

Posco shown red light

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On Monday, Ramesh received two reports from the same panel on alleged violations of two clearances by his ministry — an environmental clearance granted in 2007 and a forest law clearance in 2009. Nearly a third of the 4,000-acre plant site involves forest villages the future of whose inhabitants is in question.

While a majority view from sociologist Urmila Pingle, for-

mer forest officer Devendra Pandey and human rights activist V. Suresh wanted Posco's clearances scrapped on the ground that it "suppressed facts" and did not comply with environmental laws, the other by former environment secretary Meena Gupta — who headed the panel — said environment clearance should continue. But both reports called for a new environment impact assessment (EIA) for the steel project.

Sterlite gets breather in Tuticorin row

S.S. NEGI

10-2-11
NEW DELHI

Oct. 18: While continuing its stay on the Madras high court order for closing of Sterlite, a subsidiary of MNC Vedanta in Tamil Nadu, the Supreme Court on Monday admitted the company's petition for detailed hearing and sought all pollution reports relating to its copper smelting plant in Tuticorin.

A bench of Justices Mr R.V. Raveendran and Mr H.L. Gokhale also directed the company to file an affidavit detailing the steps taken by it for disposal of the "contaminated" solid waste generated in its plant at a safe, "unreachable" place.

The court gave time till the second week of December for the parties to complete the filing of the affidavits and counter affidavits to enable it to hear the case on merits.

Adjourning the hearing with continuation of the stay on the HC order, came as a major relief to the company, which claimed in its special leave petition that the closure would affect its 1,100 employees directly and 2,500 other people getting indirect employment due to its business activities in Tamil Nadu.

The Monday order of the apex court came after Sterlite's petition came up for routine hearing. Earlier on October 1, the apex court had granted an interim stay on the HC order when the company's counsel Mr C. Supadram made a special mention of the SLP.

During a short hearing the bench asked Mr Sundaram why the company had refrained from producing those reports before the HC, which were "against" it.

Set off existing rehabilitation packages against proposed compensation: Coal India chief

Our Bureau

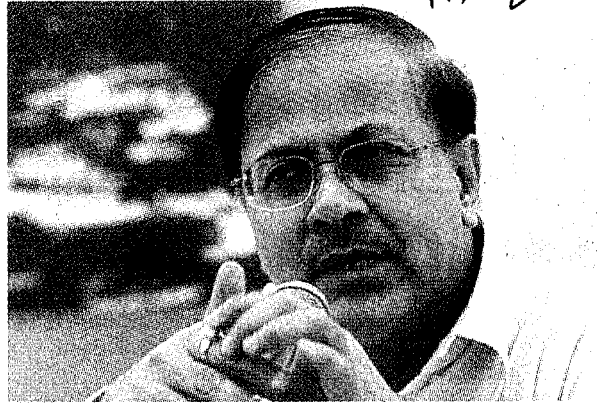
Kolkata, Oct, 18

Coal India Ltd expects the draft mining legislation to set off the company's existing practice of offering jobs (one employment for every two acre land acquisition) as well as cash compensation to the project-affected people against the proposed payment of 26 per cent of profit or 10 per cent royalty for all new projects. CIL is India's largest miner in terms of acreage as well as the employee strength.

The Union Coal Minister, Mr Sriprakash Jaiswal, told newsmen recently that according to the draft legislation both the commercial and captive miners have to set aside funds according to the proposed formula to ensure long-term growth of the mining sector in the country.

"It is not possible to continue with our existing rehabilitation and resettlement processes as well as share profits as per the proposed formula," the CIL Chairman, Mr Partha S. Bhattacharyya, said at a media conference here today. "The draft is yet to be finalised. We will definitely forward our case and would expect the proposed compensation package to be set-off against the existing rehabilitation measures taken by the company," he added.

Mr Bhattacharyya was responding to a query on the cost comparison between the com-



Mr Partha S. Bhattacharyya, Chairman, Coal India Ltd (file photo). -- A. Roy Chowdhury

pany's existing payout towards resettlement and rehabilitation of the project-affected people and the compensation proposed in the draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2010, which is expected to be placed for Cabinet approval shortly.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Apart from offering direct compensation (cash and job) to the land losers through its resettlement and rehabilitation policy, CIL currently offers community services including health and education at the project areas through its CSR (corporate social responsibility) budget created out of 5 per cent of the retained profit of the previous year or Rs 5/tonne of coal produced, whichever is higher. The company runs 590 schools and 85 hospitals and innum-

able clinics in the project areas.

Though he did not comment on the draft legislation, Mr Bhattacharyya clearly argued in favour of employment creation as a preferred approach in ensuring an inclusive growth.

"For every 100 acre land acquisition we are offering 500 permanent jobs without any regard to the suitability of the person. We think it is our duty to train him and in the process we make 500 families direct beneficiary of our growth story," the CIL Chairman said.

The Union Coal Secretary, Mr C. Balakrishnan, who was also present at the press conference, had favoured the CIL Chairman's views. "The draft legislation is still under preparation. We are confident that it would take a balanced view so as to reach maximum benefit to the people," he said.

Cos mining scarce minerals to face curbs on concessions

Subhash Narayan
NEW DELHI

THE government plans to restrict concessions to companies that mine scarce resources by bringing in a provision through a draft mining legislation that will restrict unregulated use of minerals.

According to people connected with the preparation of the draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, the proposal aims to keep a check on overexploited resources, including iron ore, and will also rein in export of the ore.

"The latest draft of the new mining legislation has incorporated a provision that will give the Centre overriding powers to restrict mining in larger national interest of conservation," said one person from the mines ministry who has knowledge of the draft provisions. "The proposal has already been approved by the Group of Ministers finalising the draft legislation. State governments have already been taken on board, on the issue," added the official. The draft bill is eagerly

awaited as it contains revolutionary provisions, including one on allowing displaced persons to have a share of the profitability of mining companies. According to the government, India's total iron ore resources, the fourth largest in the world, are estimated at 23 billion tonnes. Of this, not a lot is available for mining and many connected with the mining industry say depletion of resources is increasing rapidly.

The situation has already prompted some of the larger companies like Tata Steel and state-owned Steel Authority of India to advise the industry against exporting natural resources. "Conservation of mineral resources is in the long-term interest of the steel industry," said SAIL chairman C S Verma. The steel industry is expected to grow to over 100 million tonnes in two to three years, and would require local iron ore. Over half of the 216 million tonnes iron ore produced annually in the country is exported to China. However, the mining lobby is not convinced. "Where is the question of conserving resources. There is no shortfall of iron ore in the

country as only 10% of the resources are being exported while the remaining lies underutilised in the captive operations of SAIL and Tatas," said Federation of Indian Mining Industries secretary general RK Sharma.

Copper declines as dollar strengthens

SINGAPORE: Copper declined along with other industrial metals as the dollar rose and high prices deterred purchases by Chinese users amid rising domestic stockpiles. Futures for delivery in three months on the London Metal Exchange dropped as much as 1.2% to \$8,297 a metric tonne and traded at \$8,300 at 4:05 pm in Singapore. Copper reached \$8,490 a tonne on October 14, the highest level in 27 months. The December-delivery contract on the Comex in New York fell as much as 1.6% to \$3.779 a pound, before trading at \$3.7805 a pound. Copper for January delivery in Shanghai lost as much as 1.5% to 62,960 yuan (\$9,475) a tonne.

Sesa Goa net up at ₹388 cr

Our Bureau
MUMBAI

28

SESA Goa, India's largest iron ore exporter, on Monday said its second quarter net profit rose sharply to ₹388 crore from ₹169



crore last year, due to higher ore prices and increased volumes. The Vedanta Resources group company said its revenue in the July-September

period rose 70% to ₹918 crore. During the second quarter, iron ore production was at 3.2 million tonnes, while sales increased 25% to 2.0 million tonnes. Production in the first half was 9.6 million tonnes, an increase of 16% over last year.

Environmentalists have welcomed Jairam's intervention. "This is a step in the right direction. We hope that the state government will now cancel the proposed mining leases and stop the mines that are operational in wildlife corridor region," said D Stalin, director of green NGO Vanashakti, which was the first to take up this issue.

BHP, Rio scrap \$116-b iron ore joint venture

Deal Abandoned After Cos Failed To Clear Regulatory Objections

Reuters
MELBOURNE

109-21

BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto ditched plans to form the world's biggest iron-ore joint venture, in a victory for steel makers and a move that could prompt both miners to step up competing expansion plans. The deal's long-expected demise marks the second failed attempt in three years by BHP CEO Marius Kloppers to buy into Rio's superior iron ore assets and strengthens the hand of steel mills, which had feared the pair would gain too much pricing control.

Monday's announcement also leaves BHP focusing squarely on a \$39 billion hostile bid for fertiliser group Potash, no longer distracted by the complex \$116 billion marriage of the two miners' mammoth Australian iron ore operations.

"The failure of the joint venture will be slightly more positive for Rio than BHP, but it's important to remember it's actually a negative for both companies," said Ben Lyons, an analyst at ATI Asset Management.

A joint venture between Rio and BHP, the world's second and third-largest iron ore miners, would have eclipsed Brazil's Vale, the world's largest supplier, and would have reaped more than \$10 billion in savings from combining rail and port operations.

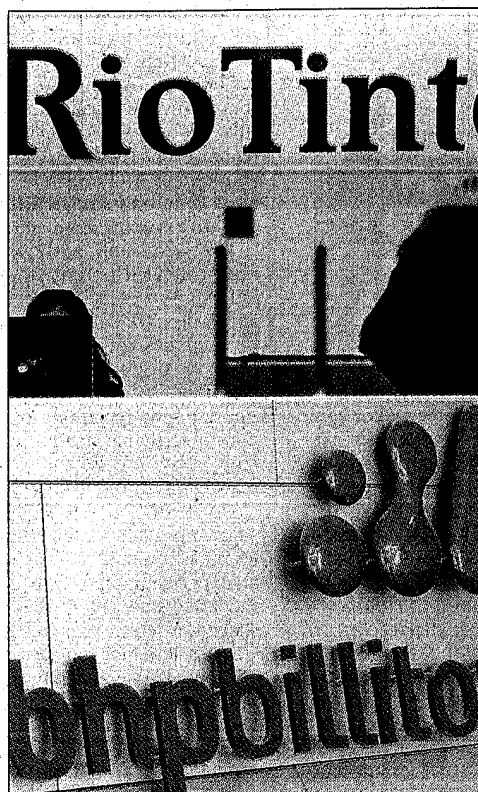
BHP and Rio Tinto had a fall-back option to share some iron ore infrastructure in the event the full joint venture failed, but this 'Plan B' is also in doubt, given the opposition that has emerged among competition regulators to the venture.

Analysts had estimated Plan B could yield at least half of the savings envisaged in the joint venture plan.

Now, BHP and Rio Tinto will have to review regulators' objections to their joint venture plan to gauge whether even a more modest collaboration would be allowed, a source close to the process said.

The decision to call off the deal was widely expected after European regulators indicated they would block the deal, so the share price reaction was muted: BHP shares fell 1.1% and Rio Tinto lost 0.3% in a broader market down 0.8%.

"The full value of the synergies on offer from a 50:50 joint venture was a prize well worth pursuing," Rio Tinto chief executive Tom Albanese said in a statement on



Monday, describing the joint venture as pro-competitive. "I am disappointed that ultimately the regulators did not agree with us," he added.

Goldman Sachs, Gresham Partners and Lazard will miss out on advisory fees from BHP, while Morgan Stanley, Credit Suisse and Macquarie will miss out on fees from Rio Tinto, in what ranked as the biggest deal in Asia and Europe last year, Thomson Reuters data shows.

Rio Tinto and BHP were recently advised that their proposal would not be approved by competition watch-

dogs in the European Union, Australian, Japan, South Korea and Germany.

"Extensive discussions with the European Commission indicated the companies would not be able to go ahead with the joint venture without large divestments, which would have destroyed the synergies and eroded long-term growth options," the source said. "Both parties didn't think that was acceptable."

Steelmakers cheered the outcome on Monday which would leave 30% of global iron ore seaborne trade in the hands of Vale, 25% with Rio Tinto and 15% with BHP.

"We were concerned about the monopoly of a proposed joint venture of Rio and BHP. We are relieved that the deal is not going to happen," said a spokesman at South Korea's POSCO, the world's no 3 steelmaker.

Both Rio Tinto and BHP are now likely to accelerate their separate, competing expansion plans, given that collaboration among major iron ore producers now looks like a lost cause.

Rio is in a much better position now to survive without the joint venture than when the deal was announced in 2009, when it was desperately slashing \$40 billion in debt.

Both companies have been going ahead with production expansions independently, with Rio having already committed around \$1 billion as it prepares to boost output by about 50% to 330 million metric tons of iron ore a year.

BHP stood to gain more from the venture, as Rio has more rail and port capacity to handle growing iron ore exports. That's why it tried to take over Rio Tinto in 2008, but it called off that hostile bid when the global financial crisis hit. BHP had said it was confident of winning regulatory approval for the iron ore venture, but investors were never that certain.

"It certainly is a bigger blight on BHP's management than Rio's — their inability to consummate a deal for the second time," said James Bruce, portfolio manager at Perpetual Investments.

"It's not like they're ex-growth, this just reduces the flexibility of their potential growth options," said ATI's Lyons of the impact on BHP.

Rio Tinto and BHP agreed to call off the joint venture without triggering a \$276 million break fee.

Panel's thumbs down could spell end of road for Posco in Orissa

Dilip Bisoi

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Orissa chief minister Naveen Patnaik said on Monday he will need time to study the adverse environment report on Posco, the second marque industrial project that may have to be shelved in less than three months in the state after Vedanta's Niyamgiri.

A four-member committee set up by the union environment ministry has called for cancelling the forest, environment and coastal regulatory zone clearances given to Posco-India's 12-million tonne steel project and captive port in Orissa. The committee chairperson Meena Gupta has, however, advocated a softer line in her dissent note submitted to environment minister Jairam Ramesh. However, given the sensitivities, it might be the end of the road for the project, once cited as the flagship venture between the Orissa government and the South Korean company.

Patnaik told *FE*: "We have no information about the Meena Gupta committee re-

port. We will react to the report once we have studied it." But sources close to his office said the chief minister discussed the report with chief



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Naveen Patnaik,
Orissa chief minister

secretary B K Patnaik, in his secretariat office till late on Monday night. While state steel & mines minister Raghunath Mohanty, is away in his constituency, secretary Manoj Ahuja is in Delhi.

■ Continued on Page 2

2-12

Panel's thumbs down...

State steel & mines and industries minister Raghunath Mohanty told *FE* they will wait till the union environment ministry takes a decision on the report.

The report could add grist to the ruling BJD's claim that the UPA government has not supported the industrialisation in the state. Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal has made this pitch after the environment ministry spiked Vedanta Resources' Rs 7,000-crore alumina project in Lanjigarh, citing dislocation for the tribals of Niyamgiri.

The Posco Pratirodh Sangram Samiti (PPSS) fighting the project expressed happiness: "The ministry should consider the majority view which has recommended that statutory clearances accorded to the project should be withdrawn immediately," said PPSS chief Abhaya Sahu. However, the chief of pro-Posco United Action Committee Anadi Rout said the ministry should take the views of the committee chairperson into consideration. The majority of members of the Meena Gupta Committee are quite critical of the goings-on at the project sites. They have recommended that the forest, environment, and coastal zone clearances for the project and the captive port be withdrawn immedi-

ately. The committee is, however, unanimous that the state must follow the Forest Right Act procedures afresh.

Apart from Gupta, the committee includes Urmila Pingle, Devendra Pandey and V Suresh. Gupta, an Orissa cadre IAS officer who retired as environment secretary has called for a comprehensive environment impact assessment (EIA) of the steel project and the captive port project. She is, however, silent on whether the clearances should be withdrawn or not. The three members, however, recommended that the environment clearance for the steel plant and the CRZ and environment clearances for the port project be cancelled. "The committee strongly feels that there have been many serious lapses and illegalities in the EIA process... The committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the environment clearance given by the MoEF dated 15.5.2007 for minor port and 19.7.2007 for the steel plant should be immediately revoked." It also suggested that the final forest clearance accorded to the steel project be withdrawn immediately. "The committee, there-

fore, feels that the final forest clearance dated 29.12.2009 of the MoEF overlooked serious violations of their own directions and the procedures prescribed by the law," the committee said. "The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the final forest clearance referred above be revoked forthwith."

The three members also recommended that CRZ permission for the port be revoked, since "there are a number of serious lapses and violations, including suppression of facts." There is unanimity that the Forest Right Act (FRA) was not implemented properly at the project site. People's claims were not recognised, the committee observed.

"The Orissa government must initiate implementation of the FRA process afresh in the project area in a transparent and democratic way", observed the committee in one voice. The members are unanimous that the port project would have impact the coastal environment, particularly on the port town of Paradip. The Committee is also against drawing water from Mahanadi at Jobra for the steel project as its would have an adverse im-

act on the source of drinking water for the people living around. On the relief and rehabilitation (R&R) policy, the three members suggested that "the R&R packages should take into account the loss of livelihood, provide for land for land compensation, account for vulnerable sections including women, labourers and old people and decided upon through a transparent and democratic process." The group also suggested that "higher compensation should be for the paan plots (betel vines)." The committee chairperson observed in her individual report that the Posco project is different from that of the Vedanta's alumina project as they operate in different environments and circumstances. While the Vedanta's alumina plant is located in the less developed western Orissa in a scheduled area home to two primitive tribal groups, the Posco project is located in a coastal district, in the more developed eastern part; the area is not a Scheduled Area and virtually has no scheduled tribe people, she pointed out.

The forest advisory committee which is meeting on October 25 will study the two reports and make a recommendation to the ministry on the issue of implementation of the Forests Act.

BHP, Rio scrap plan for \$116-billion iron ore JV

■ Deal's demise marks 2nd failed attempt in 3 years by BHP CEO to buy into Rio assets

Melbourne, Oct 18: BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto ditched plans to form the world's biggest iron-ore joint venture, in a victory for steel makers and a move that could prompt both miners to step up competing expansion plans.

The deal's long-expected demise marks the second failed attempt in three years by BHP CEO Marius Kloppers to buy into Rio's superior iron ore assets and strengthens the hand of steel mills, which had feared the pair would gain too much pricing control. Monday's announcement also leaves BHP focusing squarely on a \$39-billion hostile bid for fertiliser group Potash Corp, no longer distracted by the complex \$116-billion marriage of the two miners' mammoth Australian iron ore operations.

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lysts had estimated Plan B could yield at least half of the savings envisaged in the JV.

Now, BHP and Rio Tinto will have to review regulators' objections to their joint venture plan to gauge whether even a more modest collaboration would be allowed, a source close to the process said.

The decision to call off the deal was widely expected after European regulators indicated they would block the deal, so the share price reaction was muted: BHP shares fell 1.1% and Rio Tinto lost 0.3% in a broader market down 0.8%.

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Rio Tinto and BHP were recently advised that their proposal would not be approved by competition watchdogs in the EU, Australian, Japan, South Korea and Germany. "Extensive discussions with the European Commission indicated the companies would not be able to go ahead with the JV without large divestments, which would have destroyed the synergies and eroded long-term growth options," the source said. Reuters

SC pulls up Sterlite, extends relief for copper smelter plant

Indu Bhan

45-6

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the London-listed Vedanta group company to give details about the steps being taken by it to comply with the environmental norms at Sterlite's copper smelting plant in Tuticorin. The Madras high court had last month ordered immediate closure of the plant for violation of pollution control and environment norms and also asked the company to pay compensation to its workmen.

A bench headed by Justice R V Raveendran while continuing its interim stay on the high court judgment asked the ministry of environment and forests, the state government, state pollution control board and others to state as to why Sterlite should not be allowed to continue its operations at its plant. However, the Bench flayed Sterlite for not producing the full National Environmental Research Institute's (Neri) report, on the basis of which the high court had decided the matter, but submitting the report that favoured it.

The high court had cited the

Neri report that the company was located within 25 km of Gulf of Mannar, which was declared a National Park in 1986. Besides asking the company to submit Neri reports of November 17, 1998 and March 2005 and latest environment assessment reports, it also directed the company to file an affidavit giving details of the steps

taken to comply with various directions issued from time to time by state authorities and others and undertakings given in this regard particularly for disposal of solid waste "in an

unreachable manner."

The court posted the matter for hearing in the second week of December. The court also observed that the state government cannot close a running mill like this. Senior counsel V Prakash, appearing for National Trust for Clean Environment, an NGO, argued that the plant had led to ground water contamination and the company had also failed to comply with the high court directions that allowed it to reopen the plant only after it acquired land to dump solid waste in an "unreachable manner."



legal notes

Adani set to invest \$6.9 bn in Australian mine project

Jyotsna Bhatnagar

Ahmedabad, Oct 18: Adani group chairman Gautam Adani on Monday reiterated that the group is committed to investing \$6.9 billion in developing the mine, rail and port project for its Galilee Basin coal mine. He was speaking at the opening of the Brisbane office of the Rs 45,000 crore Ahmedabad-based group.

Adani said the occasion marked an important milestone in achieving the company's goal of mining 200 million tonnes (mt) per annum coal, generating 20,000 MW power and moving 200 million tonnes cargo through Adani's ports by 2020. "This investment represents the largest Indian investment in Australia and is an important benchmark in low

ADANI BOUGHT LINC'S COAL ASSETS FOR RS 4,200 CR IN AUGUST IN AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST COAL MINE DEAL

rank thermal coal assets that have been ignored because of inadequate logistics," Adani said. The group had bought Linc Energy's coal assets in Queensland for around \$900 million or Rs 4,200 crore in August in Australia's largest coal mine deal. Linc's estimated coal resource base is over 8 billion tonnes.

The Adani group already operates a coal mine in Bunyu Island in Indonesia which would start supplying 6 mt coal from this year, which can be ramped up to 10 mt. The mine was ac-

quired three years ago.

The company has plans to set up a 3,300 mw power project in Mundra in Gujarat and another 2,640 mw project at Dahaj. This is in addition to the 4,620 mw power project that it is currently working on in Mundra. The imported coal is expected to help run these facilities.

Not only that, Adani is a trader of coal in the international markets as well and so far has been importing coal from China and Indonesia for this purpose. Acquisition of coal assets is expected to give a leg-up to this business as well.

Queensland premier Anna Bligh, who was chief guest, said at its peak production the Galilee tenement would be the largest operating coal mine in Australia.

Hindustan Zinc raises prices marginally

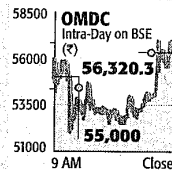
India's largest metal producer Hindustan Zinc hiked zinc and lead prices on Monday, according to data on the company's website. It raised zinc prices by Rs 800 a tonne, or 0.68%, to Rs 1,19,100 a tonne. It also increased lead prices by Rs 1,100 a tonne, or 0.92%, to Rs 1,20,600 a tonne.

Sterlite order delayed

The Supreme Court has extended till the second week of December its order allowing Sterlite Industries, the subsidiary of billionaire Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Group to carry on with its copper smelting operations at its Tuticorin plant in Tamil Nadu, reports **Sanjay K Singh** from **New Delhi**. A two-judge bench headed by Justice RV Raveendran on Monday also issued notices to the Centre, TN government and state pollution control board on the plea of the company. The court asked the company to file an affidavit detailing the steps taken by it for disposal of solid waste from its plant in the state.

heard on the street

Orissa Mineral up on bonus buzz, CIL's IPO frenzy



SHARES of Orissa Mineral Development Corporation (OMDC) extended their winning streak to the sixth session on Monday, closing

at ₹56,391.45, after hitting a record high of ₹56,984.65 intra-day. The stock, originally listed on the Calcutta Stock Exchange, made its debut on the BSE in the 'permitted category' in August this year, following an agreement between the two stock exchanges. The stock began trading on the NSE, following a similar arrangement, a month later. Brokers tracking the OMDC stock say that the sudden interest in the stock could have partly to do with the excitement around Coal India's initial public offering. The stock had touched a high of around ₹42,500 in the last week of August, and then slumped to around ₹25,000 by the third week of September. The other reason for the rise, brokers say is speculation that the company will announce a bonus issue to be compliant with the listing norms on the BSE and the NSE. Companies listed on BSE need to have a minimum share capital of ₹3 crore, while those on the NSE need a minimum share capital of ₹10 crore. OMDC's share capital is only ₹60 lakh, and to comply with the share capital requirement on the NSE, the company will have to issue 16 bonus shares for every one held. However, OMDC chairman and managing director Satish Chandra has denied any such move. "There is no such proposal to issue any bonus shares," he told ET. An official at one of the exchanges said that the company was under no compulsion to comply with the share capital norm, since it was in the 'permitted category'. A suave BSE broker, who occasionally hosts TV and radio shows, and the Big Daddy of domestic insurance companies are said to have been regular buyers in the stock over the last few weeks. OMDC shares have risen 166% since their listing on BSE. The company has ₹792 crore in cash and liquid assets, which translates to cash per share of around ₹13,200. The company holds six iron ore mines on lease, which have a combined reserve of close to 200 million tonnes (mt) and 44 mt of manganese ore. In financial year 2008-09, the company mined 1.66 mt of ore and posted a net profit of ₹182 crore and a turnover of ₹347 crore. However, the following year, its revenues and net profit declined 50%, due to the slowdown in the global economy in general and the steel industry in particular.

Contributed by Harish Rao and
Apurv Gupta

Bharat Forge eyes coal mines overseas

Aims at captive use in power generation business

Roudra Bhattacharya
New Delhi, Oct. 18

Bharat Forge Ltd, a Kalyani Group company with diverse business interests, is now aiming to get into coal mining and, subsequently, the power generation business.

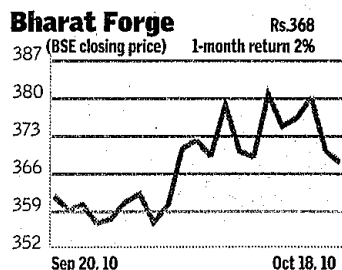
Industry sources said the Pune-based company is currently evaluating a few such mines in Mozambique, Indonesia and South Africa, which may then be purchased and developed for captive use.

The company, already a maker of power equipment, hopes to enter the power generation business shortly.

"The company is studying

a few sites in Mozambique, Indonesia and South Africa and is expected to finalise around two mines. Currently, it is studying coal samples taken from the mines and is also hiring professionals for this new business interest," a source said.

A senior Bharat Forge official confirmed the development. "It is true that we're looking at thermal coal mines in these countries. The study is on, though it is at an early stage," he said. The company official added that Bharat Forge plans to set up around 10,000 MW of power generation capacity over the next 10 years.



"As we move forward, we're progressively looking to set up power generation capacity. Though the capacity would help our own manufacturing units, the main aim is to get into commercial sale of electricity," said the official.

Bharat Forge, whose core business is manufacturing

engine, transmission and chassis components for automotive use, has about 11 plants globally. It is also makes parts for marine, aerospace, construction equipment and railway applications.

The company expects nearly 40 per cent of its sales to come from the non-automotive business by 2011-12.

VENTURE WITH ALSTOM

Marking its entry into the power business, the company has tied up with French company Alstom to manufacture supercritical turbine generator (TG) sets.

The joint venture recently

emerged as the lowest bidder to supply turbine generators for NTPC Ltd for its upcoming supercritical power projects. NTPC had invited separate international competitive bids for sourcing boiler and steam turbine generator sets in October last year.

Bharat Forge has said that it is setting up a TG manufacturing capacity for about 5,000 MW a year, translating to potential annual revenues of about Rs 6,000-7,000 crore. This capacity will also include turbine generators required for nuclear power plants.

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Apex court stays Sterlite's TN plant closure till mid-Dec

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Oct. 18

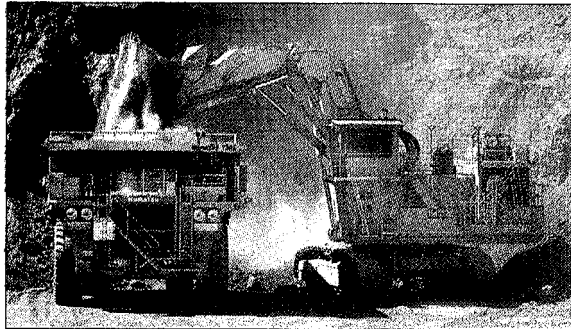
In a major relief for the Vedanta Resources Group's Sterlite Industries, the Supreme Court on Monday extended till the second week of December its earlier stay on closure of the company's copper smelter at Tuticorin in southern Tamil Nadu.

The apex court also issued notices to the Centre, the Tamil Nadu Government and the State Pollution Control Board (PCB) directing them to file replies within two weeks. The PCB was asked to file a status report on the plant and the adjoining areas. There were allegations that the site continues to be contaminated due to the company's actions.

The apex court was hearing a petition filed by Sterlite, the country's largest copper producer, against a September 28 order of the Madras High Court to immediately shut the smelter for violating pollution-control and environment regulations. Sterlite claims that it had complied with the green norms and opposes charges on contamination.

The Supreme Court on October 1 stayed the Madras High Court order till October 18. The matter will be heard again in mid-December, by which time Sterlite will have to submit the reports of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute and file an affidavit on the steps taken for disposal of solid waste from its plant.

Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton axe iron ore merger ^{\$5}/₁₆



SYDNEY: Mining giants Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton on Monday abandoned a controversial merger of their Australian iron ore operations after anti-competition complaints from regulators and top customers including China.

The Anglo-Australian companies, both among the world's top three miners, said they were disappointed at the collapse of the \$116 billion deal, which was set to save \$10 billion in shared costs. "The large synergies from combining our West Australian iron ore assets with Rio Tinto's have caused us to persevere in seeking to obtain regulatory approvals," said BHP chief executive Marius Kloppers. "However, it has become clear that this transaction is unlikely to obtain the necessary approvals to allow the deal to close and as a result both parties have reluctantly agreed to terminate the agreement."

Rio Tinto said the European Commission, Australia, Japan, South Korea and Germany had all refused to approve the deal, which was also fiercely opposed by industrialising China, the world's leading iron ore consumer.

"Some regulators have indicated they would require substantial remedies that would be unacceptable to both parties, including divestments, whereas others have indicated they would be likely to prohibit the transaction outright," a Rio statement said.

The attempted merger follows BHP's \$147 billion hostile bid for Rio which failed in November 2008 as the financial crisis took hold. Both companies said a \$275.5 million break fee would not be payable as the decision to scrap the iron ore deal was taken mutually. The joint venture in Australia's Pilbara region, a major source of iron ore for Asia's steel mills, was announced during the crisis in June 2009, as Rio struggled with debts after taking over Canada's aluminium group Alcan. AFP

Sterlite gets SC reprieve till mid-Dec

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 18

7 3-18
THE Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the environment and forests ministry seeking its response on the Madras High Court order to immediately close Sterlite Industries; copper smelting plant in Tuticorin.

Taking note of the company's plea that at least 3,600 people, employed directly or otherwise, would be affected by the High Court order, the Supreme Court sought responses from the Tamil Nadu environment department and the Tamil Nadu pollution control board to specify the statutory norms the company has violated.

The court said its interim order passed on October 1, staying the order of the High Court would continue till the second week of December. The Supreme Court directed Sterlite, a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources, to produce the reports of NERI by the next date of hearing.

A Bench was hearing a petition filed by Sterlite claiming that the high court judgment of September 28, 2010 was passed against a "running company having no untoward incident or complaints, operating strictly within the parameters of law".

The verdict is based on a petition filed in 1996 and serves a blow to the company, which is engaged in the production of copper and claims to account for over "50 per cent of India's indigenous requirements". Sterlite pleaded that the High Court ordered the closure of the plant despite compliance with green norms. The court directed the company to file an affidavit detailing the steps taken for disposal of solid waste coming out of its copper smelting plant.

The National Trust for Clean Environment, which has been pursuing the case in the high court and now in the apex court, alleged that still the site has heavy solid waste contamination with presence of arsenic. Sterlite however countered that the NGO had been relying on outdated data of 1997 and 1998. Sterlite said it had "10 environmental surveys" after that in its favour.

अरावली का दर्द 23-6

विकास के नाम पर पर्यावरण की अनदेखी कोई नई बात नहीं है। अरावली पर्वत श्रृंखला क्षेत्र में खनन को लेकर सरकारों का रवैया यह साबित करने के लिए काफी है कि न केवल अपने स्तर पर पर्यावरण संरक्षण के प्रश्न उनके लिए कोई खास मायने नहीं रखते, बल्कि इस संबंध में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के आदेशों की भी उन्हें कोई परवाह नहीं है। करीब आठ महीने पहले सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अरावली क्षेत्र की दो सौ इकसठ में से एक सौ सत्तावन खदानों में खनन पर रोक लगा दी थी। इसमें राजस्थान के पंद्रह जिलों में फैले हुए इलाके भी थे। लेकिन तीन दिन पहले अलवर के अरावली क्षेत्र में विस्फोटक लगाते समय हुए हादसे में चार मजदूरों की मौत से यह साफ है कि तमाम अदालती आदेशों को धता बताते हुए न केवल उस क्षेत्र में गैरकानूनी खनन चल रहा है, बल्कि इस धंधे में लगे लोग जरूरी सुरक्षा-उपायों का पालन करने की

भी कोई जरूरत नहीं समझते। पुलिस और जिला प्रशासन की निगाह में यह कोई बड़ी समस्या नहीं है। खनन माफिया के राजनीतिक प्रभावों का ही नतीजा है कि पर्यावरण संबंधी या अदालत के निर्देश धरे रह जाते हैं। केवल इस साल प्रतापगढ़, भीलवाड़ा, मकराणा, टोंक और अलवर में अब तक कुल दो दर्जन खनिकों की जान जा चुकी है। दौसा, भरतपुर और नागपुर में भी ऐसे हादसे हुए हैं। खबर है कि राजस्थान में सत्ताधारी दल के एक नेता के संरक्षण में अकेले अलवर में सौ से ज्यादा जगहों पर अवैध खनन बेरोकटोक जारी है।

अरावली की गिनती दुनिया की सबसे पुरानी पर्वत श्रृंखलाओं में होती है। पश्चिम से रेगिस्तान को पसरने से रोकने में यह एक प्राकृतिक बाड़ का काम करती रही है। इसलिए अरावली को बचाना कुछ दूसरे इलाकों के पर्यावरण को भी बचाने के लिए जरूरी है। इसी बात को ध्यान में रख कर राजस्थान के अलावा हरियाणा और दिल्ली से सटे कई इलाकों में भी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने खनन रोकने का आदेश दिया था। हरियाणा के अरावली क्षेत्र की हालत यह है कि वहां से हरियाली गायब हो चुकी है और जलस्तर काफी नीचे चला गया है। लगभग सभी जगहों पर पहाड़ियां क्षत-विक्षत नजर आती हैं। दरअसल, पहाड़ों के जिन हिस्सों से खुदाई कर पत्थर निकाले जाते हैं, उनकी भरपाई दोबारा संभव नहीं है। खनन वाले इलाकों में वनभूमि का भी तेजी से क्षरण हो रहा है और वहां रहने वाली वन्यजीवों की अनेक प्रजातियां लुप्त होती जा रही हैं। दूसरी ओर, पहाड़ियों के नष्ट होने का सीधा असर इन क्षेत्रों में होने वाली बरसात पर पड़ना तय है। यह सब काफी अरसे से अवैध रूप से होती रही खुदाई का ही नतीजा है। सवाल केवल ऊंची राजनीतिक पहुंच रखने वाले खनन माफिया के चलते अरावली की बर्बादी का नहीं है। सरकारी स्तर पर समूची विकास योजनाओं में पर्यावरण संरक्षण के प्रश्न को कितनी जगह मिल पाती है, यह किसी से छिपा नहीं है। इसके उलट ज्यादातर मामलों में देखा जा सकता है कि विकास का तर्क देकर जंगल के जंगल उजाड़ने, नदियों का रुख मोड़ने से लेकर उनके पानी को जहरीला होने की हद तक प्रदूषित होने देने, भूजल के अंधाधुंध दोहन, खेती के लिए खाद या कीटनाशकों के बेलगाम इस्तेमाल आदि को खुद सरकारें प्रोत्साहित करती रही हैं। वरना क्या कारण है कि विकास योजनाओं में पर्यावरण संरक्षण को अहमियत मिलने के बजाय किसी क्षेत्र के 'विकसित' होने की कीमत पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को चुकानी पड़ती है?

Gold slips below \$1,360/oz

Reuters

London, Oct. 18

Gold slipped below \$1,360 an ounce in Europe on Monday as the dollar bounced back from its recent hefty losses, with market watchers worried that expected US monetary easing had already been too heavily priced in.

Spot gold was bid at \$1,359.50 an ounce at 11:18 GMT, against \$1,370.50 late in New York on Friday.

US gold futures for Decem-

ber delivery fell \$12.50 an ounce to \$1,359.50.

Among other precious metals, silver was at \$23.95 an ounce against \$24.26. Holdings of the world's largest silver-backed exchange-traded fund, New York's iShares Silver Trust, rose to a record 10,224.05 tonnes on Friday.

Platinum was at \$1,679.50 an ounce against \$1,687.60, while palladium was at \$575.50 versus \$584.80.

Bullion rate

Mumbai: Silver spot (.999 fineness): Rs 36,940; standard gold (99.5 purity): Rs 19,675; pure gold (99.9 purity): Rs 19,770.

Chennai: Bar silver (a kg): Rs 36,160; retail silver (a gm): Rs 38.70; standard gold: Rs 19,725; retail ornament gold (22 carat): Rs 1,834.

Kolkata: Silver ready: Rs 36,100; Gold ready: Rs 19,995.

Miners' secrecy pact erodes

Many have made clear, however, that bidding has begun for 'personal accounts'.

Alexei Barrionuevo and
Simon Romero

Family members of the 33 miners who were trapped for 69 days had said a special Mass on October 17 would be a chance for the miners to find closure and understanding.

As one of them, Omar Reygadas, 56, left the service and walked with his family to the tent where they had lived while the men were trapped, cameramen and photographers surrounded him. His two-year-old great-granddaughter was pushed in the mob and began to cry. As Reygadas picked her up, cameramen moved closer, zooming in.

Wearing a baseball cap and sunglasses, Reygadas remained calm in the media glare, but he revealed little of what the world had been waiting to hear: the miners' own stories about life in their subterranean prison.

'A nightmare'

"I've had nightmares these days," Reygadas said from the cramped tent, as reporters jostled for space. "But the worst nightmare is all of you."

Saying they had signed a pact not to reveal details about their ordeal, the miners have said little since the October 13 rescue. Many have made clear, however, that the bidding had begun for their personal accounts, reflecting the complexity behind a feel-good story of hope and perseverance that was always encumbered by the economic challenges faced by Chile's miners.

On October 16, in an area of squatter homes in the Juan Pablo Segundo slum of Copiapo, a city about an hour from the mine, reporters milled in front of the home of Carlos Mamani, 24, a Bolivian.

Veronica Quispe, his wife, said they were charging for interviews, even from reporters from Bolivia, where Mamani is considered a national hero. She said they were travelling there this week to discuss a job offer Mamani received from President Evo Morales.

"We're poor look at the place we live," Quispe said, squinting under the desert



SPOTLIGHT: Attention is now on what the world wants to hear ... the miners' own stories about life in their subterranean prison. Here, Chilean miner Juan Carlos Aguilar arrives at the San Jose mine for a religious ceremony. - PHOTO: REUTERS

sun. "You live off our stories, so why can't we make money from this opportunity to feed our children?"

Miners have asked for as little as \$40 and upward of \$25,000 for interviews. Some media outlets have offered to fly miners to Japan, Germany or Italy for exclusives. Some reporters who spent weeks living in Camp Hope, the tent village that sprang up when families gravitated to the site, exchanged letters with miners underground and were asked for large sums for interviews once the miners were out.

On October 15 night in Copiapo, reporters and photographers gathered outside the home of Florencio Avalos, the first miner to be rescued. A man identifying himself as Avalos' cousin told them that access was possible for a price.

"We paid \$500 for the interview," Ari Hirayama of Asahi Shimbun of Japan, said upon exiting the house. "And it felt like he was withholding details."

Jessica Chilla, the wife of Dario Segovia, was equally direct. "He is charging for interviews as compensation. He is physically and psychologically exhausted and will not recover for at least a month," she said.

She added, "He will not give interviews for free, not now or later."

As of October 16 Segovia had given two interviews, one for half an hour to a German TV station for 500,000 pesos, about \$1,040, and another to a Japanese media outlet for about \$417.

Cash is king, Chilla said. The family is not asking for trips or other gifts because, she said, they have been promised so many already.

Even one miner, Marcos Aciaras, who was supposed to have been part of the fateful shift on August 5, has been cashing in. Aciaras, 43, said he charged a Chilean TV station 2 million pesos for an interview.

Other miners at the San Esteban

Mining Co., which shut down the San Jose Mine after the accident, have felt left behind. A few dozen protested on October 17, demanding their severance payments. Not all the miners have refused to speak at all without payment.

A short walk from Mamani's home in a patchwork of slum housing, Susana Valenzuela, 52, the companion of one miner, Yonny Barrios, 50, had no problem talking.

"Just bring me a bottle of sidra!" she told an Argentine news crew, referring to a popular tippie in Argentina. The Argentines promptly dispatched a producer to purchase a bottle. Later, the soft-spoken Barrios appeared on his porch to say hello, under a sign reading, "I love you, my Tarzan."

"I lost hope several times," he said of the first 17 days before rescuers found the miners were all alive. "But I had God to speak with," he added. "I can't really say much more."

The oft-mentioned pact among the 33 men seems to be fraying. For instance, ABC News said it was preparing to broadcast an exclusive interview with Mario Sepulveda, 40, who emerged from the mine ebullient and leading cheers among rescue workers. "ABC licensed material from the family," Alison Bridgman, a spokeswoman, said, disputing the idea that ABC had paid for the interview. Sepulveda spoke to the British tabloid *The Mail* on Sunday because the newspaper had treated his family "with dignity and kindness," the article based on the interview said.

The 3,365-word story delved into the desperation the men felt during the first 17 days they were trapped.

"The batteries in our helmet lights faded and then they went out completely on Day 3," Sepulveda said.

In the interview, he described his desperate search for a way out amid the rockfall. "I walked for hours," he said. "I found a ventilation shaft. It was a shaft that should have had a ladder in it. It did have a ladder so I started climbing."

But after a climb of about 150 feet, the ladder ended. The men were 2,060 feet below the surface.

— © New York Times News Service

Chile comes in from the cold

Jorge Heine

41-10
To Chileans abroad, it is a familiar routine. You introduce yourself as hailing from that long sliver of land at the end of the world, once mockingly described by Henry Kissinger as "a dagger pointing straight at the heart of Antarctica." The response often is: "Where is Chile, exactly?"

Mexico is known for its vibrant popular music and impressive pre-Columbian Aztec civilisation; Brazil for its carnival, samba and multiethnic bricolage; Peru for Macchu Picchu and Cuzco, and Argentina for the tango, the gaucho and Buenos Aires. Chile's diffuse image, despite all the country it has going for it, seemed forever associated with General Augusto Pinochet.

That is, until October 13-14, when the rescue of 33 miners in the San José mine galvanised the world. In a time of war, recession, terrorism, pandemics, floods and earthquakes, this was the ultimate story of hope. The miners' endurance and fortitude are an example to all. The miner's lot is a harsh one. These men, from Florencio Avalos (the first one to come out) to Luis Urzúa (the last to do so) proved their mettle and ability to cope with the 69-day ordeal. Praise should also go to Greg Hall, the American mining engineer who figured out how to bore through 500 metres of volcanic rock to reach them, in the bowels of the earth underneath the Atacama desert.

Without teamwork they would not have survived. For 17 days, they shared scraps of food, parsed out in minimal daily rations. The international mining community, from Calgary to Calama, pitched in with their best men and women, tools and know-how. NASA stepped up to the plate, helping the Chilean Navy to build the rescue capsule, "Phoenix 2". Australians, Americans, Canadians, Russians and South Africans were all there.

It even managed to bring Chile and Bolivia closer. One of the 33 miners, Carlos Mamani,

Teamwork and leadership, aided by the active role of the government, made the safe rescue of the miners possible.

the fourth to come up, is Bolivian. He had only been working at San José for 24 hours. Bolivian President Evo Morales paid a visit to greet him and told him Bolivia would provide him with a house. The miner responded to say that what he really wanted was a house in Chile.

Yet, this is also a story of the indispensable role of government in today's world. The potential tragedy was abetted by the irresponsible behaviour of San Esteban, the company that owns San José. With a history of safety violations, it pushed the limits in cost-cutting, though the high price of copper and gold would have been bringing in hefty profits. The mandatory exit shaft for any such emergencies was absent. And, after it was discovered that the miners were still alive, San Esteban announced it would stop their salaries, since the mine was no longer in production — impeccable management-speak logic.

Without the active role of government, the operation, this "brilliant example of human excellence" as Peggy Noonan put it in *The Wall Street Journal*, would not have happened. It was a collective endeavour, but in the end somebody has to take charge. After the mine fell in, Minister of Mining Laurence Golborne spent 50 of the next 70 days in Campamento Esperanza, the make-shift tent-city that came up. At one point it had a population of 3,000. His open, accessible style helped establish rapport with the miners' families. His logistics management and attention to detail (he is a former chief executive officer of a large Latin American retail company) ensured that everything went according to plan — from the sunglasses the miners wore when they came out to the suits

prepared for their 15-minute, spiralling capsule journey.

Health Minister Jaime Mañalich played a critical role, camping out there. He supervised the monitoring of each miner's health. Issues such as the diabetic condition of one of them, José Ojeda, and their diet, were managed with microscopic care. This is why they emerged in good shape. One of them, Edison Peña, even kept up his jogging, clocking three to six miles a day in the underground corridors. He has been invited to the New York Marathon.

From Katrina to the Gulf oil spill, from the Pakistan floods to the chemical spill in Hungary, governmental response to emergencies has often been found wanting. It was thus only half in jest that Michael Moore told CNN's Larry King: "Next time there's an oil spill in the Gulf, let's call the Chilean government."

And this takes us to the role of leadership. Though I did not vote for him, after his election last January I wrote that if President Sebastian Piñera was able to set aside his wealth-acquiring instincts and deployed his managerial-organisational talents for Chile's benefit, he could make a real difference. Having finally sold his stake in LAN-Chile and in the TV channel Chilevisión, he has proceeded to do just that.

The happy outcome of San José was not pre-ordained. The government could have taken a "hands-off" attitude, leaving the matter to the company. Yet, against the advice of some, Mr. Piñera took the bull by the horns. He cut short a visit to Colombia and flew directly to San José. From thereon, his government's No. 1 priority was finding the miners. After 17 days, it happened. And then,

the task was to get them out.

In contrast to the Gulf oil spill, expectations were kept under control. Although Chile is a major mining country (the leading exporter of copper; about half of its nearly \$70 billion in exports comes from mining), overseas help was enlisted. Whatever the engineers and rescue specialists requested was provided, no matter how expensive: the total cost of the rescue is around \$20 million. If something had gone wrong, the political fallout would have been devastating. But Mr. Piñera's concern was to get them out, period. That is how the project jelled, as its components fell into place.

The minute-by-minute planning, control and execution, on the one hand, and maximum transparency, on the other, that marked the operation, should become a mandatory case study in business and public management schools. The counterpart to the crowd and media control on-site (1,500 journalists from 300 media outlets were kept several hundred metres from the spot the miners were to emerge from) was the live TV feed from the mine-bottom provided in real-time across the world. This technological feat (that took viewership to an estimated one billion: BBC World had 6.8 million, and the three main U.S. news cable channels of Fox, CNN and MSNBC reached 11 million) was the result of a presidential choice. Several of Mr. Piñera's collaborators (including Ministers Mr. Golborne and Mr. Mañalich) opposed it, on the ground that, if something went wrong, there was no going back. Yet, as a former TV station owner, Mr. Piñera knew only too well the difference between live and pre-recorded programming. He seemed certain that things would work out.

For 20 years, Chile has been one of the great, if largely unheralded, success stories. With an average annual growth rate of five per cent, it has had the best economic performance for any country outside Asia, and the fourth best anywhere. It has cut its poverty rate from 39 per cent in 1990 to 15 per cent today. In early 2010, it became the first South American country to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Mr. Piñera has promised that by 2018, Chile would be a developed nation with a per capita income of \$20,000 (it is now at \$15,000 in purchasing power parity terms). Some people attribute Chile's success to its natural resources, others to its educational standards. The real reason is different. Over the two decades, Chile has developed a culture of doing things well, of designing and applying imaginative and effective public policies, and of getting things done.

Mr. Piñera, the first centre-right leader to rule Chile in 20 years, was elected on a platform of continuity and change. He promised to pursue many of the policies of the Concertación, the centre-left coalition that ruled Chile from 1990 to 2010, but more effectively and efficiently. Whether that happens remains to be seen. But for now, he has shown that he means what he says when he proclaims he can get things done, and do them well. The 33 miners whose lives were saved know as much.

(Jorge Heine, a Chilean, holds the Chair in Global Governance at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, is Professor of Political Science at Wilfrid Laurier University and a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo, Ontario. His book (with Andrew F. Cooper), *Which Way Latin America? Hemispheric Politics Meets Globalization*, is published by U.N. University Press.)

Dozen injured as rival mining mafia groups clash in Uttarakhand

RAJENDRA S MARKUNA
HALDWANI

23-4
About a dozen persons were injured in an exchange of firing when two groups of illegal mining mafia clashed in US Nagar's Baazpur area on Monday morning.

All the injured in the clash were taken by the local police to a nearby local hospital for treatment. They are all now out of danger, said the police.

Four persons have been arrested in this case, said Harish Mehta, SHO, Baazpur police station. Some of the suspects are still at large. But no one involved in this firing case would be spared, added the SHO.

FIRs have been registered at the local police station.

However, no weapons used by these mining mafia groups have so far been recovered and the investigations

are still on, he said.

He further informed that it seemed the miscreants opened fire in the air only to spread terror among rival groups as no one received gunshot wounds. They rather received physical injuries inflicted by rods, stones and other means as the injuries suggest. However, strong action would be taken against those involved in the clash as per law, Mehta asserted.

Some of the suspected involved in this case have been identified as Deedan Singh, Pratap Singh, Paramjeet Singh, Inderjeet Singh, Harjinder and Sukhwinder. Efforts are on to identify all others involved in this morning firing incident, added police sources.

The incident took place at Baazpur's Bannikhera area where mining activities are carried out in local Gobra river at around 10 am. Perhaps in a bid to establish their suprema-

cy in illegal mining in this area the two groups resorted to firing, said local sources.

The interesting fact is that there is no formal permission from the government for mining activities in the State. Generally mining activities take place at local rivers from October 15 after the rainy season is over, yet illegal mining continues unabated in most parts of the tarai region of the Kumaon.

A senior forest official on condition of anonymity informed that the department has already taken up the illegal mining issue with the concerned district officials and the Government, but of no use.

"We have written several letters to draw the attention of the Government and concerned local authorities but no action has been taken so far," the sources added.

Adani starts Australia operations

Plans to invest \$6.9 billion on mine, rail, port projects

Virendra Pandit

Ahmedabad, Oct. 18

Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) today commenced business in Australia by opening its office at Brisbane and announced its commitment to invest \$6.9 billion for developing mine, rail and port projects in its Galilee Basin coal mine in Queensland, Australia, to produce up to 60 million tonnes of coal a year at its peak.

Mr Gautam Adani, Executive Chairman and founder of the Adani Group, said today's opening of its Brisbane office by the Queensland Premier, Ms Anna Bligh, marked an important milestone towards his company's goal of mining 200 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of coal, generating 20,000 MW of power and moving 200 million tonnes (MT) of cargo through the Adani Group's ports by 2020, a company spokesman said here.

"This investment in Australia

represents the largest-ever Indian investment in Australia and an important benchmark investment in low-rank thermal coal assets, a segment that has previously been ignored for reasons of inadequate logistics," Mr Adani said, adding global investors were now recognising the economic potential of large deposits supported by large-scale logistics solutions.

This investment has unlocked the enormous potential of what were once unviable resources. Undoubtedly, Queensland would lead Australia in creating huge export surpluses in the balance of trade with India, he said.

Queensland Premier Ms Bligh said the Galilee tenement, now being renamed as the Carmichael tenement, was set to become, at peak production, the largest operating coal mine in Australia, and one of the largest in the world.

"We are targeting the first

coal by the end of 2014 and a production of between 50 and 60 MTPA to be achieved by 2022," Mr Adani said.

OTHER AVENUES

Additionally, the Adani Group would explore opportunities for downstream value addition, including UCG and CTL technologies, within the framework of government policy. "Our strengths lie in being able to integrate across the value chain, right from mining to rail and port logistics, shipping and finally to power generation. This insulates us from component market variations and expedites project implementation."

Sesa Goa standalone profit at Rs 353 cr

Chennai, Oct. 18

23-3
Sesa Goa Ltd has posted a standalone net profit of Rs 353 crore on sales of Rs 804 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2010, against a net profit of Rs 139 crore on sales of Rs 448 crore for the corresponding quarter last year. On a consolidated basis, it posted a net profit of Rs 385 crore on sales of Rs 907 crore against a profit of Rs 166 crore on sales of Rs 534 crore for the corresponding period under review. — **Our Bureau**

पश्चिमी सीमा : बाड़मेर में वायुसेना क्षेत्र के आसपास अवैध खनन

सरहद पर सुरक्षा में सूराख

उत्तरलाई हवाई स्टेशन

1971

के भारत-पाक युद्ध का साक्षी रहा है यह क्षेत्र

जिला प्रशासन फौरी तौर पर निभा रहा है वायुसेना स्टेशन सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी

02

फीट की दूरी तक तारबंदी के तीनों तरफ बने गहरे गड्ढे

रतन दवे © बाड़मेर

सामरिक दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण पश्चिमी सरहद के उत्तरलाई हवाई स्टेशन की सुरक्षा पर आस-पास अवैध खनन के चलते खतरा मंडराने लगा है। वायुसेना क्षेत्र की तारबंदी से दो फीट की दूरी तक तीनों तरफ गहरे गड्ढे हो गए हैं। रोजाना सैकड़ों अनजान लोग यहां खुदाई करने पहुंच जाते हैं। उत्तरलाई हवाई क्षेत्र वर्ष 1971 के भारत-पाक युद्ध में भारत की जीत का साक्षी बना था। आज भी पाकिस्तान से सबसे नजदीक यही स्टेशन है। अरबों रुपए के संसाधन और करोड़ों की लागत के युद्ध विमानों वाले इस क्षेत्र की सुरक्षा अहमियत रखती है। लेकिन युद्ध के प्रथम सिपाही की भूमिका निभाने वाले इस वायुसेना स्टेशन की सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी प्रशासन फौरी तौर पर निभा रहा है।

वायुसेना क्षेत्र के तीन ओर जिप्सम क्षेत्र है। यहां सरकारी जमीन पर लगतार खुदाई हो रही है। वायुसेना वर्षों से अवैध खनन पर ऐतयाज जता इसे रोकने की मांग कर रही है। लेकिन प्रशासनिक कार्रवाई नाममात्र भी नहीं हो रही। ऐसे में अवैध खनन में लिस लोगों के होंसलें इस कदर बढ़ गए हैं कि अब तारबंदी के दो फीट की दूरी तक गहरे गड्ढे कर दिए हैं। यह सिलसिला हर रोज अनवरत जारी है।

यह है स्थिति

वायुसेना के एक अधिकारी का कहना है कि उत्तरलाई हवाई क्षेत्र के निकट बने अवैध जिप्सम के गड्ढों से रेंगा हुआ कोई अवांछित व्यक्ति तारबंदी के निकट आकर मुश्किलें खड़ा कर सकता है। लेकिन क्या करें, स्थानीय प्रशासन इस बात को समझ ही नहीं रहा है।



उत्तरलाई वायुसेना स्टेशन की तारबंदी के निकट अवैध खनन कर निकाला गया जिप्सम। -ओम माली

सरहद पर तारबंदी

हर बार सिर्फ आश्वासन

हर माह आंतरिक सुरक्षा बैठक में इस मामले को उठाया जाता है। कलक्टर विभाग को निर्देश देते हैं। कार्रवाई का भरोसा देने के बाद फिर बात आई गई हो जाती है।



हद हो गई है

अब तो हद हो गई है। तारबंदी से दो फीट दूरी तक खनन कर दिया गया है। वायुसेना क्षेत्र से बाहर हम कार्रवाई नहीं कर सकते और अन्य कोई कर नहीं रहा है। इसी का फायदा उठा रहे हैं अवैध खनन कर्ता। अवांछित गतिविधि की आशंका से इनकार नहीं किया जा सकता। एन. तिवारी, बृज कैप्टन, स्टेशन कमाण्डर, वायुसेना उत्तरलाई