Orissa on a growth path

The 77 MoUs signed will change the face of the mineral-rich state

Orissa is one of the richest in the country in terms of mineral wealth. But it has always been known for its poverty and under-development.

However, since the last one decade, the state is on a growth path. After coming to power in 2000, the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD-BJP government initiated the process of industrialisation in Orissa in a big way to properly exploit the mineral wealth in the state.

After the state government adopted a policy of attracting investments, from 2000 to 2010 it has signed Memorandum of Under-standing (MoU) with a total of 86 companies drawing a total proposed investment of about Rs 4 lakh crore.

The state also drew the single-biggest foreign direct investment (FDI) of Rs 54,000 crore from Korean steel major Posco, which is setting up a steel plant near Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district.

The MoUs include 49 in steel, 21 in thermal, 3 in aluminium, 3 in cement and 1 in titanium.

Besides, there is a proposal of investment worth more than Rs 6 lakh crore in about 150 projects that have been cleared by the Orissa government’s state-level single-window clearance authority (SLSWCA). The projects are mostly in steel, aluminium, thermal power and port.

After coming to power, the Naveen Patnaik government decided to add value to iron ore mined in the state. The state government signed MoUs with steel companies including major ones like Tata Steel, Jindal Steel, Posco and Arcelor-Mittal to set up their plants. The plants, when fully operational, are expected to produce 81.32 million tonnes 9 (mt) of steel annually with a total investment of Rs 1,98,141.40 crore.

Posco alone has plans to invest Rs 52,000 crore at its 12 mt capacity plant at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district. Arcelor-Mittal proposes to invest another Rs 40,000 crore in a plant of similar capacity in Keonjhar district. Tata Steel has plans to set up a 6-mt plant at Kalinga Nagar in Jaipur with an investment of Rs 25,000 crore.

According to Orissa steel and mines minister Raghunath Mohanty, the state government wants to make Orissa as the main steel hub in the country. "We have been reviewing from time to time about the progress of the companies and to ensure that they work in accordance with the MoUs," he said.
THE MINISTER FAVOURS A MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN ECONOMIC GROWTH & ENVIRONMENT

Ramesh wants to strike a balance

New Delhi: Facing heat from industrialists for delay in project clearance, environment minister Jairam Ramesh said he was in favour of a “middle ground” to ensure faster economic growth and also maintain ecological balance.

“The key word in my vocabulary is balance. I have to find the middle ground between faster economic growth and ecological security,” the minister told a magazine. “I know environmentalists have attacked me for the coastal regulation zone (CRZ) notification, 2011, which has been hailed by the ‘growthwallahs’.

On the other hand, the GDP constituency has attacked me for refusing clearances to coal mines in rich forest areas which has been hailed by the environment types,” he said.

Asked whether he had compromised on Vedanta and allowed the company to expand its refinery, Ramesh said, “On Vedanta, our position is that they violated the law in expanding the refinery from 1 mtpa (million tonne from annum) to 6 mtpa. The position has not challenged.

All that we have said is that Vedanta must apply afresh for environmental clearance.”

The minister said the matter is now in the Orissa high court since Vedanta has challenged the ministry’s order. Admitting that most environment impact assessments (EIAs) are not up to the mark and favour corporates and not those affected by various projects, Ramesh said he was thinking of a new system, “whereby the Ministry has a roster of consultants / firms /institutions (like the panel of auditors) and the Ministry will have the EIAs done.”

—PTI
नई खनन नीति से अवैध खदानों को बढ़ावा

माफियाओं का बेरोजगारी के जरिए खनन पट्टे लेने की कोशिश का खतरा

राजस्थान की नई खनन नीति के प्रवर्तन के लेखों को रोकने के लिए दिलेंगे, अवैध खदानों के निर्माण करने का समय भी साफ़ होगा। लेकिन आरक्षण कोटे के तहत जारी होने वाले खनन पट्टे माफियाओं को ही मिलेगा यह सुनिश्चित करना सरकार के लिए एक चुनौती होगी। यह कहना राज्य के खनन उद्यमियों का।

खनन जेई से बुझे लेखों का कहना कि करीब 17 साल बाद जारी नई खनन नीति के प्रवर्तन तत्कालक अवकाश है। नई नीति के प्रवर्तन से अवैध खनन पर अंकुड़े का सामना माफियाओं, खनन अभिव्यक्तियों, अधिकारी और पत्रकारों द्वारा फर्जनी से है, लेकिन आरक्षण कोटे के तहत जारी होने वाले खनन पट्टे माफियाओं के हाथ नहीं लगे, यह सुनिश्चित करना राजस्थान सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है।

क्योंकि अब उद्यमी या खनन माफियाओं के जरिए खनन पट्टे हासिल करने की कोशिश करेंगे।

इससे खनन क्षेत्र में अवैध खनन हो सकता है, जबकि अपराधी माफियाओं के तहत खनन पट्टे के तहत दोनों द्वारा खनन पट्टे के तहत दोनों द्वारा खनन पट्टे के तहत हो सकता है।

इससे अवैध खनन निर्माण हो सकता है, यह सरकार को राजस्थान में मौजूद खनन माफियाओं की पितामह भी है।

उपर, खनन राज में होने वाला खनन पट्टे के लेखों का समय भी साफ़ होगा। यह सरकार को राजस्थान में मौजूद खनन माफियाओं की पितामह भी है।

इससे राजस्थान के लेख के खनन माफियाओं की सुनिश्चित करना होगा, यह सरकार का कहना है कि सरकार के खनन माफियाओं के लेखों का समय भी साफ़ होगा।
तारा ज्वैल्स आईपीओ के जरिए जुटाएगी 200 करोड़ रुपये

जुन 2011 तक देशारंभ में 20 नए शोरूम खोलने की कंपनी की योजना।

संदर्भ

जिक्सेल आईपीएस मानानी ओ प्रतिष्ठित कंपनी तथा ज्वैल्स जल्द ही आर्थिक राजनीतिक निर्माण (आईपीओ) का संस्थान है। आईपीओ के जरिए कंपनी करीब 200 करोड़ रुपये जुटाने का बांट निर्माण करने की योजना है। इस बारे में कंपनी के कर्मचारी निदेशक (मार्केटिंग, हिल्ट व मार्केटिंग टेक्नोलॉजी) किसान रावणदास ने कहा कि आईपीओ को शेयर बाजार नियमसम्पर्क संरचना सेवाओं की अनुमति मिल गई है। कंपनी ने आईपीओ के लिए निलंबित वर्धन सम्बन्ध में सेवाओं के साथ मिलकर द्वारा किया है।

रावणदास के कहने पर कंपनी की अधिकृतता का आकलन करने हेतु यह आईपीओ के लिए वाणिज्यिक चालू रहे व अन्य करोड़ भी रहे भारतीय जनता का संबंध है।

आईपीओ के जरिए जुटाएगी कंपनी की इस्तेमाल प्रमुख रूप से कंपनी की वित्तीय वर्तमान के निर्माता के लिए जुटाव किया जाएगा। सरहदों में कंपनी देशभर के 19 शहरों में 31 रिटेल स्टोरों का संचालन कर रही है। रावणदास के मुताबिक बालाजी ज्वैल्स और अन्य कंपनियों की राजस्थान देशों में लाभ देखा जा सकता है।
बालकों की बच्चों की बोलकों में नौ वर्षीय बच्चों के सम्भावित खेलियों में 51 प्रति हजार के उच्च नीतिक कंपनी रुझान की इंजनियरिंग कंपनी में शेष का हास्य की बच्चों की बालिकों में अवलोकन का सार
आज वापसी है। एक सारी उत्पादन जानकारी इस भाषा में बालकों के बालिक के नीचे अधिक विनियम को जारी किया गया है।
फरीदाबाद में मिट्टी खनन माफियाओं का हमला

पहले संबंधत

मुख्य समाचार

परिस्थिति नुकसान बनाने के निष्कर्ष मिट्टी कालोनी में एक प्लाट से जबर्दस्त मिट्टी खनन कर रहे माफियाओं का विरोध करना एक परिस्थिति की काफी गहराई पड़ा। मिट्टी खनन माफियाओं ने यह बात लेने में सुधारक मशीन से पूरा परिचार कर कआरणिक आग लगाने की गंभीर रूप से घायल कर दिया। इस तरह से जमकर माफियाओं ने कालोनी में मैक्सिको मिट्टी से स्पाइडर कर दरात फेलाया। पुलिस ने रिपोर्ट दर्ज कर एक पुलिस को हिरासत में लिया है। इस 40-50 के बाद कालोनीवासियों में पुलिस के प्रति ध्यान रोशन चलता है।

भावना के ज़ालाबुल्लुरी रोड परिवार मिट्टी कालोनी में मिट्टी कुमार अपने परिवार के साथ रहते हैं। स्वकम के पास सी मैट का दूरी पर उनका एक प्लाट है। शिवसंग्रह कुमार के प्लाट पर कुछ लोग मिट्टी बोलकर देखते हुए मिट्टी भरते रहे। प्लाट से मिट्टी खनन की सुचना पर माफिया पर क्रूर कार्रवाई करते रहे। लेकिन अपने लोगों को मिट्टी खनन माफियाओं ने ही मिट्टी फार्मरिंग करने मुक्त नहीं कर दिया। मैडी चालते ही कालोनीवासियों ने कब्जे-कब्जे भोजन बांट लिया।
Sterlite seeks legal route on Balco

STERLITE INDUSTRIES, which holds the majority 51 per cent stake in aluminium major Balco, may seek legal recourse after a government panel turned down its call option to obtain the residual stake in the latter. A three-member government panel, set up on the insistence of the Delhi High Court for arbitration, had on January 25 struck down the Vedanta Group firm’s call option terming it “a violation of the rules and regulation.” Sterlite Industries, which is making efforts to acquire the remaining 49 per cent stake in Balco for about a decade now, may seek recourse to the High Court,” a person privy to the development told PTI on Sunday.
NMDC mulls Rio Tinto deal

GOVERNMENT-OWNED miner NMDC is reevaluating its two-year-old agreement with Anglo-Australian mining major Rio Tinto, which envisaged the joint development of iron ore assets in India and overseas. Rio Tinto, had inked a MoU with NMDC in 2008 to work jointly on iron ore assets in India and overseas. But there has been no movement on the ground so far.

“We plan to reevaluate the agreement with Rio Tinto. We will meet with Rio Tinto officials soon to discuss the matter,” NMDC chairman and managing director, Mr Rana Som, said. Rio Tinto had also signed a JV with Orissa Mining Corporation in 1995 for the exploration of Malanfgoli iron ore.
बाल्को मुद्दे पर अदालत जा सकती है स्टारलाइट

नई दिल्ली, 30 जनवरी (भाषा)।
अल्ट्रूमिनियम कंपनी बाल्को में बहुलाश 51 फीसद हिस्सेदारी रखने वाली कंपनी स्टारलाइट इंडस्ट्रीज कंपनी में शेष बचे शेयरों की खरीदारी मामले में अदालत का रास्ता अपना सकती है। एक सरकारी पैनल ने इस मामले में कंपनी के कॉल आपातन विकल्प को खरीदना कर दिया। दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट के आदेश पर गठित तीन सदस्यीय सरकारी पैनल ने नियम और विनियमों के उल्लंघन का बाल देकर 25 जनवरी को बेवादा समूह की कंपनी को कॉल आपातन को अस्वीकार कर दिया।
कॉल आपातन एक प्रकार का समझौता है जो खरीदार को एक सुनिश्चित दाम और समय सीमा के भीतर किसी संपत्ति में कुछ हिस्सेदारी खरीदने का अधिकार देता है। मामले में जुड़े एक व्यक्ति ने कहा, बाल्को की शेष 49 फीसद हिस्सेदारी खरीदने की कोशिश कर रही स्टारलाइट इंडस्ट्रीज उच्च न्यायालय जा सकती है। स्टारलाइट कॉल आपातन के जरिए बाल्को में शेष हिस्सेदारी खरीदना चाहती है। स्टारलाइट ने बंबई स्टाक को दी गई सूचना में कहा कि वह भविष्य को रागनीति पर निर्णय करेगा। हालांकि कंपनी ने न तो किसी रागनीति का खुलासा किया है और नहीं समय सीमा बताया है।
जब बेवादा के प्रकार से इस बारे में संपर्क किया गया तो उसने कहा, हम अवार्ड पर विचार कर रहे हैं।
इस बीच सरकार भी बाल्को को हिस्सेदारी बेचकर अधिक से अधिक मूल्य हासिल करने के लिए विविध सलाह ले सकती है। खान सचिव एस विजय कुमार ने कहा, हम अवार्ड पर विचार कर रहे हैं और बाल्को के मुद्दे पर आगे बढ़ने से पहले विविध सलाह ले रहे हैं।
शेष हिस्सेदारी पर बेचकर मूल्य हासिल करने के लिए अगला कदम विविध सलाह के अध्यक्ष पर उठाया जाएगा।
राष्ट्रीय जनतात्मक गठबंधन (एनडीए) सरकार के कार्यकाल के दौरान 2001 में स्टारलाइट ने बाल्को में 51 फीसद की हिस्सेदारी 551 करोड़ रुपए में हासिल की थी। सौदे के तहत स्टारलाइट को 2004 में कॉल आपातन के जरिए शेष 49 फीसद हिस्सेदारी खरीदने की वाणिज्यिक कर दी गई थी। लेकिन मूल्यांकन के मुद्दे पर प्रक्रिया में देरी हो गई। महानियत्रक और लेखा परिषद (कैंग) ने शेष हिस्सेदारी का मूल्य अधिक लगाया और महानियत्रक ने बाल्को को आपातकाल का विवेक बताया। इसके बाद मामला 2006 में दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट में चला गया और न्यायालय ने एक पैनल का गठन किया था।
Vedanta to open science college

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO

Jan. 30: Vedanta Aluminium Limited (VAL), which is putting up a 6-milion-tonne per annum mega aluminium refinery at Orissa Lanjigarh district, is working towards creating its own technical human resource base as a part of its backward integration programme.

The London-listed company has decided to go ahead with launching of its proposed science college at Lanjigarh with admission of students taking place during the start of the academic session this year.

The college, the company expects, would address its requirement of technical human resources and win the support of local people, mostly the native Kondh tribals, for the project.

Speaking at conference on “Emergence of Science Education,” Dr Mukesh Kumar, chief operating officer (COO) of VAL, said imparting technical education in the project area creates a better atmosphere.
HINDALCO

RESEARCH: CREDIT SUISSE
RATING: OUTPERFORM
CMP: ₹223

Novelis’ bond price is a good indicator of Novelis’ performance. Post-listing in mid-December 2010, prices of new bonds have increased almost 9%. This indicates that market perception of the credit risk in Novelis is much less than what is indicated by S&P and Moody’s ratings. If Novelis is upgraded to investment grade, the current covenants, which restrict cash fungibility between Hindalco and Novelis, would be suspended. Industry fundamentals for downstream aluminium players continue to do well, which is reflected in the rerating of Novelis. The industry is operating close to capacity, and the expected macro recovery in the US and Europe bodes well for demand. Credit Suisse continues to be positive on Hindalco, and the next trigger for the stock is Mahan’s financial closure, which has been delayed till now, as Mahan coal block was classified under no-go area. If they incorporate Mahan and Aditya, the target price of ₹255 could move to ₹290.
NMDC re-evaluating pact with Rio Tinto

MUMBAI: State-owned miner NMDC is reevaluating its two-year-old agreement with Anglo-Australian mining major Rio Tinto, which envisaged the joint development of iron ore assets in India and overseas. Rio Tinto, the world’s second-biggest iron ore producer, had inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NMDC on August 18, 2008, to work jointly on iron ore assets in India and overseas.

“We plan to re-evaluate the agreement with Rio Tinto. We will meet with Rio Tinto officials soon to discuss the matter,” NMDC CMD Rana Som said.
Gold at 12-week high on safe haven appeal

SEATTLE: Gold futures jumped the most in 12 weeks on demand for a haven amid escalating tensions in Egypt. Tens of thousands of marchers chanted “liberty” and “change” as rallies began at mosques across Cairo in the biggest challenge to Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak’s 30 year rule.

Earlier, gold touched a four-month low. “The world is not such a nice place as people thought,” said Jon Spall, a product manager for precious metals at Barclays Capital in London. “People see risk and danger, so gold becomes attractive.” Gold futures for April delivery rose $21.90, or 1.7%, to settle at $1,341.70 an ounce at 1:45 p.m. on the Comex in New York, the biggest gain since November 4. Earlier, the price touched $1,309.10, the lowest since October 1. The metal climbed to a record $1,432.50 on December 7. “The big turnaround in gold has to do with the escalating crisis in Egypt,” said Matthew Zeman, a metals trader at LaSalle Futures Group in Chicago. “People are saying it’s better to be safe than sorry.” Investors also are unwinding bets on a decline, Zeman said.
Gold may test resistance levels, fall

Comex gold futures ended sharply higher on Friday gaining nearly 2 per cent as the prospect of unrest in Egypt spreading across West Asia fuelled a rush of safe-haven buying in the financial markets. This month, gold has dropped 5.6 per cent, heading for the biggest January slump since 1997. Gold initially weakened after data showed the US economy gathered speed in the fourth quarter with the biggest gain in consumer spending in more than four years. Unrest in Egypt is not expected to be over anytime soon and that gold could further benefit from the possibility of chaos spreading to other countries in the region. Investment demand for gold has been soft this year, with holdings of the SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, down another 3 tonnes on Thursday. Comex gold futures fell lower in line with our expectations. However, the bounce from there has been sharp and unexpected. As mentioned earlier, there were signs of a good pullback towards $1,345-1,350 levels before eventually falling towards $1,310 levels. Rising trend line support is seen in the $1,310 zone as seen in the chart. Daily close above $1,345 could now aim for the next resistance in $1,355. Stronger resistances are now in the $1,375 zone and while this zone caps upside attempts, we still expect prices to decline below $1,300. Only an unexpected rise above $1,393 would cast doubts on our bearish view. Such a rise could aim for $1,474-1,485 levels.

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 $1,307. 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. RSI is still in the neutral zone now indicating that it is neither overbought nor oversold. The averages in MACD are still below the zero line of the indicator signalling bearishness to be intact. Therefore, look for gold futures to test the resistance levels and then fall lower subsequently. Supports are at $1,335, $1,321 and $1,305. Resistances are at $1,355, $1,364 and $1,378.

Gnanasekar T.
(The author is the Director of Commtrends 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.)
Gold may move lower; copper, tin outlook bullish

G. Chandrasekhar
Mumbai, Jan. 30

Across the metals complex, more particularly in the precious metals segment, prices softened last week. While gold and silver hit two-month lows, base metals fluctuated following a combination of lingering growth concerns, tightening bank credit and of course sovereign debt issue that refuses to go away.

Commodity markets are widely expected to remain volatile. While the emerging scenario for commodities is positive overall, divergent monetary policies pursued by central banks of different countries, fears over the adverse effects of rising food inflation and elevated crude prices are seen continually affecting the sentiment.

The emerging economies are worst affected by inflation as a result of which central banks are regularly tightening bank credit. China and India are two prime examples. Trade and tariff examples are being tweaked in order to augment supplies and rein in rising prices. Weather too is playing truant in different parts of the world creating supply uncertainty and price volatility. The debate over how far liquidity reduction will impact commodity prices is likely to continue. As the appetite for consumption is high in emerging economies, rising cost of money may, at best, have a marginal impact. In other words, insofar as Asian emerging economies are concerned, the trade data present little room for bullish outlook.

As for investment in commodities, 2011 may be yet another year of strong flows, increased investor participation, gradual shift towards active strategies and more tailored commodity exposure, along with dynamic approaches to take advantage of curve shapes, commented an expert. Key themes would include a slowdown yet robust investment flows with institutional investors dominating and high level of interest in physically-backed commodity products. Stricter regulation of the market cannot be ruled out though.

Gold: The precious metals complex was under pressure last week. Prices of gold and silver fell with the yellow metals losing 1.8 per cent on the back of weak data in the US. On Friday, the PM Fix for gold was at $1,310 an ounce, down 1.2 per cent from the previous day's $1,335/oz. Silver followed suit with Friday AM Fix at $26.68/oz, down 2.6 per cent from the previous day's $27.39/oz.

Gold is facing short-term external headwinds. Investor interest is seen easing. Less committed longs have exited. Inflows into ETFs are slowing. In the bourses, gross speculative shorts are at 5½ year high, providing a strong indication of the mood. The market has the potential to move below $1,300/oz to the $1,250-1,275 area. At the current dipped levels, physical demand has reportedly materialised. With prices well below the psychological Rs 20,000 per 10 gram in the Indian market, any approach towards Rs 19,000 would provide a good buying opportunity. However, notwithstanding the current weakness, the longer-term investment climate is seen positive for gold. Silver continues to piggy-back on gold. But with weak fundamentals, silver is more vulnerable to a sharp price correction in the event gold eases further. Simply put, expect volatile conditions to prevail in the precious metals market. Quick entry and exit strategies are called for.

Technical analysts see the ongoing weakness in gold as a dip within bull trend. A move towards 1,300 would provide buying opportunity, they assert. In silver buying interest at 26 has expected to underpin.

Base metals: Over the week, in the world market, prices were up across the board with the macro data throwing no negative surprises. However, for the short-term, the underlying sentiment is far from bullish as monetary tightening, rising inventory levels and seasonal hull in buying are holding sway. Many see the recent pullback as a healthy correction.

Crude: The market is behaving anomalously. With Brent hovering around $100 a barrel, WTI continues to dislocate with prices reflecting fears of localised distressed crude. WTI has once again become decoupled from both international market and other regional US markets. Its discount to Brent has reached record levels. Experts assert that the weakness in prompt WTI is not justified on a fundamental basis and prices are likely to come back in line. However, such distortions are likely to become more frequent and profound in 2011. Globally, demand conditions are robust.
The problems of fisherfolk need better coverage

A recent newspaper report noted that the Union Government had gazetted the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2011 and received strong criticism from organisations that work for protecting coastal ecosystems and fight for the rights and welfare of fisherfolk. About 20 organisations working in the field of protecting fisherman’s rights and lawyers backing them have taken strong exception to the notification. This is on the ground that the new notification, gazetted on January 6, 2011, will cause widespread destruction to the livelihood of the fishing communities and will badly affect the other coastal poor as well. The critics also fear that coastal ecosystems that provide protection to 25 crore people living in coastal areas from natural disasters such as floods and tsunamis may also get damaged owing to the changes proposed.

The 2004 tsunami experience

On reading this, my thoughts went back to the nightmare of the Asian tsunami of December 2004, which hit the Indian coast and devastated the lives, livelihood, and property of many thousands of families.

Needless to say, fisherfolk were the worst affected. As a journalist who toured most of the affected areas for about two weeks in Tamil Nadu for Frontline coverage, I could learn a lot about the coverage of massive disasters of this kind. My interactions with the affected people, especially fisherfolk, enriched my knowledge about the life, work, and plight of the poor and their extreme vulnerability to any kind of setback. I learnt that coverage had to be not just extensive, but also highly nuanced and sensitive, particularly because it had a bearing on the lives and livelihoods of large communities such as fishermen who have an age-old culture and tradition of their own.

Journalism, I felt, should respect their sentiments and traditions.

Even when, after the initial trauma, they could comprehend the magnitude of the loss they had suffered, I found many of them positive about their future. They seemed keener on going back to the sea than in getting immediate benefits. “Food we need, but we would love to resume fishing and earn our daily bread,” one of their leaders told me. Such was their spirit, even at this, the most painful moment of their lives. The tsunami, this leader noted, had swallowed one-third of the sea-faring fishermen in the village but the survivors should resume fishing, and the government should provide full subsidies to buy catamarans, to begin with. “That would help the fishing community come out of the crisis.” (Frontline, January 28, 2006).

Many influential newspapers and news magazines, and some television channels did extremely well in educating their readers and viewers on various aspects of the lives of fisherfolk and the livelihood issues that confronted them every day. They also focused on the extreme vulnerability of these poverty-stricken people. Scientists, most importantly Professor M.S. Swaminathan, threw light on the need to protect the ecosystems of the coast and explained how mangroves could minimise the impact of such disasters.

Environmentalist Vandana Shiva declared in an interview: “The first lesson from the tsunami is about development in coastal regions. Respect for the fragility and vulnerability of coastal ecosystems has been sacrificed for hotels and holiday resorts, shrimp farms and refineries. Mangroves and coral reefs have been relentlessly destroyed, taking away the protective barriers.” (“Lessons for Life,” The Guardian, January 12, 2006). Recalling a study of the 1999 Orissa cyclone that killed 30,000 people, she pointed out that the destruction was much more severe where the mangroves had been cut down for shrimp farms and an oil refinery. Ms Shiva also recalled how the people’s movement against industrial shrimp farming had resulted in a court order to shut down the farms within 500 metres of the coastline and how “the shrimp industry tried to undo environmental protection laws by seeking exemption from the government.” The fisherfolk and their supporters today are particularly apprehensive about the intent and interests behind the central government’s alleged undermining of the 1991 Notification. It was seen as the first major progressive legislation to protect the rights that fishermen won after many a struggle; it related to their livelihood, personal security, dwelling places, free access to the sea, the parking of boats, and so on. Even more disturbing to them was the government’s other action of legalising about 25 amendments that sought to “dilute” the 1991 Notification, amendments that were opposed by the fishermen and their representatives during consultations organised by the government. The fears that these changes would make the notification ineffective in protecting the fisher people’s rights do not appear to be ill-founded.
After Dalits and the tribal people, it is the fisherfolk who constitute perhaps the most neglected community in India. They account for about 15 million households. At least 7.5 million enterprising fishermen venture into the deep sea at odd hours and contribute substantially to the food basket of the country. Yet most of them eke out a miserable, insecure life. The activities prohibited by the CRZ Notification 1991 in its original form, but sought to be created in the new notification, include, the setting up of new industries and expanding existing ones, any construction activity between the High Tide Line (HTL) and the Low Tide Line (LTL), setting up and expanding fish processing units, land acquisition, mining of sand and rocks, building industrial, commercial and entertainment units, and so on. In short, the motive behind the CRZ Notification has been diluted to make it more and more commercial and profit-oriented, pushing the rights and needs of the fisher-people back.

The CRZ Notification 1991 was a specialised legal instrument for governing development activities throughout the coastal stretches. As a guiding document, the CRZ Notification remains relevant, particularly at this stage of rehabilitating the victims of the 2005 tsunami. The function of the notification as an environmental protocol for human actions in a sensitive region is evident from the principal legislation from which it draws its powers — the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the relevant rules.

The Act substantially empowers the Government of India’s Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) to take actions “for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution.” This includes the promulgation of specified notifications for the purpose.

The CRZ Notification is issued under Section 3(1) and Section 3(2)(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These clauses outline the powers of the central government to protect and improve the quality of the environment and take preventive measures to control and abate environmental pollution. This includes the power to delineate areas where anthropogenic activities can be regulated and restricted. The importance given to the notification is clear from the fact that considerable powers are vested with the agencies responsible for its implementation.

**Attempts to dilute CRZ Notification**

The Coastal Regulation Zone comprises the coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters, which are influenced by tidal action (in the landward side) up to 500 metres from the HTL and the land between the LTL and the HTL. The 500-metre CRZ boundary is drawn at a radial distance (as the crow flies) uniformly from the HTL and runs parallel to the coast.

Yet another change: the 2011 Notification added provisions that degrade or dilute the powers of the National Coastal Zone Management Authority and States Coastal Managements Authority constituted under the Supreme Court of India’s orders in 1996. This, the fisher people’s lawyers contend, is in violation of the Supreme Court’s verdict.

In the wake of the tsunami, the news media could sense the growing attempts to dilute the CRZ Notification 1991. The way rehabilitation was sought to be done gave enough indication that big business, real estate interests, hoteliers and the like had their own plans to enter the field in an aggressive way. In other words, the post-tsunami scenario was approached as an unprecedented opportunity to change the face of coastal India. Fisherfolk who could not be persuaded to vacate their houses were forced to accept houses in far off places. Hundreds of households were given houses in many places far away from the sea despite objections that it would be highly expensive for them to go to sea and back and that the shifting would affect their school-going children.

Today much of the press and television seems to treat real life problems and issues of mass deprivation such as these in disappointingly low key. This raises a key question for Indian journalism. Is informative, detailed, nuanced, and sensitive coverage of the conditions in which the losers in the development game live and work relevant only when a big crisis like a tsunami overwhelms them? Does the social responsibility of journalism mean that in normal times coverage of 'rising India' can be wholly or mostly celebratory or positive? I should think not.
Commodities to remain pricey in 2011

No respite seen for strong grain prices  ■ Gold also expected to break new records

London, Jan 30: Sky-high commodity prices show no sign of easing, with supply shortages, swings in currencies and growth in emerging markets likely to keep key metals and grains on the boil in 2011, a suite of Reuters polls showed last week.

The oil market, however, stands apart, because it does not face supply shortages. Prices have risen near $100 this month, but they are still far below record highs, and analysts see limited scope for further gains. Gold, copper and tin have all touched record highs in recent months, with copper nearing the psychological $10,000 a tonne mark and tin now above $30,000 a tonne.

A global rush for grains has turned into a vicious cycle. Weather difficulties took wheat prices to their highest since the 2007/08 food price crisis, which in turn stoked inflation concerns and prompted major importers to ramp up purchases.

With prices already high, investors in commodities must carefully choose where to put their cash, said Paul Morilla-Giner, head of commodities and senior portfolio manager at London and Capital. “You have to discriminate as much as possible. You can’t put all of them in the same basket. You might think if you buy a bit of everything you’ll get it right; unfortunately, you will not,” he said.

Among industrial metals, he singled out copper and tin as having the strongest fundamentals and palladium as the most exciting precious metal.

In a week punctuated by violent protests in Egypt and by Algeria’s purchase of almost a million tonn of wheat, Reuters polls showed US corn, soybean and wheat prices would stay unrelentingly high this year.

“Even if we have a good year, we are not going to have the inventories we’ve seen before. I really do think the time of cheap food prices is over, and that’s just it,” said analyst Chris Mann of Traders Group Inc in Chicago.

Grain prices could remain strong for longer due to depleted stocks and intense competition among crop-growing land.

“It’s an interesting space, not because it’s going to go up, but because it’s going to be one of the very few hedges on potential emerging market inflation,” said Morilla-Giner, who prefers corn in the grain sector.

“IT might not have the upside others have, but it will be working when many other areas of the portfolio will not be working.”

Gold, which touched a record $1,490.95 last year, is expected to power up further, fuelled by low interest rates, dollar weakness and lingering worry over growth in major economies.

“The combination of continued QE (quantitative easing) in the US and rising inflation pressures in the emerging world is a particularly bullish cocktail for gold,” said analyst James Steel at HSBC.

Palladium also stood out, expected to outpace platinum and make further gains. But analysts said a repeat of 2010’s stunning rise is unlikely as growth in emerging car markets moderates. Among industrial metals, a widening market deficit could prop up copper to new record highs this year while aluminium will suffer demand.

“The main driver for metal prices in 2011 will be the continuation of the near-zero interest rate environment and hence continuation in the hunt for profit in tangible assets,” analyst Carl Ferm at Virtual Metals said.

Dwindling reserves of tin, bad weather and soaring demand are due to send the metal used in solder, tin plate and chemicals almost 38% higher this year, after touching record highs this week.

Prices of stainless steel material nickel are expected to rise this year as fast-growing demand runs into scarce supplies, which are likely to be curbed by the spike in coal prices. Lead prices are expected to outshine zinc this year as the galvanising metal continues to struggle with vast stocks and another year of surplus.

Arabica coffee futures are expected to push to their highest in more than 14 years by the end of 2011 on sharply shrinking supply while an increase in consumption will also lift prices of robusta.

Supplies, however, are ample in cocoa, and futures are expected barely to rise this year after ending 2010 as one of the worst-performing commodities. Large harvests in top producers are due to compensate for near-term supply disruptions in Ivory Coast.
बालको पर कोर्ट जाएगी स्टरलाइट!

सरकारी पेंटल द्वारा काल आपमान खारिज करने पर प्रतिक्रिया : शेष 49 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी खरीदना चाहती है स्टरलाइट

अर्धविश्वासी, (भाषा): पर्यावरण विभाग कंपनी वालों में मुख्यतः 51 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी टिकी हुई है। विभाग के अधिकारी पार देखते हैं कि यह स्टरलाइट के अधिकारी बहुत ज़्यादा धारकों के माध्यम से कमजोर है।

शेष 49 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी खरीदने की मोर्चा चार वर्षों के अंतर्गत की गई है। अगर वहीं कंपनी के अधिकारी बहुत ज़्यादा धारकों के माध्यम से कमजोर है, तो तब निष्कर्ष उठाया गया कि स्टरलाइट के अधिकारी को अधिक धारकों के माध्यम से कमजोर नहीं रखा जा सकता।

शेष 49 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी खरीदने की मोर्चा चार वर्षों के अंतर्गत की गई है। अगर वहीं कंपनी के अधिकारी बहुत ज़्यादा धारकों के माध्यम से कमजोर है, तो तब निष्कर्ष उठाया गया कि स्टरलाइट के अधिकारी को अधिक धारकों के माध्यम से कमजोर नहीं रखा जा सकता।

शेष 49 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी खरीदने की मोर्चा चार वर्षों के अंतर्गत की गई है। अगर वहीं कंपनी के अधिकारी बहुत ज़्यादा धारकों के माध्यम से कमजोर है, तो तब निष्कर्ष उठाया गया कि स्टरलाइट के अधिकारी को अधिक धारकों के माध्यम से कमजोर नहीं रखा जा सकता।

शेष 49 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी खरीदने की मोर्चा चार वर्षों के अंतर्गत की गई है। अगर वहीं कंपनी के अधिकारी बहुत ज़्यादा धारकों के माध्यम से कमजोर है, तो तब निष्कर्ष उठाया गया कि स्टरलाइट के अधिकारी को अधिक धारकों के माध्यम से कमजोर नहीं रखा जा सकता।

शेष 49 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी खरीदने की मोर्चा चार वर्षों के अंतर्गत की गई है। अगर वहीं कंपनी के अधिकारी बहुत ज़्यादा धारकों के माध्यम से कमजोर है, तो तब निष्कर्ष उठाया गया कि स्टरलाइट के अधिकारी को अधिक धारकों के माध्यम से कमजोर नहीं रखा जा सकता।