Proposed mining area home to wildlife

Eco impact reports on Sindhudurg area have made no mention of it

Alok Deshpande

The cat's out of the bag. Earlier in October, DNA had exposed how environment impact assessment (EIA) reports are cooked up to facilitate an easy entry for mining companies into the Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra (As Goa's mineral resources dry up, miners turn to Maharashtra, October 7). This time, a leopard has lent credibility to the allegation.

The animal was sighted at the Dingane village near the Kalane iron ore mines — the same area that figures in the iron ore mining proposal and an EIA report. No surprises that neither of the two reports has mentioned the presence of wild animals in the area.

The photograph of the leopard, taken in mid-October, shows that this part of the Western Ghats is home to wild animals and that a more detailed and scientific environmental study must be conducted before going ahead with any mining activity.

DK Sawant of Dwarka Krushna Tourism Private Limited was part of the group that shot photos of the leopard. "We were going to the Dingane village on October 9. Around 6:30pm, the leopard came out on to the road and stopped in front of the car. I was there along with Prof Parthekar and two local journalists. We took the pictures and even did some video shooting," claimed Sawant, a resident of Savantwadi in Sindhudurga.

He added that two days later, some villagers claimed to have sighted a leopard. But, no visual proof is available for that.

Sindhudurg, which is at the southern-most corner of the state, bagged the tag of an eco-tourism district in 1997. It also has the largest green cover in the state.

Ramesh Gauns, one of the staunch opponents of mining in Goa and Sindhudurg, told DNA that the photograph proves how carelessly the EIAs were made. "There is no mention of wild animals in the EIAs. On the contrary, not only leopards but there are instances when even elephants have been seen in the jungles here. There has been no consideration for environment while giving mining leases to companies in the Western Ghats in Sindhudurg," he said.

The only way to bring out the truth, according to Gauns, is to acquire the list of wild animals in Sindhudurg under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The villagers have demanded cancellation of the existing EIAs and mining leases granted to the companies.
हिंदुस्तान जिक के "बेचान" गैरकानूनी!

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केंद्र की तकनीकी एनालिस्ट सरकार द्वारा नीली गलांकन उपरान्त हिंदुस्तान जिकका निर्देशन का विनियम कर इसे निर्माण कम्पनी बेचने निर्देशन का समूह को ट्रस्टिंग एक्ट वज्रचंद्र निर्देशन (एएससीएल) के हाथों में सीनेने (बेचने) का निर्माण मंत्रीशासन के वित्ताधीश का। यहां स्वीकार सूची के अनुसार निर्देश, 2003 में सुरु कर्तार के एक फैसले को आधार माना जाय तो केंद्र सरकार केंद्र के अधीन अधिकार को वाह कंपनी पर विनियम का निर्माण करे, परन्तु अन्य निर्माण समय नहीं कर सकती। तेज कंपनियों ओपेटर्स व एटम एनिक्स के प्रदर्शण निर्देशन के वित्ताधीश नाराज की पर सुनिश्चित करा वह निर्माण आज भी आता है तक ही पुनः लेकिन बेचने योजना के अनुसार मौजूद केंद्र की संरक्षण अब भी मालिकी नहीं सुलगा रही है।

पहले वा मैटल कंपार्सेशन ऑफ इन्डिया अशुभेंदु भाद्र @ अय्यर

अशुभेंदु भाद्र @ अय्यर ने जिक का कार्यान्वयन पर पता करते हैं कि हिंदुस्तान जिकका निर्देशन 1966 में पूर्ण मैटल कंपार्सेशन ऑफ इन्डिया निर्माण था। यह कंपनी सामरिक जवाबदेह में काम आने वाले सीमा व पता भाषाओं का खर्च करता था। केंद्र सरकार ने चीन व पाकिस्तान से युद्ध के बाद राजीव गांधी के सामरिक जवाबदेह की बढ़ती पर पूर्व निर्माण को ज्ञापन ने। राक 1966 में मैटल कंपार्सेशन ऑफ इन्डिया का अध्यापक निर्माण किया गया।

अशुभेंदु भाद्र @ अय्यर
नई फिक्शन का विवरण राजस्थान पत्रिका, जयपुर
tuesday, 1st November 2011, Page: 1
width: 4.06 cms height: 16.68 cms, ref: pmin.2011-11-02.5.27
संस्थापक अध्यक्ष नहीं है कि लिस्ट कानून के.
कर्मचारी कार्य कर रहे हैं। सरकार ने न
1966 का कानून जन्म रिक्रिए नहीं है और न है।
इसमें चर्चा करता है।
Moratorium on green clearance in Western Ghats extended

MOEF WON’T CLEAR NEW PROJECTS IN RATNAGIRI, SINDHUDURG DISTRICTS TILL YEAR-END

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has extended the moratorium on projects that apply for environmental clearance (EC) in the Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of Maharashtra, until the end of this year. The two districts fall in the biodiversity hotspot of Western Ghats.

The moratorium was imposed in August last year by then Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh. The notice dated 1 October 25 states that both the MoEF and the Maharashtra State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) would not consider any new projects in the two districts until December 31, 2011. The decision announcing the extension states that the MoEF is at present studying the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report which will decide the future course of projects in the ecologically fragile districts.

"According to the MoEF orders, no EC will be granted for new mining and thermal projects or even for expansion of existing projects under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification 2006. In the meantime, the MoEF has asked us to submit our views on the WGEEP report," said Valsa Nair, state Environment Secretary. The detailed report prepared by a committee headed by ecologist Dr Madhusudan Cudgili was submitted to the MoEF on August 30, 2011. The report is expected to have an overbearing impact on mining leases in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts as well as those in Goa.

Another MoEF commissioned report, which was released in 2007, recommends that entire Western Ghats be declared as the Sahyadri Ecologically Sensitive Area and that all mining leases in the belt should be terminated within ten years to preserve the bio-diversity. However, in January 2009, a state government resolution allowed mining and thermal power plants in Sindhudurg. This stripped the region of the ecologically fragile status that was given to this tourism zone 12 years ago, a label that gave it some protection from polluting industries.

Since then the government granted 53 mining leases in the district, of which four are operational now. The MoEF had in October last year even issued a directive to the state asking the latter to review 49 mining leases in the belt as they were allegedly based on flawed EIA reports.
Copper falls as Greece plans bailout ballot

Bloomberg

Nov. 1

Copper fell for a second day in New York as a planned referendum on Greece's latest bailout fuelled concern that Europe's debt crisis will curb metals demand.

"Sentiment has turned more negative after the announcement of the referendum," Mr. William Adams, head of research at Base metals.com in London, said in a report.

Copper for December delivery declined 3.9 per cent to $3.489 a pound by 8:22 a.m. on the COMEX in New York. Prices climbed 15 per cent last month, the most since December.

The metal in London fell 3.7 per cent to $7,692 a tonne.

SMALLER STOCKPILES

Copper inventories monitored by the LME declined for a ninth session, extending the biggest monthly slide since June 2009.

Stockpiles dropped 1.1 per cent to 424,750 tonnes, daily exchange figures showed. That's the lowest level since March 3, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Stocks are down 11 per cent from the 2011 high on June 10.

Orders to draw copper from LME stocks, or cancelled warrants, fell for a fifth session, sliding 8.6 per cent to 47,650 tonnes.

Aluminium for three-month delivery on the LME fell 2.8 per cent to $2,155 a tonne, zinc dropped 3.7 per cent to $1,926 a tonne and nickel slid 3.8 per cent to $18,837 a tonne.

Lead declined 2.5 per cent to $2,029.50 a tonne and tin decreased 2.5 per cent to $21,450 a tonne.
NMDC not to renew ore export contracts

PRIYADARSHI SIDDHANTA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

STATE-RUN National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) has decided against renewing iron ore export contracts with Japan and South Korea until the situation arising out of the Supreme Court’s ban on ore exports from Karnataka is back to normal.

In a recent meeting convened by steel minister Beni Prasad Verma, the company’s top brass pleaded their inability in renewing their export ties with Japanese steel producers and South Korean giant Posco on account of production from the company’s Donimalai and Kumaraswamy mines being restricted to 33,000 tonnes a month.

“NMDC officials said that the issue of renewing the Long Term Agreement with their overseas buyers be taken up after the situation of iron ore supply in Karnataka is normalised,” steel ministry sources told The Indian Express. The overall exports from NMDC’s mines have been minimal in 2011-12.

The apex court in its recent judgment had ordered that the quantum of ore to be mined from NMDC’s Karnataka mines through e-auction to be monitored by a Monitoring Committee. While 80 per cent of the proceeds would accrue to NMDC, the remaining 20 per cent would be set aside for compensating environmental degradation by mining activity.

To meet the production needs of another steel ministry PSU, Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, is considering to supply ore from its Bailadila mines in Chhattisgarh.

According to sources, the NMDC management said that if exports were to continue uninterrupted, with supplies being provided by the Bailadila mines, then local buyers would complain as supplies to them would be governed by the Monitoring Committee that is restrictive.

The Union Cabinet had approved exports to the two nations at the request of the commerce ministry, which had cited long-term commercial relations with India. NMDC is opposed to exports as realisations are lesser than domestic sales.

In view of the fluctuating prices of iron ore globally, NMDC has decided to lower its premium to 10 per cent against 15 per cent in the third quarter of this fiscal in respect of its iron ore lumps.
NALCO SEARCH FOR SMELTER UNIT IS OVER

NALCO’S SEARCH for a suitable site for its second smelter unit seems to be over, with the Central public sector navratna company weighing options to establish the smelter unit in Sundergarh district in Odisha, reports our correspondent. According to sources, the PSU has engaged Lohmeyer International for conducting water availability study for its proposed Greenfield smelter in Sundergarh. Nalco was advised by the state government to look for new sites after its proposal to build the second smelter in Odisha was not considered due to crowding of smelting industries in the region and the attendant pollution. Nalco chairman, Mr B.L. Bagra, said the firm is expected to get the state government’s nod to set up the plant in Sundergarh district, if the study established availability of adequate water.
FUELING POWER PROSPECTS

ACCOUNTING FOR 81.1% OF INDIA'S OVERALL COAL PRODUCTION, COAL INDIA LIMITED IS THE SINGLE LARGEST COAL PRODUCER IN THE WORLD.

As an organised state owned coal mining corporate, Coal India Limited (CIL) came into existence in November 1975 with the Government of India taking over private coal mines. Starting out with a modest production of 79 million tonnes (MTs) in the year of its inception, CIL today is the single largest coal producer in the world. Operating through 81 mining areas, CIL is an apex body with seven wholly owned coal producing subsidiaries and one mine planning and consultancy company spread over eight provincial states of India. Coal India Limited also fully owns a mining company in Mozambique christened as Coal India Africa Limited. CIL also manages 200 other establishments like workshops, hospitals etc. Further, it also owns 26 technical and management training institutes and 102 vocational training institutes. The Indian Institute of Coal Management (IICM) as a state-of-the-art management training Centre of Excellence - the largest corporate training institute in India - operates under the aegis of Coal India Limited and conducts multi disciplinary management development programmes. The mission of Coal India Limited is to produce the planned quantity of coal, efficiently and economically with due regard to safety, conservation and quality. It has also constantly sought to minimise the degradation of land and environment through various quantifiable initiatives. Coal India has made afforestation over an area of around 32,000 hectares while the total forest area degraded due to mining operation is around 12,800 hectares, which means, for every hectare of forest land degraded, CIL has made plantation in 2.5 hectares of land.

Another step towards making the environment green and healthy is CIL's Integration of Environment Management System (ISO:14001) with Quality Management System (ISO:9001) and till date it has successfully achieved certification of 53 of its projects. This integration is being extended to all mines in phases.

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• Supplies coal at prices discounted to international prices thereby insulating Indian coal consumers against price volatility and making the end user industry globally competitive.