A revolution is sweeping through Manipur — the central security forces are countering insurgency by building roads, holding regular medical camps in far-flung hills and supplying artificial limbs for hundreds of victims of land mines. The strategy is paying off, says Prasun Chaudhuri.

.width:34.70 cms Height:26.44 cms, Ref: pmn.2011-02-21.4.17
केंद्र सरकार की सबसे बड़ी जमीन गणना शुरू

विशेष

मुख्यमंत्री तिवारी, नई दिल्ली

भूमि पोटों की खुलासा होते ही केंद्रीय विभागों के भीतर सरकारी जमीनों को लेकर अधिवक्तात्मक मन गई है। अपनी तंत्र की पहली एकमत्र बाध्यता में सभी केंद्रीय मंत्रालयों एवं सरकारी उपक्रमों ने केंद्र सरकार की जमीनों की देखभाल गणना शुरू कर दी है। पूरी सरकार पिछले करीब एक साल से अपनी भू संपत्तियों के मौजूदा हिसाब-किताब, आवागम, उच्चिक आदि के अंतर्गत जुटने में लगी है।

केंद्रीय सचिवालय ने सरकारी जमीनों का खाता-बांध सुरक्षित रखा असेट रजिस्टर बनाने के लिए ग्रामीण सेवाओं से लेकर एक उच्चतर समृद्धि के नियन्त्रण देखा जा रहा है, जो विभागों से उनकी जमीनों को केन्द्रीय तलक कर रहे हैं। समिति की रिपोर्ट चार साल में आयोगी। एक इकाई के रूप में सरकार व सरकारी कंपनियाँ (रक्षा, रेलवे, जलन सहित) देश में भूसंपत्तियों की सबसे बड़ी मात्रा है। रक्षा भू संपत्ति के घोटालों के बाद सरकार को ठरा है कि इस तरह के मामलों के विभागों में भी हो सकता है। इसीलिए प्रधानमंत्री पर जो केंद्रीय मंत्री को समीक्षा की ये निगरानी सबसे भारी काम किया गया जो कोई भी आत्मीय वाली जमीनों पर बंद कर पर काम कर रही है।

सरकारी जमीनों के हिसाब-किताब को ठीक करने के लिए बैंक समिति के आयोजित बैंक अधीक्षक पालवा है। भूमी विभाग, तपाइरन, कॉम्पानी, दूसरों, राज्य, जल वर्गीकरण, भू संपत्ति, व्यवसायिक, व्यवसायिक, के सचिवालयों के अधीन फिफी और संसाधनों के प्रति इनकी समिति पर रही है। नीतिपत्र मामलों पर गोद रखने वाली सरकारी बैंक फिरती रिपोर्ट इस समिति को टूटकेट है।

केंद्रीय मंत्रियों व विभागों में सरकारी जमीनों का कोई एकमत्र हिसाब-किताब उपलब्ध नहीं है। प्रत्येक विभाग अपनी जमीनों का हिसाब सथापित करता है। कहीं को सरकार में एक भू-संपत्तियों विभाग भी है।

लेकिन यह प्राथमिकता मंजूरी के माध्यम से और इसका उपयोग जमीनों के यात्रियों इस्तेमाल से नहीं, बल्कि भूमि सुधारों आदि से है।
Govt to introduce 3 bills before NAC nod

Samar P Halarnkar
and Chetan Chauhan
at samar@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The UPA-2 government has irked some members of the Sonia Gandhi headed National Advisory Council (NAC) with its intention to introduce three key social sector legislations in the budget session of Parliament, starting from Monday, without waiting for the council's recommendations.

The government has declared its intention to introduce 32 legislations in the budget session including bills on communal violence, land acquisition, now known as Resettlement and Rehabilitation (RR) Bill and mines and mineral development.

"The government referred these (three) bills to the NAC and is now directly introducing them in Parliament. This is very disappointing behaviour," said a NAC member, who was not willing to be quoted.

Another member, who heads a working group, said the government could have waited for the NAC's final recommendations as these bills are pending for years. The Communal Violence Bill was first introduced in Parliament in 2005 and then withdrawn. The RR Bill is doing rounds since UPA-I days. "What is the hurry?" he asked.

While on communal violence bill, a working group headed by Farah Naqvi had formulated its draft recommendations, NAC member NC Saxena's note on RR Bill is likely to be considered at the next NAC meet on February 26.

The council is yet to formulate its opinion on mines bill, which has been opposed by industry bodies such as the Confederation of Indian Industry for stipulating 26% of a company's profit, engaged in mining, for development of locals. The mines ministry had drafted Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011, which will be considered by a GoM headed by finance minister Pranab Mukherjee before its likely introduction in second half of budget session.

A senior a government functionary in the parliamentary affairs ministry says there is no reason for the NAC members to worry. "Their (NAC) recommendations can be incorporated at the time of passage of these bills," he said. There is a precedent with government introducing over 50 amendments in the RTI Act, as suggested by the NAC, at the time of its passage of the bill in May 2005.

But the government has made it clear that the bill on proposed National Food Security law will not be introduced in Parliament, as there are differences between the NAC and the government on its ambit.
कॉपर में सहा गिरावट का दौर

भारत में कॉपर की दर नवंबर में नयी गिरावट के साथ अनुभव की गई। एनसीएसकॉपर की दर सप्ताहों में सहा गिरावट पर लगी गई थी। इस समय की दरें में सप्ताह में 459.15 रुपए प्रति किलो की थी। दरवर्षी सप्ताह में कॉपर की दर में 445.45 रुपए प्रति किलो की थी।

इन खबरों में, वीडियोटेक्स के विशेषज्ञ के अनुसार, कॉपर में असल अवकाश हुआ है। वहाँ दर में वर्तमान में समय में 459.15 रुपए प्रति किलो की थी। वहाँ की दर में 445.45 रुपए प्रति किलो की थी।

(व्युत्तर/एंजेली)
विनिवेश लक्ष्य हासिल करने से चूक सकती है सरकार

नई दिल्ली, 20 फरवरी (भाषा)। सरकार चालू वित्त वर्ष में 40000 करोड़ रुपए के विनिवेश लक्ष्य को हासिल करने में विफल रह सकती है वर्तमान बाजार में उतार-बढ़ाने की अनुमति के बाद सेल का अनुमानित सार्वजनिक निर्माण (एससी) अगले वित्त वर्ष में आने की संभावना है।

मार्च तक एक पीपीसी लांच जाने के बाद में पूर्ण आजादी पर टेलीफोनिक बेंच रही रहेंगी। भारतीय टेलीफोनिक भारतीय सरकार के विनिवेश में अब काफी कम समय लगा है। इस बाजार की स्थिति देख रहे हैं। सरकार का सार्वजनिक निर्माण ऑपरेटर के शेयरों की विक्रये के बाद ही लाने की योजना थी। इस दो बड़ी कंपनियों का विनिवेश आगे-पीछे आने से निवेशकों के पास निवेश के लिये कम पैसा वर्तमा है।

सरकार ने सार्वजनिक कंपनियों में हिस्सेदारी बेचकर अतिक 22000 करोड़ रुपए जुटाया है और वह 40000 करोड़ रुपए के विनिवेश लक्ष्य हासिल करने के लिए काफी हर तक ऑपरेटरों और सेल के एससी पर निर्भर है। ऑपरेटरों का केंद्र का 15 मार्च को आने की संभावना है और इसके जरिए 13000 करोड़ रुपए जुटाने की उम्मीद है। बड़े सेल के एससी के 8000 करोड़ रुपए जुटाने की उम्मीद है। इस प्रकार एक सार्वजनिक निर्माण को आता है वर्तमान बाजार में उतार-बढाव के कारण सेल के सार्वजनिक निर्माण के लिए चालू वित्त वर्ष में अब काफी कम समय वर्तमा है वर्तमान बाजार का एससी के अलावा सरकार ने कोल इंडिया, पावरग्रुप्स कार्पोरेशन, मोटरसाइकल, इंडियन इंडिया, जहाजरेडी निगम और सदस्य जल विद्युत निगम हैं। ये सरकार विनिवेश के लिए 22000 करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा जुटाए हैं। बहराइच, कच्चे तेल की हाई कीमत का कारण इंडिया अमेरिकी कार्पोरेशन के एससी को झटका दिया गया है। बाजार में उतार-बढाव के कारण हिन्दुस्तान कार्पोरेशन के सेल की बिक्री के कारण को भी आगे बढ़कर गया है। कंपनी के सार्वजनिक निर्माण को विनिवेश में लागा जाना था।
Silver Climbs to 30-Year High; Gold, Palladium Gain

SAINT LUCIE - Silver extended a rally to a 30-year high, and gold climbed to a one-month peak as mounting unrest in the Middle East spurred demand for precious metals as a haven. Palladium jumped to the highest in almost 10 years.

"If you see violence, you would buy precious metals for a safe haven," said Peter Fertig, the owner of Quantitative Commodity Research in Hainburg. Silver futures for March delivery rose 72.6 cents, or 2.3%, to settle at $32.296 an ounce at 1:25 pm on the Comex in New York on Saturday.
हिंदूस्तान कॉपर खट्टाई में नाविकों का बना संशोधन है पाइथन

कोलकाता: नीद्रा नागर निमित्त विद्युत अधिकारी हिंदूस्तान कॉपर (एपीओ) अपनी दो त्रंबक खरीदों में लगभग 20 जीबीबी निम्न अनुसूची बेचने के लिए रेलवे निर्माण उन्नयन अनुसूची अन्तर्गत कर रही है। बाजार में फार्मास्यूटिकल और अन्य वस्त्र से इसका ही विद्युत अधिकृत अनुसूची फ्लाइलिस्ट और (एपीओ) घोषित रहा था।
Appetite for gold continues unabated
‘Investment in yellow metal higher than in ULIPs’

The Indian consumer’s insatiable appetite for gold continued unabated in 2010 when it remained the strongest growth market for it and total annual consumer demand for gold grew 66 per cent at 963.1 tonnes over 578.5 tonnes in the previous year. According to figures released by the World Gold Council (WGC), in value terms, this shows demand went up by 98 per cent to Rs.1.73 lakh crore (Rs.87,450 crore), which comprised a doubling of jewellery demand to Rs.1.34 lakh crore (Rs.74,570 crore) and investment demand going up by 90 per cent to Rs.39,180 crore (Rs.21,740 crore).

In the fourth quarter of the year 2010, total consumer demand was at 284.9 tonnes (207.9 tonnes), up 37 per cent. Jewellery demand surged by 47 per cent to 210.5 tonnes in the fourth quarter boosted by the festive season and the widespread expectation among Indian consumers of the rise in gold prices and investment demand was up 15 per cent at 74.4 tonnes (44.8 tonnes). With gold prices increasing on a regular basis, consumers now have adjusted their price expectations and are now watching for the next level where gold would reach, according to WGC. Even during times of recession, gold prices increased at an average rate of 19.3 per cent in 2009 and 12.5 per cent in 2010. Over the last five years, India’s relationship with gold has become even more intense despite the sharp rise in gold prices.

The report said that over the last three years, average annual investment in gold has been of the order of $20 billion higher than that in unit linked insurance plans (ULIPs) and substantially higher than that in equity linked mutual funds.

According to Ajay Mitra, Managing Director, Middle East and India, WGC, “2010 has been a great year for gold and for its investors around the world, especially in India. With inflation reaching record numbers and there being extreme volatility in the equity markets, gold is one option that has given investors something to cheer about. Given the good returns and consistency of performance, Gold should be an integral part of all investment portfolios. Gold should be a well thought out decision for investors given the strengths that the metal enjoys in comparison to other financial instruments.”

GIVEN THE GOOD RETURNS AND CONSISTENCY OF PERFORMANCE, GOLD SHOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ALL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIOS.

RAMNATH SUBBU
Hind Copper May Sell Stake in Mines to Nalco

RAKHI MAZUMDAR
KOLKATA

State-owned Hindustan Copper, which recently saw its follow-on public offer being delayed due to adverse capital market conditions, is negotiating with aluminum major Nalco to sell about 20% equity stake in two of its copper mines. The stake sale is aimed at part-financing Hindustan Copper’s expansion plans which are estimated to cost ₹4,000 crore, according to a senior executive.

“We have held talks with Nalco which has offered to invest in our mines in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. But these discussions are at a preliminary stage and there is nothing concrete on the ground as yet,” chairman Shakedul Haque told ET. Hindustan Copper is in the process of getting the valuation done for the Malanjkhand copper mines in Madhya Pradesh and the Banyas spinning mills in Rajasthan. While company executives declined to peg a number on the value for the 20% stake in the mines, industry analysts said it won’t be less than ₹500 crore.

State-owned Hindustan Copper is India’s only copper producer with its own mines.
Gold and silver extend gains on geopolitical fears

G. Chandra Shekhara
Mumbai, Feb. 20

Impacted by demand-supply fundamentals and non-fundamental factors that include geopolitics, currency and monetary policy, the global commodities complex covering energy products, metals and agriculture is moving in different directions. Each commodity group has its own orbit, as it were.

Agricultural commodities are currently the most watched simply because of elevated prices of cotton, corn, wheat, sugar and vegetable oil. Last week, cotton breached the critical $200 cent per pound barrier to set a fresh all-time high. As for crude, while political tensions are keeping the market on the boil, WTI prices are depressed due to inventory position in the US and the differential with Brent is at record levels.

Still in demand: In precious metals, gold and silver have made gains on the back of geopolitical concerns and return of investor interest. — K.R. Deepak

Some of the base metals have set new landmarks this year; yet they seem to be buckling under some pressure from China's continual monetary tightening the latest of which was the last week's announcement that reverse rate ratio will be raised by 50 basis points on February 24. On the other hand, construction activity in the Asian giant is going on pace which has supported the metals market rather well. The question is if China were to slow, will the rest of the world step in?

In precious metals, gold and silver have made gains on the back of geopolitical concerns and return of investor interest, although physical demand has taken some beating. How long the interest will last will of course depend on factors such as macroeconomic data, state of geopolitics, monetary policy and equities market.

So, the sense one gets is that the global commodities markets are at the crossroads, and seemingly buffered by conflicting signals. However, there is increasing evidence that growth is returning to the global economy and that is a big boost especially to growth commodities such as energy and industrial metals. In the event, investor interest in gold and silver could wane.

Gold: Geopolitical concerns have once again attracted investors to gold and silver both of which extended their gains last week. While gold reached the highest level since mid-January, silver reached a fresh high since March 1980. World Gold Council report suggested a strong revival in demand in 2010, not only from investors but also from jewellery sector. India was the largest growth market despite record prices. On Friday in London, the gold PM Fix was at $1,384 an ounce, up 0.3 per cent from the previous day's $1,379/oz. Indeed, silver spurted sharply with Friday AM Fix rising by a whopping 4.3 per cent to $31.94/oz from the previous day's $30.61/oz.

Experts point out that Comex net fund balance on the rise; and after hitting its lowest levels since May 2009, it has risen to a one-month high. Net redemptions across ETF holdings have slowed. There is cause to remain optimistic about gold prices because of the favourable climate - low interest rates, currency debasement, inflation expectation and of course unabated geopolitical fears. Silver prices continue to ride on gold's back but also continue to remain vulnerable to sharp correction because of weak fundamentals. One can expect continued volatility.

Base metals: The performance of the complex was somewhat mixed in the international market. Copper fell 1.1 per cent over the week and underperformed on Friday. Exchange stocks in China and elsewhere expanded. On the other hand, aluminium rose by 2.6 per cent over the week to its highest levels seen before the 2008 crisis with stocks falling. There is expectation that aluminium stocks would continue to be drawn over the coming month. Nickel was stronger over the week, up by 3.0 per cent to $29913.2 a tonne. Demand for nickel and ferrochromium is rising as a function of strong stainless steel production, notably in China. Analysts assert that Chinese stainless steel makers use a high proportion of primary raw materials than in other producing regions since stainless steel scrap is less readily available.

Spot market prices are rising and are anticipated to move up by $100-200 a tonne.

Positive signals of global economic growth have brought to the market a new found confidence. However, growth concerns have not fully faded. There is lingering fear of slowdown in the wake of continued tightening monetary policy of major emerging economies. Changes in inventory levels may provide cue to market development. Slowdowns in Chinese buying may provide a short-term downside risk to prices. Caution is necessary.

Crude: Geopolitical concerns and unabated uncertainties in the Middle-East North Africa region have kept the market well supported in addition of course to tightening market balances. Data suggest improving demand conditions.
Gold may test resistance levels

Comex gold futures ended higher on Friday underpinned by fears over rising inflation and growing unrest in West Asia. Bullion's gains sparked strong investment buying in silver, which soared to 31-year high, further widening silver's gains over gold and sending the gold-silver ratio to its lowest level in 13 years.

Gold also benefits as a safe haven as worries about the political stability of the region have flared this week, with unrest spreading after protests in Tunisia and Egypt unseated leaders there. Gold buying spiked this week after data showed US core consumer prices rose 0.2 per cent in January, the fastest pace in more than a year, indicating a long period of slowing inflation had run its course. Earlier this week, strong Chinese core inflation had also boosted gold.

Comex gold futures moved against our expectations. As mentioned in the previous update, prices could aim for the next resistance in the $1,365-1,375 levels. It has comfortably risen above $1,365 and has closed the week strongly above $1,385. Near-term trend line resistance is at $1,403-1,405 levels now. A corrective decline from there could be seen targeting $1,365 levels initially.

However, indicators confirm the reversal of bearish trend in gold and a possibility of making new highs now. Once above $1,405 on a closing basis prices could gradually ease higher towards $1,485-1,495 levels. Supports are now seen at $1,374 followed by $1,365 levels. Only an unexpected decline below $1,351 could revive bearish hopes again.

We will once again revisit the wave counts, as the markets witnessed lot of volatility. We see the recent high of $1,435 as the end of the fifth wave impulse only and now a new corrective wave “A-B-C” in the making. We believe wave “A” has possibly ended at $1,397. A corrective pullback in the form of a wave “B” is in the making. Only a daily close above $1,395, will hint that a new impulse or an irregular wave “B” could be in the making.

Above $1,405, we will be forced to revisit our counts again. The RSI is still in the overbought zone now indicating the possibility of a corrective decline in the coming sessions. The averages in MACD have crossed above the zero line of the indicator signalling a bullish reversal.

Therefore, look for gold futures to test the resistance levels.

Supports are at $1,375, $1,364 and $1,351. Resistances are at $1,395, $1,405 and $1,425.

Gnanasekar T.
(The author is the Director of Commitrends Research and also in the advisory panel of Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX). The views expressed in this column are his own and not that of MCX. This analysis is based on the historical price movements and there is risk of loss in trading. He can be reached at gnanasekar_thiagarajan@yahoo.com.)
M&As on BHP
CEO’s radar
in spite of
funds pledge

Feb 20: BHP Billiton chief executive officer Marius Kloppers said he’s still interested in takeovers even after setting aside $80 billion for BHP’s own projects.

Regulatory concerns are impeding iron-ore acquisitions by the world’s largest mining company, though BHP’s potash, copper, and oil and gas businesses aren’t constrained in the same way, Kloppers told Australian Broadcasting.

Reporting record first-half profit, Kloppers last week unveiled a programme to develop BHP’s mines and oil fields after three investments totaling over $100 billion were knocked back in the past four years. He said on Saturday’s programme that while surging commodity prices have led to some “very high” asset valuations, those conditions may not last.

“Cycles change,” Kloppers said on the ABC’s Inside Business programme. “In the six months or a year’s time, something else may come up. The oil and gas market is a very large one where there may be opportunities going forward.” Kloppers, after falling last year to buy Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan said his view that rising prices are inflated is based on “prevailing prices that we see today.”

Mining takeovers reached a near-record of $144.5 billion in 2010, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, pushing up sellers’ expectations. BHP stock has gained 22% in the past six months and closed at
“Cycles change,” Klopers said on the ABC’s Inside Business programme. “In the six months or a year’s time, something else may come up. The oil and gas market is a very large one where there may be opportunities going forward." Klopers, after failing last year to buy Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan said his view that asking prices are inflated is based on “prevailing prices that we see today.”

Mining takeovers reached a near-record of $144.5 billion in 2010, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, pushing up sellers' expectations. BHP stock has gained 22% in the past six months and closed at A$46.56 on February 18, valuing the Melbourne-based company at A$240 billion. The benchmark S&P/ASX 200 index climbed 11% in the same period.

Metal prices in London almost doubled in the past two years as the global economy rebounded. In the last three months alone, the LME London Metals Index of six metals including copper, platinum and lead has surged 18%.

BHP has $16.1 billion of cash on hand, it said recently. The company is expected to generate net income of $21.7 billion for the year ending June 2011, according to the average of 17 analysts estimates compiled by Bloomberg. Anadarko Petroleum Corp., the Texas oil company with a market value of $40 billion, and Woodside Petroleum, the Australian oil and gas producer valued on the stock exchange at A$33 billion, have been named as possible targets for BHP.

Anadarko surpassed a two-year high in New York trading in December after the Daily Mail reported BHP may make a bid. Woodside and closely held coal producer Drummond Co were other possible targets, UBS said in November.  Bloomberg
Sujeet Kumar

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raghubar Das says setting up steel and coal-based power projects will provide employment to thousands of poor families. He believes there is no point in preventing mining in 'no go areas' for projects that are already under way. "A number of big steel plants are coming up in the poverty-hit Bastar region in the south and we are planning several coal-based power projects for the northern region that will come up in two to five years," Singh told IANS in an interview. "These projects will revolutionise people's life quality," Singh told IANS. Singh said the focus of the industrial drive will be on providing employment to the local population in the proposed plants.

Land acquisition has almost been completed for the massive integrated steel plants in the iron ore-rich Bastar region, home to over a million tribal people caught in the crossfire between Maoists and security forces since the late 1980s. Singh has been heading the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government since December 2003. Referring to the controversy over land acquisition for power projects in "no go areas," as marked by the union environment and forests ministry, Singh said: "This is the case when once the house has been constructed with due permission and as per rule, then the owner is asked to get an no-objection certificate." The union government decided to refer the issue to a group of ministers (GoM) following sharp differences between the environment, coal and power ministries over the issue of allowing mining of coal in certain sensitive areas. "Several projects such as IFFCO have acquired land for power plants in the state and put in good investment already. They are not getting coal blocks or coal linkages because of the 'no-go area' issue, though the final decision has to be taken now by the GoM. "I conveyed my request to Prime Minister Mamata Banerjee that if the government was not interested to allow coal blocks in a 'no go area', then why have they notified such areas as coal blocks," Singh said. He stressed: "I am not against forests. We should protect the forest cover. But my argument is that if the central government wanted to prevent the companies from mining in 'no go' areas then I should have been informed much earlier, not after the companies made major progress on their projects."

India's largest iron ore producer and exporter in public sector, the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), is set to set up a 3 million tonne per annum (MTPA) steel plant in Bastar district. The private sector steel major Tata Steel is also planning a 5.5 MTPA plant in the district. The state government has also signed a deal for another 3.2 MTPA plant in the region with Essar Steel. The tribal-majority Surguja region in the north is coal rich, where several thermal plants will come up in the coming years, including a 4,000-MW mega project. The government has also been planning to allow private companies to set up an aluminium plant in the region, which has a good deposit of bauxite as well. Singh strongly advocated a ban on iron ore exports and said he strongly favoured the setting up of industries in the mineral-rich regions where local people can be employed. "Imposing a ban on the export of iron ore has been my long-time demand; I have repeatedly told the central government. I presented the issue before the group of ministers (GoM) headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who was drafting the new mining policy," the chief minister said. "My policy is that its value addition should be within the state to help local people get employment," said the 59-year-old politician.
Get business to behave

Raghuvaran Rajan, who wrote Saving Capitalism from Capitalism, is an advisor to the PM. Perhaps there is a need to rethink the term in the context of India’s new political economy where government has not been saved from free market capitalism, but from specific business groups.

Nexus

This is clearest in the telecom scam where the issue is not how resources were allocated but why there were gross abuses to the extent that Premier industries were allowed to exit while others were blocked from entry. The accusations of裙带资本主义 and the lack of accountability to the public are palpable.

Reform

This fraud along party lines is only in the Nepals with one business house at the centre of the division. Defence Industries. Yet, the short-lived VP Singh era did not lead to a long-term fostering of business groups on party lines. VP Singh himself contributed to the split of the Congress, which put an end to the old licence-based industrial order that has been growing out of the state. Today resembles the UPA of the era prior to Theodore Roosevelt.

The challenge is not so much for the Prime Minister who is unique in Congress’s history in that he has no Lok Sabha constituency he can call his own. It is a challenge for his party to grapple with. Its undermining its own legacy of a strong state.

The task is to institute government reforms that can enhance public accountability. The PM is clear on what he wants but will the government be able to carry it out? The author teaches history at Delhi University.

Inspecting landscapes they have carved. There are tumuluses and roundabouts. The shamrock was close to the Sama jwadi Party. Nidhi has it far better under the Mayawati government. But the changes of players are not altering the system of chowkidaar out of government. This is happening under a Congress government in India’s new leader, no doubt. But Nehru or Patel, had any illusions that ideology would have no link to business houses. But the doyen of Indian industry, DG Bird was an unsung admirer of Mahatma Gandhi but with associations with other groups such as the Hindu Mahasabha as well.

Operators

It is not the promoters or beneficiaries of the private company who have to safeguard the larger interest — in this case, the banking security — given the B-bank is used by the armed services for strategic purposes. It is the role of government committees that bring together the various arms of government, which put an end to the amoral, uncritical, special deals that are cut with private companies. It should be the prime minister’s privy council that should be formed to deal with such matters.

Some may not be a shift of vision, in a personal sense. This in itself is an excellent role model for anyone who is part of another age when politics was seen as a noble calling, instead of a means to an end.

But, there is a larger question here. What is the change in the political mora-

Press Information Bureau
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Monday, 21st February 2011, Page: 16

Mail Today, Delhi

by Mahesh Rangarajan

A T UID mini press conference, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh warned that no one should try to drag down the India story. Surely, the question is who has tarnished the collective self-image and who has done so by placing private profit well ahead of the collective good. If at all, it was the coalition that created unacceptable situations.

DM Singh seemed to shift the blame on the situation rather than the way in which men (and women) work the institutions.

Constitutionists, as a great American jurist warned, see the “strength of the Bill of Rights not in the Bill of Rights, but in the people, the people who see the Bill of Rights as representative of their will.” The Prime Minister’s comments, uncanny as some of them may be, is that one should come to power or be in power. The concept of the Department of the Prime Minister, that it should have a clear, and mission-oriented, ideal with a private company, is no news. That is the way they handle the collective. Everything that is on the scale of such serious controversy that the government annuls the deal, is highly significant.

width: 26.20 cms height: 24.90 cms, Ref: pm101.2011-02-21.56.21