairman D Swarup, India has 88 million investors holding financial assets and 8 million out of them participate in debt and equity markets. Swarup's assessment is that nearly 200 million consumers for financial products are waiting in the wings. It is probably a tip of this massive iceberg that the capital market is trying to feed to the rural hinterland through PSU offerings. But for the time being, hope may not come to those. Ask CIL employee Dum Dum Duddia who will invest in other stocks as well, now that he has a demat account and he says, "Dekhna hai (I have to see)."
पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने की तेल खोजने के नए दौर की घोषणा

भारत न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

नींबुं उद्योग के लाइसेंस नींबुं की खोज करते हुए पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने 34 जल्‍यंत्रों में तेल खोज अभियान के नए दौर का घोषणा किया है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्री मुश्तीद रेहांा की ओर से भी नया अभियान के मुख्यालय में राजस्थान व उत्तर प्रदेश जिलों में होने वाले खोजने का आयोजन किया गया है। इनमें 19 जून के नींबुं के तेल के खंडों में एक है। इससे राजस्थान में 2, उत्तर प्रदेश में 2, उम्र में 1 और गुजरात में 11 संभावित तेल खंड दाखिल हैं। देश के उपभोक्ताओं को इन खंडों के खोज में सफलता हासिल होने और इसके लिए ध्यान व रोजगार को आर्थिक स्तर पर भी उठाने का प्रभुत्व हासिल होगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि इन खंडों के सफल होने पर 18वीं सदी सर रोजगार के अवसर पर उनका आयोजन होगा और भारत लोगों की भी सरकार व परीक्षण रोजगार के अवसर हासिल होगा। देश के निवास के खंडों की खोज की इनमें 8 गहरे पानी में है। जबकि 7 कम गहरे पानी में और 11 जमीन के आंदोलन के संभावित तेल खंडों हैं।