

### **Hind Zinc to pay ₹736-cr dividend**

Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc on Sunday said it would pay a record interim dividend and corporate dividend tax of ₹736.62 crore to the government of India. "The amount of interim dividend paid to government of India is ₹187.19 crore. The total contribution by Hindustan Zinc to the government on account of interim dividend and corporate dividend tax would be ₹736.62 crore," the company said.

**PTI**

### **NMDC to bid for Russia's Vincy Coal**

Looking to buy two-three properties abroad by year-end, state-owned National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is likely to put a bid for acquiring all the stake in Russia's Vincy Coal in two or three days. The bid for Vincy Coal, estimated to have coking coal reserves of 70-100 million tonnes, will be in by November 1, said a source.

**PTI**

## **हिंद जिंक 736 करोड़ लाभांश देगी**

नई दिल्ली • वेदांता ग्रुप की कंपनी हिंदुस्तान जिंक ने आज कहा कि भारत सरकार को 736 करोड़ रुपये का रिकार्ड अंतरिम लाभांश एवं कॉर्पोरेट लाभांश कर अदा करेगी। कंपनी ने कहा कि भारत सरकार को दी जाने वाली अंतरिम लाभांश राशि 187.19 करोड़ रुपये है। हिंदुस्तान जिंक द्वारा अंतरिम लाभांश एवं कॉर्पोरेट लाभांश टैक्स के रूप में भारत सरकार को दिया जाने वाला कुल योगदान 736 करोड़ रुपये का होगा। अनिल अग्रवाल के नेतृत्व वाली कंपनी का दावा है कि वह दुनिया में जिंक एवं लीड की सबसे बड़ी इंटीग्रेटेड उत्पादक कंपनी है। कंपनी के निदेशक मंडल की 19 अक्टूबर को हुई बैठक में 75 फीसदी अंतरिम लाभांश देने का फैसला किया गया था जो 2011-12 के चालू वित्त वर्ष के लिए 2 रुपये प्रत्येक के 1.50 रुपये प्रति इक्विटी शेयर था।

## केन्द्र ने लोहा माना मप्र की खनिज नीति का

**भोपाल (ब्यूरो)**। मध्यप्रदेश की खनिज नीति 2010 पूरे देश में गूँज रही है। केन्द्र ने न सिर्फ इसकी सराहना की बल्कि व्यावसायिक धरातल पर सभी राज्यों को इसे अपनाने की समझाइश भी दी है।

केन्द्र ने एक से अधिक आवेदन की स्थिति में चयन के आधार की तारीफ की है। मप्र की खनिज नीति को सराहने और इसे दूसरे राज्यों के लिये आदर्श बनाने का पैगाम हाल ही में केन्द्र ने भेजा है। केन्द्रीय खनन मंत्रालय से जारी इस पत्र में मध्यप्रदेश की खनन नीति का उल्लेख कर बाकायदा इसके अध्ययन के लिए राज्य सरकार की वेबसाइट खोलने का सुझाव भी दिया है।

## **Mineral Development Panel Reconstituted**



**NEW DELHI** Against a huge backlog of over 46,000 applications for mineral concession pending in states, the Centre has formed a fresh panel inducting officials from key ministries like home, environment and finance to expedite disposal of those cases. As many as 46,885 applications including about 31,000 for mining leases and about 15,500 for prospecting licenses are pending for the last three-four years at 11-mineral bearing states, including Karnataka, Orissa and Jharkhand. "Against a huge number of pending cases for mines leases at states, the Mines Ministry has re-constituted the co-ordination-cum-empowered committee to monitor and minimise delays for grant of approval by states," an official said. This will result in better coordination among the central ministries and the state governments for grant of mineral concessions. The committee will also take up matters of mineral development and regulation, he said.

## **NMDC to bid for Russia's Vincy Coal in 2-3 days**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

Looking to buy 2-3 properties overseas by year-end, state-owned NMDC is likely to put a bid for acquiring 100% stake in Russia's Vincy Coal in two or three days. Bid for Vincy Coal, which is estimated to have coking coal reserves of 70-100 million tonnes, will be submitted by November 1, said a source in the know. NMDC Board will meet this week before submitting the bid, the source said, adding, "it will be a low cost acquisition and NMDC is eyeing to acquire 100 per cent stake in Vincy Coal."

## Mines within sanctuary irk green activists

MAYABHUSHAN ■ PANAJI

The Government mapping of the mining leases within a wildlife sanctuary, in a land use map has ruffled the feathers of the State's anti-mining lobby, which is already gunning for the heads of those in the Government, who had permitted the illegal mining.

"The Goa Government is trying to bring in 336 other mining leases, which are non-operational for years, by including them in the Regional Plan 2021. There is no mining there for years now... why is the CM reviving them now?" noted environment activist Claude Alvares said.

"Out of 336 leases, 63 are in the Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, which is a protected area. Is the next mining thrust going to happen there?" Alvares said.

The Regional Plan is a land use document prepared by the Goa Governments, town and country planning department which was released recently. Mining within the sanctuary was brought to a halt after the area was notified as a wildlife sanctuary in 1996. Claude believes that this could be a means to revive the old dead leases.

# NMRA mandate of deciding coal prices to be revisited

ANIMESH SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Ministries of Coal and Mining seem to have averted a possible collision over the issue of pricing of dry fuel, with the Mines Ministry having agreed to revisit its earlier proposal of including it under the ambit of the proposed National Mineral Regulatory Authority (NMRA).

The NMRA is a proposed body, which is a part of the Mining Bill, recently cleared by the Union Cabinet. The Mining Ministry, according to Government sources, had proposed that the NMRA should be given the mandate of deciding coal prices.

Coal Ministry on its part, is said to have objected to this proposal, claiming that the proposed coal sector regulator

is supposed to decide on the dry fuel's pricing, and that a decision to this effect had even been taken in the meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) for coal.

A top Government source told *The Pioneer* that on one hand the Mining Ministry proposed that coal pricing should be handled by the NMRA, while on the other hand there is a provision in

guidelines of the draft NMRA that coal should be exempted from its ambit.

The Coal Ministry, citing GoM's decision (on proposed coal regulator to decide on pricing) as well as the NMRA's said provision, has countered Mining Ministry's proposal and consequently the Mining Ministry is said to have agreed to rectify its stand.

"The Mining Ministry has

agreed to revise its proposal (of putting the issue of coal pricing under the ambit of NMRA)," a senior Coal Ministry official said.

Coal Minister Sriprakash Jaiswal is keen that the dry fuel's pricing should be fixed by the coal regulator and has been aggressively pushing for its formation. However, the proposal is currently with the Law Ministry, which is taking

a considerable amount of time to whet it.

"The coal regulator proposal is being whetted by the Law Ministry for the last four months now and we are hoping that it is expedited soon," the official added.

The pricing of coal was fully deregulated after the Colliery Control Order, 2000 was notified with effect from January 1, 2000 in suppression

of the Colliery Control Order, 1945. Under the Colliery Control Order, 2000 the Central Government has no power to fix the prices of coal.

However, the Ministry of Power has been writing to the Coal Ministry that in the absence of a regulatory mechanism, the prevailing monopoly situation in the coal market will lead to arbitrary

increase in price levels affecting adversely the cost of generation and thereby electricity tariff, which has direct impact on the national economy.

It has been pressing for the appointment of an independent regulatory body for price determination.

The proposed coal regulator, once it is formed, is expected to play this role.





# Indian firms may bag mining contract in Af

Sachin Parashar | TNN

**New Delhi:** Shortly after it signed a strategic partnership pact with Afghanistan, India's engagement with Kabul is all set to blossom further with two Indian companies, one of them a government-backed consortium led by SAIL, likely to win the contract for iron ore mining at Hajigak in Bamiyan province.

In a country where -- ac-

cording to US government estimates -- there are untapped mineral resources worth \$1 trillion, the Hajigak iron ore mining entails the single largest foreign investment by any country for such a project in the war-torn country.

SAIL and NMDC are heading a consortium of seven companies which has bid for the contract as a part of the Manmohan Singh-led government's initiative to further enhance India's role

**SAIL and NMDC are heading a consortium of seven companies which has bid for the contract as part of UPA's initiative to further enhance its role in Afghanistan**

in Afghanistan, a country in which India has pledged investment worth \$2 billion. Another Indian company

which has bid separately is corporate Ispat Alloys.

According to Afghanistan's minister of mines Wahidullah Shahrani, the two Indian entities have "emerged as the most potential companies for Hajigak". The final decision is likely to be taken by Afghan authorities in early November. Other companies from Canada, US and Iran too are in the fray. Foreign secretary Ranjan Mathai had met

Shahrani during his visit to Afghanistan last month during which he is said to have pushed the case for Indian firms.

If the SAIL-led consortium does indeed win the contract, the deal will surpass the \$4 billion contract signed by China for copper mining in the Logar province four years ago.