खान आवंटित कर दी, पता मालूम नहीं

सीकर में खनिज विभाग की कार्यालयी, खनन पट्टियाँ की अटी-पटी नहीं है। सीकर में विभाजन की तरफ़ी से यह घोषणा है। जिसे आवेदन करने के लिए पता मालूम नहीं। अगवत के अनुसार, विभाजन की तरफ़ी से यह घोषणा है। जिसे आवेदन करने के लिए पता मालूम नहीं।

सीकर में विभाजन की तरफ़ी से यह घोषणा है। जिसे आवेदन करने के लिए पता मालूम नहीं। अगवत के अनुसार, विभाजन की तरफ़ी से यह घोषणा है।

नहीं है रिकाउंड
Riversdale Board Nod for Rio, Says Unaware of Indian Bid

Rio Tinto's $3.9 billion bid for Africa-focused coal miner Riversdale gained steam on Monday after a representative of Riversdale's top shareholder Tata Steel backed the offer.

The full board of Riversdale, coveted for its coal projects in Mozambique, recommended the bid saying it was unaware of any other offers in the works, even as Indian consortium ICVL said it planned to decide on January 27 whether to bid. Riversdale Managing Director Steve Mallyon said his company "had not had one call" from ICVL — a consortium made up of SAIL Coal India, NMDC, RINL and NTPC — which may be interested.

"I've met a couple of the companies in ICVL (in the past) and I am at a loss to understand the interest," Mallyon said.

Mallyon said negotiations were already under way to sell a large portion of the company's future coking coal to steelmakers in Brazil, Europe and possibly China.

Negotiations are already underway to sell a large portion of Riversdale's future coking coal to steelmakers in Brazil, Europe and possibly China. Mallyon said his support was not a sign of Tata Steel's intent for its Riversdale stake.

"I'm not privy how they (Tata) are going to handle this, with our Tata director we've been focused on the Riversdale board recommendation versus what Tata wants to do," Mallyon said.

"I think as Tata gets to know Rio Tinto as well as we do, they will then make a decision, but I don't think they are at that point yet," Mallyon said.

Given that Misra is Tata's head of mergers and acquisitions, his recommendation of Rio Tinto's bid at least makes it clear that Tata Steel itself is not planning to trump Rio Tinto.

Riversdale's shares rose 1.2 per cent to A$16.50, only a 3 per cent premium to Rio's A$18 a share offer, indicating investors are not expecting a higher offer to emerge.

"If no one else comes in, I suspect this deal is going to get done as it is," said Hayden Bairstow, resources analyst at CLSA, adding that any new bidder would probably have to pay A$18-A$20 a share.
Sesa Goa profit rises 29% on higher prices

Mumbai: Sesa Goa Ltd, India's biggest iron ore exporter, posted a 29% gain in profit for the quarter ended 31 December, aided by higher prices of the steel-making raw material. Group net income rose to ₹1,070 crore in the three months ended 31 December ₹828 crore a year earlier, the Goa-based unit of Vedanta Resources Plc said in a statement on Monday.

The average spot price for so-called fines with 62% iron ore content rose 64% in the September-December period, according to data provider The Steel Index. The price gained to $159 (£7,250.40) a metric ton at China's Tianjin port. BLOOMBERG
TATA BACKS RIO RIVERSDALE BID

MELBOURNE: Rio Tinto’s $3.9-billion bid for Africa-focused coal miner Riversdale gained steam on Monday after Riversdale’s top shareholder Tata Steel backed the offer. The full board of Riversdale recommended the bid saying it was unaware of any other offers in the works, even as International Coal Ventures Ltd will decide on January 27 whether to bid for the mining major.

REUTERS
Oil ministry stand may push Cairn-Vedanta deal to court

Anupama Aiy @ anupama.a@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The $9.6 billion (₹33776 crore as of today) acquisition of Cairn India by Anil Agarwal-promoted Vedanta Resources may finally end up in a court, as petroleum ministry's conditional approval to the deal is unlikely to find favour with the London-based mining firm.

"There is no question of either Cairn or Vedanta accepting the conditions being imposed by the petroleum ministry over royalty and cess payment on the crude oil being produced from the Rajasthan oil block," a source close to the Anil Agarwal group and familiar with the development said.

"What is the sanctity of legal contracts if they have to be altered with time," the source said, while referring to the production sharing contract (PSC) that Cairn India had signed with the government (petroleum ministry) for the Rajasthan field.

The production sharing contract absolves Cairn from sharing any royalty burden on the crude oil produced from these fields. Both Cairn India's and Vedanta's spokespersons in India refused to offer any official comment. "We have no comments to offer at this stage," Cairn India's director (corporate affairs) Manu Kapur said.

The petroleum ministry has laid a set of 11 preconditions for Vedanta before clearing its takeover of Cairn India. Of these, two conditions relating to sharing of the royalty and cess burden by Cairn India's new promoter — Vedanta Resources — on the crude oil have become a major bone of contention. If Vedanta agrees to these two conditions, it would amount to the mining firm shelling out close to ₹5000 crore to the government.

State-owned ONGC, which is Cairn's partner in the Rajasthan oilfields with a 30% share, pays the royalty on the entire quantum of production. However, in line with the PSC, Cairn India — despite of its holding a 70% share in the oilfield — does not pay any royalty on the oil output from the block.

"The government has its own reasons to justify but it cannot wake up years after the arrangement has been in place," the source said. "It is sheer arm twisting as all these are coming at a time when the company (Cairn India) has been bought over by Vedanta."

A LAUNDRY LIST: WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTS

- Sharing of royalty borne by ONGC
- Fresh financial and performance guarantee from Vedanta
- Leaving Cairn's technical capabilities undisturbed
- Adherence to all govt decisions on expenditure and activities
- No disturbance of approved plans and work programmes
- No change in Cairn's existing commitments towards India's oil and gas programme
- Unconditional acceptance of govt decision on litigations by Cairn India
- SEBI approval for the deal
- Submission of shareholding pattern of Vedanta
- Details of pending proceedings against Vedanta involving central/state authorities.
SUPPLY SUPPLEMENT

India’s diamond industry pins hopes on Zimbabwe exports

By Soumitra Trivedi
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Indian diamond processors, who face a shortage of rough diamonds and, thus, a sharp rise in prices, are relieved after the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) last week approved Zimbabwe’s proposal to allow exports of its rough diamond stockpile.

KPCS, a UN-arm formed to watch over rough diamond trade globally, had banned Zimbabwe from exporting rough diamonds since 2009 on allegations of human rights violations by its army in the diamond mines in Marange region.

“We have received a letter from KPCS which says that the members (74 nations, including India) have approved Zimbabwe’s proposal requesting KPCS to allow it to export rough diamonds,” said Rajiv Jain, chairman, Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India (GJEPC), a government-approved body representing the Indian diamond processing industry. It is also the nodal agency for KPCS in India.

Rough diamonds worth $160 million (around ₹730 crore) are expected to arrive in India in a week, Jain and two other industry officials said.

“Around four Indian firms had bought rough diamonds from Zimbabwe before KPCS banned from selling rough diamonds,” Jain said without disclosing the names of the companies.

The shipment from Zimbabwe was already on its way via the United Arab Emirates (UAE) when the KPCS ban came into effect. This shipment was stuck at the Dubai Free Trade Zone as UAE did not clear it due to the ban, Jain said.

“Zimbabwe has a rough diamond stockpile of over two million carats mined in the last two-three years. Even if a portion of this stockpile comes to India, it will be a big help. Indian industry is currently facing rough diamond shortage of around 30%. With supplies from Zimbabwe, this gap will definitely reduce in the next one year,” said K.K. Sharma, executive director of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat.

“Diamond producing firms such as South Africa-based Diamond Trading Co. and Russia’s Alrosa had cut rough diamond output in 2008 due to a fall in polished diamond demand. This had led to lower rough diamond supplies. According to the latest KPCS data, the global rough diamond supply in 2009 stood at 124 million carats, down from 164 million carats in 2008. Rough diamond supplies from Zimbabwe will also stabilize the rough diamond prices, which have risen by almost 35% in the last one year. “Global rough diamond prices have risen at least 35% in the last one year and the prices are at an all-time high. However, polished diamond prices have not increased to match that rise. This has created a dent in the profit margins of the processors. Supplies from Zimbabwe will certainly stop the price rise in rough stones,” said Ashit Mehta, chairman of Surat Rough Diamond Sourcing India Ltd (SRDSL) and owner of Blue Star Ltd, a Surat-based diamond processing and exporting firm.

In October 2010, SRDSL had entered into a $1.2 billion deal with the government for direct supply of rough diamonds without entering into any tendering.

Despite its willingness to sell without KPCS approval, SRDSL did not buy any rough stones from Zimbabwe and decided to wait for KPCS nod.

“After the latest development, we did approach inquiring the status of the agreement. However, the Zimbabwe mining ministry is now insisting that it will only sell rough stocks via standard tendering system,” Mehta said.

A memorandum sent on 19 January to Zimbabwe’s ministry of mining and mineral development asking whether it would fulfill the commitment to SRDSL, and when it would carry out the auctions remained unanswered.

Experts say a rise in rough diamond supplies will create more employment. “Even if the current rough diamond supply gap of 30% comes down to 15% then Surat diamond processing industry will require 20% more workforce,” said K.K. Sharma.

Over 500,000 workers are currently employed by Surat’s diamond processing industry. Surat contributes to over 80% of Indian diamond processing industry’s annual revenue of around ₹60,000-70,000 crore.
Pollution agencies disagree over Sterlite’s copper smelter

BY NIKHIL KANEKAL

NEW DELHI

The Central and Tamil Nadu state pollution boards on Monday differed in a hearing before the Supreme Court on the environmental compliance of Sterlite Industries India Ltd’s copper smelting plant in Tuticorin.

The state body said India’s largest copper producer is yet to comply with norms on four counts: non-completion of a facility to store hazardous raw materials, waste disposal, gas emissions, and failure to develop a stipulated green area.

The national board, however, said it was satisfied with the efforts the company has made in adhering to environmental laws. The pollution boards differed in their stands despite having jointly examined the facility between 25 and 27 November.

The apex court on Monday asked the company to respond to the charges made by the state board.

The Madras high court had directed Sterlite to shut the plant located 8km from Tuticorin town, home to about a million people. The company appealed against the decision to the Supreme Court in October, which allowed the plant to continue functioning.

India is tightening rules to protect ecologically sensitive regions, prevent illegal mining and safeguard the resources and livelihood of people living around mines and factories.

In August, the government denied permission to Sterlite for bauxite mining at Niyamgiri hills in Orissa, settling a dispute in favour of a tribe indigenous to the area. Vaiko, a former member of Parliament and leader of the state’s Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) party, had made himself a petitioner in the Tuticorin case and appeared in court on Monday to plead against the company.

The court allowed Sterlite, the pollution control boards and Vaiko to file additional affidavits and will hear the matter again on 15 February.
Tata nominee, other Riversdale directors back Rio Tinto offer

NEW DELHI, 24 JAN: Riversdale Mining today said its board of directors, including Tata Steel nominee, Mr NK Misra, has recommended Rio Tinto's Australian $3.5 billion takeover bid in the absence of a "superior proposal".

The development comes amid speculations of a possible rival bid by ICVL, an Indian consortium of five state-run companies, while Riversdale's largest stakeholder, Tata Steel, is yet to come out with its plan for the Australian miner.

"All the directors of Riversdale recommended, in the absence of a superior proposal, that Riversdale shareholders accept the offer by Rio Tinto to purchase all Riversdale shares for Australian $16 cash per share," Riversdale said in a statement.

According to the firm, Mr Misra, who abstained from voting for Rio Tinto bid in December, has now approved the same.

"While Mr NK Misra recommends the offer, in the absence of a superior proposal, his recommendation is given in his capacity as a director of Riversdale and does not reflect Tata Steel's position, which through its wholly-owned subsidiary TS Global Minerals Holdings is the largest shareholder of Riversdale," the statement said. PTI
Orissa allows six iron ore mines to restart

Dhubaneswar: Orissa, India’s top iron ore-producing state, on Monday said it has allowed six mines to restart, three days after they were ordered to shut down in a crackdown on illegal mining. The six—including Tata Steel Ltd and Essel Mining and Industries Ltd—were among 23 mines closed down on Friday pending submission of paperwork, adding to a total of more than 300 mines in Orissa shuttered since July 2009 as India tightens mining regulations.
Production lost at the six mines was around 174,000 tonnes since Friday, U.C. Jena, Orissa's deputy director for mines, said.

Indian exports of iron ore fell for the sixth straight month in December because of the Karnataka ban, industry data showed on Monday, REUTERS
स्टरलाइट के तूलकोरिंग संयंत्र को हरी झंडी

नई दिल्ली। तुलकोरिंग कंपनी वेतांता समुद्र के तहत उन्मोचन के तूलकोरिंग संयंत्र को हरी झंडी दिखाई दी। यह स्टरलाइट के बाद दूसरी तूलकोरिंग संयंत्र के साथ दिल्ली में विदेश में बढ़ता आर्थिक आक्रामक।

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Sesa Goa net up 39% to ₹843.92 crore

Iron ore miner Sesa Goa on Monday reported 39 per cent jump in standalone net profit for the quarter ended December 31 to ₹843.92 crore. The company, led by NRI billionaire Anil Agarwal, had recorded ₹607.7 crore in the same quarter last financial year, the company said in a communiqué to the Bombay Stock Exchange. The total income of the company increased to ₹1,896.6 crore from ₹1,398.4 crore in the same quarter last financial year.
Iron ore exports fall 25% in December

India's iron ore exports fell 25 per cent in December 2010 due to a number of problems faced by miners of the steelmaking raw material across the country. Total shipment of iron ore declined to 9.7 million tonnes (mt) as against 12.87 mt in the corresponding month of the previous year, data compiled by the apex mining trade body the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries showed.

BS REPORTER
Nuke plant push by ‘banning' mining projects

Shubhangi Khapre

The state will aggressively campaign for the Jaitapur nuclear power project facing protest from a couple of NGOs. Both parties (Congress and NCP) have decided to win over the local people by taking up their cause against 49 mining projects that are detrimental to the environment in the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats.

Union minister for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh has been flooded with complaints by local politicians and activists against the mining projects. The state government has temporarily stayed all the 49 mining projects along the coastal Konkan region.

“Government should review all the mining projects to ascertain the effect on the environment in the region,” a senior cabinet minister said.

“We should have a policy with clear guidelines to avoid controversies in the future.”

The government is in a quandary because it had earlier approved all the mining projects in principle. A senior Congress leader said that the party was confident of winning over the people by explaining the significance of the nuclear power project.

“But we have to scrap the mining projects,” he said.

Chief minister Prithviraj Chavan who is working with Ramesh is unlikely to take any decision without taking local people into confidence. Chavan is confident of getting the Jaitapur nuclear project cleared but he has reservations about the mining projects.

NCP spokesperson Prakash Dhinsale said that the mining and the nuclear projects had to be treated separately. “The nuclear project poses no threat to the environment and it will transform the face of Konkan,” he said. “The real issue is rehabilitation package for the farmers whose land would be acquired for the Jaitapur project. The government has already assured adequate compensation.”
Riversdale board backs $3.9-bn Rio Tinto bid

New Delhi, Jan 24: Riversdale Mining today said its board of directors, including Tata Steel nominee N K Misra, has recommended Rio Tinto's 3.9 Australian dollar takeover bid in the absence of a "superior proposal".

The development comes amid speculations of a possible rival bid by ICVL, while Riversdale's largest stakeholder Tata Steel is yet to come out with its plan for the Australian miner. "...all the directors of Riversdale recommended, in the absence of a superior proposal, that Riversdale shareholders accept the offer by Rio Tinto to purchase all Riversdale shares for 15 Australian dollar cash per share," Riversdale said.

According to the firm, Misra, who abstained from voting for Rio Tinto bid in December, has now approved the same.

"While N K Misra recommended the offer in the absence of a superior proposal, his recommendation is given in his capacity as a director of Riversdale and does not reflect Tata Steel's position, which through its wholly-owned subsidiary TS Global Minerals Holdings is the largest shareholder of Riversdale," the statement said. Misra is also the vice-president and group head of mergers and acquisitions at Tata Steel. Misra's move to abstain from voting in December had sparked off speculations that Tata Steel may explore bidding for Riversdale. PTI
Cash crunch, high costs stall 666 projects in 2010

Power, roadways, refineries, steel projects top in cancellations

Gujarat, with 17.7 per cent of total projects completed, and Maharashtra (14.5 per cent) alone accounted for a third of projects commissioned in 2010. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh also saw sizable investments from projects to operational capacities.

NEW PROJECTS
The number of new projects announced in 2010 totalled 9,091. In an investment of Rs 7,95,144 crore. This was dip from 9,344 projects (Rs 6,26,119 crore) in the preceding year. The country also saw 3,987 private start-ups worth Rs 4,52,300 crore in 2010 with a bulk of fresh private investment coming in electricity, petrochemicals, cement, metallurgy, machinery and construction sectors. Government units announced 5,932 start-ups worth Rs 3,42,844 crore during the year.

The manufacturing sector saw 1,686 start-ups (Rs 2,12,867 crore) largely in textiles, fertilisers, petrochemicals, refineries, cement and steel sectors. In textiles, major investments to increase spindle capacities were done by SRL Manufacturing, Alok Industries, Birla Cotsyn, Hanung Toyo and Vardhaman Textiles. IFFCO’s Rs 10,000-crore urea project in Andhra Pradesh’s Nellore district was the largest in the fertiliser area. Tata Chemicals’ Rs 4,000 crore a distant second. In petroleum chemicals, Reliance Industries’ Rs 16,000-crore petroleum cracker project and Rs 6,850-crore investment in para-xylene at Jamnagar were among the largest.

CEMENT PROJECTS LAG
Most mega cement projects announced in 2009 did not report much progress in implementation. Surya Global, Essar, ACC, Emami, Ambuja Cement and Jaiprakash Industries were among the 88 new cement projects announced in 2010 against 96 last year.

Maharashtra, with the highest number of live projects and largest outstanding investment, managed to attract 1,962 new projects worth Rs 95,270 crore. Unlike Orissa, fresh investment in the State is evenly spread across the manufacturing, electricity and infrastructure sectors. However, bulk of the investment (64.6 per cent) in Maharashtra has come from government agencies with the private sector’s contribution at 35.4 per cent.
Gold rises as price drop prompts physical purchases

Bloomberg

Jan. 24

Gold gained for the first time in three days in New York as the metal's decline to a two-month low prompted physical purchases and investment. Gold futures for February delivery added $7.50, or 0.6 per cent, to $1,348.50 an ounce at 7:56 a.m. on the COMEX in New York. The metal for immediate delivery in London was 0.5 per cent higher at $1,349.03. Bullion rose to $1,347.50 an ounce in the morning fixing in London. Silver for March delivery in New York added 0.4 per cent to $27.53 an ounce. Palladium for March delivery was lower at $816.05. Platinum for April delivery gained to $1,827 an ounce.

Bullion rates

Mumbai: Silver spot (999 fineness); Rs 43,446; standard gold (99.5 Purity); Rs 20,065; Pure gold (99.9 purity): Rs 20,165.
Tin at new peak on supply concerns

Reuters  
London, Jan 24

Copper prices rose on Monday as concerns about Chinese demand abated, and tin prices hit a record high with supply constraints supporting the outlook for both metals.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange was at $9,480 a tonne in official rings, versus $9,441 at the close on Friday.

Tin edged up earlier to hit a record high of $27,800 a tonne, later turning negative.

Aluminium, at was at $2,415 a tonne in rings, from Friday’s close of $2,420. Zinc, untraded in rings, was quoted at $2,296/2,297 a tonne from $2,318 a tonne. Nickel was untraded in rings but was quoted at $26,275/26,300 a tonne from $26,175 a tonne, while tin traded at $27,700 in rings from $27,745 a tonne.
Govt hopeful of Rs 1,000-cr investment in North-East

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, Jan. 24

The Government today said it is hopeful of over Rs 1,000-crore investment proposals for the North-Eastern region with the private sector willing to invest in areas such as infrastructure and hospitality.

"After the sixth summit on investment in the region, we are hopeful of investment proposals to the tune of Rs 1,060 crore... It is a good beginning," the Minister of Development of Northeast Region (Doner), Mr B.K. Handique, told reporters here.

He said private investors had shown interest in infrastructure, hospitality, education and agro-based industries at the recent trade summit in Mumbai.

'FULL SECURITY'

Referring to security concerns expressed by investors, Mr Handique said government has assured them of full security.

"There is a concern at the back of their mind on the political situation in the region. Acquiring land is also an area of concern. But it is not a big issue," he said.

BORDER TRADE MEET

He said there are plans to hold a border trade summit in Shillong between Meghalaya, Tripura and Bangladesh.

There have been proposals for joint ventures from the Bangladeshi side and transit rights but the government is yet to take a view.

DRUK AIR FLIGHTS

The Minister said that Bhutan's national carrier Druk Air is planning a flight between Paro and Guwahati and wants inclusion of Arunachal Pradesh in the flight route to attract tourists for the proposed Buddhist circuit in the region.

MINING

The Minister said there were also plans to include mineral-based industries and mining as permanent chapters in the investment summit in the future.

There is a proposal from the private sector on setting up of a five-star hotel in Guwahati, he said.

Mr Handique said the Nagaland government had also offered land in Dimapur for industrial projects.
L&T turns 9 operating units into cos

Reeba Zachariah | TNN

Mumbai: Three years after Larsen & Toubro restructured its businesses into nine operating units, the diversified construction-to-IT giant has taken the process further by converting these nine units into independent companies to capture a bigger share of the country’s booming infrastructure market and unlock value in these companies.

Each of the nine independent companies, which has been put in place with the help of international consulting outfits Bain and McKinsey, will have an eight-member board, including three representatives from the business and three external directors. “L&T is a diversified company, comprising 60-62 units, and therefore at the board level everyone doesn’t have the domain expertise. The new structure makes decision making closer to the business,” said L&T’s president and board member J.P. Nayar.

These nine independent companies are in the business of power equipment, hydrocarbon, machinery & industrial products, building & factories, heavy engineering, metals & minerals, electrical & automation products, electrical and transmission, mechanical and materials, and infrastructure. Though the new structure will help L&T to manage growth better, Nayar said the L&T board will have a final say. For instance, the finance function of all the nine independent companies will be centralized.

Unlike the Tata Group, where Tata Sons is the holding company for all Tata entities, in case of L&T there will be no such set-up. Nayar said it is a hybrid holding company structure, under which there are nine independent companies and five subsidiaries. The five subsidiaries include L&T Finance Holding Company, L&T Infotech, L&T Infrastructure Development Projects, L&T Hyderabad Metro and L&T Power Development. These subsidiaries have made the transition from being independent companies and are some like L&T Finance, plan to launch a $355 million initial public offering. Nayar said that L&T Finance has received approval for the same but is waiting for the right timing to launch the IPO. L&T, however, has no immediate plans to make these nine independent companies into legal entities, because of taxation issues, Nayar said.
New hope for tribal families in Warangal

Societies formed to give jobs in sandmining hitherto handled by non-tribals and contractors

MANGAPET (ANDHRA PRADESH): A small intervention from kind-hearted bureaucrats made a life-changing impact on scores of tribal families who eke out a primitive mode of life in these agency tracts of Warangal district.

Vast stretches of dry beds of the Godavari are worth more than a gold mine and these had been exploited by non-tribals and wealthy contractors quarrying the sand. The tribals have remained mute spectators to this all these years while the contractors plundered the resource and made crores of rupees.

A tribal youth of Ramnagar in Eturunagaram mandal, Avula Adinarayana, said hundreds of lorries trudged the mud roads criss-crossing their hamlets day and night.

"We just wondered whether the wealth does not belong to us. We did not even get work to load the lorries. But, thanks to Joint Collector V. Karuna and Anandra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Managing Director Praveen Prakash, now we own everything here," he said.

The contractors had been paying a meagre Rs. 45 per cubic metre to mine the sand. They pay a total of Rs.800 to Rs.1,200 per lorry load which they sell at Rs.12,000 to Rs.15,000 in Warangal, and Rs.25,000 and beyond in Hyderabad. The contractors roughly made Rs.2 crore to Rs.3 crore a month. The district administration has empowered the tribals of Chunchupalli village in Mangapet mandal and Ramnagar village in Eturunagaram mandal, and helped them form cooperative societies.

The Integrated Tribal Development Agency helped them in obtaining temporary permits from the APMDC to mine the sand from the river.

The Chenchulaxmi Tribal Sand Quarry Society has a strength of 364 as all adults of the tribal families are members.

The Ramnagar Labour Society has 130 tribal members from 50 families of Koya, Lambada and Naik Pod sects.

EMPOWERING TRIBALS: Tribals of Chunchupalli village load sand in a lorry in Mangapet mandal of Warangal district. They now earn wages from government-supported quarry societies. — PHOTO: M. MURALI
The boom in the mining industry has opened up new avenues for BEML

BEML Limited, a leading multi-technology and multi-locational Mini-Ratna Category-I company under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, offers high-quality products for diverse sectors of the economy such as coal, mining, steel, limestone, power, irrigation, construction, road building, aviation, defence, metro and railways. It has emerged as the forerunner of heavy engineering industry with a track record of growth and revenues for over four decades. To concur opportunities, to become a global brand and to expand its market share in Asian Countries, the company has warehousing facilities at Malaysia. An overseas office too has been established in China for outsourcing. To ensure sustenance and further growth in the emerging Indonesian mining equipment market, BEML has established a local company viz., PT BEML Indonesia at Balikpapan and also Spares Depot & Service Centre at Balikpapan. This has enhanced to provide 24 X 7 support and effective after-sales-service and spares and repair support to the customers.

BEML offers a comprehensive and diverse range of mining machinery for both opencast and underground mines. BEML produces machines such as Electric Rope Shovels, Hydraulic Excavators, Bulldozers, Wheel-Loaders, Wheel Dozers, Dump Trucks, Motor Graders, Pipelayers, Tyre Handlers, Water Sprinklers and Backhoe Loaders. Besides, BEML manufactures mammoth Walking Draglines for cost-effective operations in the opencast mines. BEML has ventured into underground mining with products such as Side Discharge Loader, Load Haul Dumper, Winch, Winder, Granby Car, Skip, etc. The boom in the mining industry has opened up new avenues for BEML in contract mining.

BEML has a large presence in Indonesia. To cater to the large mining opportunities, PT BEML Indonesia was formed in 2008 with its head quarters in Balikpapan, Indonesia; amidst the gigantic coal reserves of Kalimantan.

The first fleet comprising of high-end excavators, dumpers and dozers became operational in Tenggarong in Kalimantan. Subsequent entry in to Sumatra was made in 2010 with the operation of dumpers in Sumatra where 10 dump trucks of 60 ton capacity will soon begin operation.

BEML machines provide great value addition in terms of fuel efficiency, lower capital expenses and low operational expenses thereby multiplying profits of the end users, this has become the chief reason for the popularity of BEML machines in Indonesia.

BEML has an expanding international presence in Indonesia as well as in 55 other countries across the world. In recognition of its outstanding performance, BEML has received Institutional Award for Best Performance in Exports for the year 2007-08.
NEW COURSES

IIM-Raipur plans research on Chhattisgarh’s natural resources

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NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Management, Raipur (IIM-R) plans courses and research centres to study Chhattisgarh’s natural resources and energy management, hoping to contribute to its home state’s development.

“The state we are in is zero power-cut state. At least 44% of its geography is forest cover. This will be our focus, to be different and more worthwhile,” IIM-R director B.S. Sahay said.

“Chhattisgarh will become a developed state within 10 years, and we will play our role in helping them achieve it,” he said in an interview on Wednesday. Sahay was in Delhi to attend a conference organized by the All India Management Association.

The 10 IIMs are India’s elite business schools, and IIM-R became the youngest of the lot when it began operations last year. While IIM graduates form the cream of India’s business leaders, the institutes have been criticized for neglecting research.

That is where IIM-R wants to make a difference, said Sahay, who was earlier director of the Management Development Institute, Gurgaon. “We have to do research of contemporary relevance, which is beneficial for the growth of the economy,” he said.

The institute plans to introduce courses in energy management and forest management in the next academic year beginning July. It will also carry out case studies on power generation and coal, focusing on how to use the mineral for economic development.

Chhattisgarh has 17% of India’s coal reserves as well as the potential to harness solar energy. The state plans to add 1,500MW of generation capacity by the end of 2012 with the help of two power projects being set up by Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Co. Ltd, taking total capacity to 3,500MW.

Such an energy rich state is bound to attract energy-intensive industries. IIM-R said it wants to contribute to the process by drawing up case studies and preparing research papers that the government and the private sector would find useful.

“This will increase exposure for our students,” Sahay said.

Sahay said that in addition to its flagship two-year master’s in business administration programme, IIM-R plans to offer executive courses for managers as well as customized courses for companies.

Besides training students to become corporate controllers, IIM-R also wants them to be aware of social and cultural concerns, he added.

“We have arranged for a lunch meeting with a corporate czar for our students, they have just finished a project on museums in the state. This should help the department concerned in the state to devise ways for its conservation and other issues,” Sahay said.

To lead the institute’s research work, IIM-R plans to hire 10-15 faculty members with a rich research background this year. It currently has very few full-time teachers.

IIM-R admitted 70 students in its first batch last year, and plans to increase that number in the next academic session.

“Being new is not a constraint, but an opportunity for us,” Sahay said.

M.R. Rao, dean emeritus at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, said new IIMs will find it easier to establish themselves as global brands.

“When you start, you don’t have the baggage of the past. You can orient yourself with a global vision. Research and desire to give solutions to society will be key for better brand building,” Rao said. “The problem in India is we talk about global standards but end up as teaching institutes only. We have to be research-oriented institutions in the higher education space. If they (new IIMs) are thinking of giving solutions, then it’s great.”

Sahay said the central and state governments have been supportive.

“The state has allocated 200 acres of land for the permanent campus and we hope it will be ready in two-three years,” he said. “Once we move to the new campus in New Raipur, you will see some centres of excellence there. The effort is to address regional issues while aiming for international stature.”