MINERAL PRODUCTION
During December 2011

Total value: ₹ 17,286 crore

Growth rate (%)

- Gold: 47.41%
- Lignite: 24.83%
- Copper conc.: 23.13%
- Chromite: 17.52%
- Coal: 11.45%
- Bauxite: 9.34%
- Iron ore: 8.97%

Change over Nov 2011: 3.77%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead conc.</td>
<td>8.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apatite &amp; phosphorite</td>
<td>4.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolomite</td>
<td>3.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manganese ore</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas(uti)</td>
<td>1.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc Conc.</td>
<td>0.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limestone</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesite</td>
<td>28.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond</td>
<td>26.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Mines
India gets closer to energy of the future

Kumar Chellappan

Indian scientists are one step away from identifying and quantifying Gas Hydrates, described as the energy of the future and present in large quantities in Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.

A Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) developed by the scientists of Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has proved that it can undertake missions up to 6,000 meters to the sea bottom and identify gas hydrates and poly metallic nodules.

"The ROV fitted with scientific payloads like sensors, and sonar instruments could identify gas hydrates and poly metallic nodules in the bottom of the sea. On April 18, 2010, we unfurled the Indian tri colour at a depth of 6000 meters in the Central Indian Ocean Basin Region, 1000 miles off Kanyakumari," MA Atmanand, director, NIOT, told DNA. He said the mission was unofficially termed Samudrayaan. The scientists were honoured with the prestigious National Geo Science Award for this breakthrough.

The ROV will help India launch deep sea mining for poly metallic manganese nodules in the 1,50,000 sq km region in the Central Indian Ocean Basin allocated to the country by the International Sea Bed Authority.

"Poly metallic manganese nodules lie at the depth of 6,000 meters in the sea bottom. The operation to bring the nodules to the surface is a complicated mission and not many countries have the technology and expertise. The development of the ROV is the first step towards exploring the CIOB allocated to us," he said.

By this year end, NIOT scientists expect to commission the Autonomous Coring System with which they can explore the manganese nodules.

"We are dependent on international markets for our requirements of metals like Manganese, Cobalt and Nickel. Once we start mining the manganese nodule, we will be able to have our own inventory of these metals," said Atmanand.
एलएमई में कोपर व अन्य बेसमेटल्स सुस्त

लंदन * वैश्विक बाजार में कोपर के दाम विशेषधारी सचिवों के बीच परंपरागत दिखाई दिए। इससे सूचना में आवश्यक गिफ्ट का रख दर्जा किया गया। एक और तो जर्मनी में विश्वसनीय संदेहों की ओर उम्मीद से कहीं लेखक रहे जर्मन एजीएस की सहायता के साथ 2012 में 0.3 फ्लॉशर संकुचित हो जाने की आशंका जताया है। जर्मन के नेताओं ने फिर विश्वसनीय सचिवों के चलों लंदन में एक अन्य बाजार में भी जीन मादों से बारीकी कोपर की आधा फीसदी गिफ्ट 8406 डॉलर प्रति टन रह गया।

एलएमई में अल्युमिनियम भी सल्ट जोर्नल पहले 2273 डॉलर प्रति टन रह गई। इसी तरह जिम्ब, टिक, लेड और फीक्दा भी फीक्ड ना रख दर्जा किया गया।
Adani Group plans to invest ₹29,580 cr in next three years

By Lalatendu Mishra
in Mumbai

AHMEDABAD-BASED Adani Group, having grown to be a ₹29,580 crore ($6 billion) enterprise in two decades with global footprints, has embarked on a business restructuring exercise and will now focus on three clusters of its businesses—resources, logistics and energy.

The group, which is into energy, ports, shipping, mining and power generation, has also announced plans to invest ₹29,580 crore ($6 billion), mainly in Australia, in the next three years. In India, the group is eyeing large-scale investment in port facilities.

Resources comprising coal mines and trading will include oil and gas. Till 2015, it will continue to expand its coal mining business after which it could venture into iron ore mining. The Adani group is decided to focus on these clusters, which will be our key growth drivers for a successful future,” Gautam Adani, chairman, Adani Group, said.

To stick to core activities, the group has decided to exit real estate and this business would be gradually divested to promoters’ families.

To mark the future course of action and in line with its ambition of global expansion, the group has gone in for a new corporate brand identity which was unveiled on Thursday. “The new corporate identity captures the Adani Group’s journey from its humble beginnings in Ahmedabad to its current global presence with mining assets in Australia and Indonesia,” Adani said.

By 2020, the group aims to generate 20,000 MW of power, handle 200 million tonne of cargo at its port annually and mine 200 million tonne of coal.
New uranium mines to be operational within a month

Kalyan Ray

NEW DELHI: Uranium-starved Indian nuclear reactors are all set to receive a heavy dose of fuel within months as two new uranium mines, including a big one in Andhra Pradesh, are set to come alive soon.

The much-awaited Tummalapalle uranium mine in Andhra Pradesh and Mouldih mine in Jharkhand were ready and would be operational within months, D Acharya, chairman and managing director of Uranium Corporation of India Ltd told Deccan Herald here on the sidelines of an international nuclear symposium.

It is the Andhra Pradesh site on which the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is banking on heavily not only for feeding the existing plants but also for supply to the upcoming large reactors.

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd is currently constructing four 700 MW reactors - two in Rawatbhatta in Rajasthan and two in Kakrapara in Gujarat. It plans to construct 10 more such 700 MW reactors over the next 10 years.

"In a few weeks time, Tummalapalle mine and extraction plant will be commissioned. Currently, the estimated uranium reserve is 62,000 tonnes, which may go up as explorations are still on with encouraging results," Acharya said, adding that Mouldih mine too would be operational anytime now. UCIL plans to mine 3,000 tonnes of uranium ore from Andhra mines initially, which would later be raised to 4,500 tonnes. But Acharya refused to disclose actually how much uranium would be extracted from 3,000 tonnes of ore pointing out that it was "classified information."

The Gogi mine in Yadgir district in north Karnataka has a small but high-grade deposit that can be extracted through a mobile plant. The UCIL, however, has not received approval from the union environment and forest ministry to start commercial mining.

Acharya admitted that there is no progress at Domiasiat uranium mine which houses India's best quality uranium ore.

DH News Service
Govt opposes mining lease

nirendra dev

NEW DELHI, 23 FEB: Left to the Union panchayati raj and tribal affairs minister, Mr V Kishore Chandra Deo, the Posco and Vedanta of the world would not get mining leases in tribal strongholds.

Mr Deo feels land protection laws for tribals are being subverted by the practice of mining leases. "As a non-tribal you cannot buy land or take on lease in a tribal area. As a tribal I cannot do it in a state like Nagaland where my tribe is not in the scheduled list. But the moment we two come together and float a company we are given the land on lease for mining. This is what is happening in most states from Odisha to Chhattisgarh," the minister explained. In the process "is not the primary spirit of the land protection laws being subverted?" he asked.

"I am already enlisting legal opinion on the matter and trying to work out a mechanism under which the tribals' rights can be protected," Mr Deo said.

Asked if his stance can be regarded as anti-development, he said, "In any case any law cannot be violated". Also, he said, all the mining over the years has only contributed to fatten the coffers of big players and the grassroots tribals have not benefited much.

Mr Deo is known for taking a hardline stance on tribal issues. On the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011, aiming to regulate mining activities and curb illegal mining, his ministry has suggested that minerals be declared "national wealth" and land rights of tribals in the forest areas be recognised.

The ministry is of the view that even extraction of minerals from forested areas by the state-run PSUs should be disallowed. "PSUs too like private companies do mineral extraction for commercial purposes only," Mr Deo said last year.

Recently in a letter to the environment and forests minister, Ms Jayanti Natarajan, Mr Deo stressed that without full compliance of the Forest Rights Act, no commercial or mining or developmental activities should be carried out, sources said.
‘Clear mine lease backlog’

The Centre has asked mineral-rich states to launch drives to clear the backlog of 47,000 applications for mine leases. The mines ministry has asked the states, particularly Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu to “accord due importance” to the order.
Tribal land: Mantri gets legal advice

MANISH ANAND
NEW DELHI, FEB, 23

In a move to curb the menace of illegal mining activities, the Centre is taking legal advice to stop state governments leasing out land in tribal areas to corporates by flouting the existing laws. The move has come in the backdrop of reports of a number of state governments leasing out land to corporates for mining and other activities in the tribal areas.

Union panchayati raj minister V. Kishore Chandra Deo told this newspaper that “he is seized of the issue” and is taking legal advice. The existing laws for the schedule areas bar non-tribals from buying or taking the land on lease. But a number of reports are coming to the ministry suggesting that people are forming corporate entities to get land in the tribal areas on lease, which too is against the law, said Mr Deo.

“The governors have special powers by which they can revoke the laws on the issue of land. We will have to go into the ambit of this. There is spurt on the part of the state governments awarding tribal land to corporates. Therefore, I am taking legal advice to deal with the issue,” Mr Deo told this newspaper. The minister also informed that the ministry of environment has agreed to the suggestion that no clearance be given for change of land use unless and until gram sabha for each village passes a resolution in this regard. “There had been reports of contrived gram sabha resolutions for change in land user in the schedule areas. We had suggested to the ministry of environment that unless gram sabha resolutions, with a village as a unit and not for combined 15 villages as had been the practice, pass resolution in the schedule areas, no clearance should be given. Our suggestion has been accepted,” said Mr Deo, who added that the prerequisite for the clearance would also be compliance with the Forest Rights Act.

The minister said that the gram sabha proceedings also need to be video-graphed to ensure transparency in the whole exercise.
Copper softer on German biz sentiment data

Reuters
London, Feb 23

Copper was mildly weaker on Thursday, with investors caught between a stronger-than-expected outcome from German business sentiment data and EU expectations for the euro zone’s economic output to contract 0.3 per cent in 2012.

Analysts said that the market, which takes its cue from wider economic sentiment to predict demand, was assessing the data, but broadly the mood was cautiously optimistic given a low interest rate environment that should stimulate growth.

Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange stood at $8,419 a tonne by 10.48 GMT — just 0.2 per cent down from Wednesday’s close of $8,435.

Aluminium stockpiles at LME warehouses staying at record highs above five million tonnes as well as excess smelting capacity had pressured prices late in 2011.

Zinc fell 0.4 per cent to $2,088 a tonne. Lead slipped to $2,145 a tonne and nickel climbed 0.9 per cent to $20,278 a tonne.
MINERAL PRODUCTION
during DECEMBER 2011
Total value: ₹ 17293 crore

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<th>Increase</th>
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<th>2012</th>
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<td>Gold</td>
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<td>2.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zinc</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead conc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limestone</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.34</td>
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</table>

Source: Ministry of Mines

Graphics
States told to clear mine lease applications

The Centre has asked mineral-rich states to launch special drives to clear the backlog of 47,000 applications for mine leases. "There is huge pendency of mineral concession applications... Undertake special drives for minimising the pendency of applications and renewal cases," said the mines ministry in a letter to state governments last week. Asking the states, particularly Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu, where the pace of disposal is low, it said they should "accord due importance" to the issue. It said applications for reconnaissance permits should be cleared in six months, while concession requests for prospecting licence and mining lease should in nine and 12 months, respectively.
I-T dept claims tax dues from Sesa Goa

New Delhi: The income-tax department has sought ₹246 crore in dues from Vedanta Resources Plc subsidiary Sesa
Goa Ltd. while the company said it is mulling legal recourse against the demand.

"The income-tax department had raised a demand for ₹246 crore disallowing certain claims of the company in December 2011 during regular assessment proceedings," Sesa Goa said. PTI