Kudankulam poses no threat to marine ecology

SYED AKBAR | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 14

Scientists have confirmed that the proposed nuclear power plant at Kudankulam will not affect marine life or the people who consume the seafood from the area.

Zoologists have been studying the possible effects of a proposed nuclear power plant on marine life in the south Bay of Bengal. They studied the effects of naturally occurring and man-made radionuclides and have concluded that the nuclear plant will not alter the marine ecology. Neither will it influence the bioaccumulation of radionuclides in marine life, including commercial fish and mollusks.

The marine life near the site of the proposed plant already contains natural radionuclides through bioaccumulation. Thus, the radionuclides, even if released from the Kudankulam plant, cannot compete with or replace the natural ones.

Researchers from the department of advanced Zoology and Biotechnology, Sadaka-thullah Appa College, Tirunelveli, and the department of Zoology and Research Centre, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, conducted the study on the radioisotopes of lead (Pb210) and polonium (Po210) in marine waters, commercial fish, and other sea animals in and around Kudankulam.

They also calculated the effective dose and carcinogenic risk to humans consuming this seafood, but found that the estimated risk posed no significant health hazard to humans.
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He further clarified that even if radionuclides are released into the marine environment, the continuous dilution process will lower the levels. The fallout (man-made) radionuclides cannot compete with and replace the natural ones already bio-accumulated in the animal/plant tissues.

“A comparative study of fallout cesium and natural polonium in fish and their dose to human beings shows that there is a huge difference in the accumulation of both radionuclides. There is no harmful effect now and there cannot be any in the future,” Dr Feroz reiterated. The researchers also calculated the effective dose and carcinogenic risk to humans consuming this seafood, but found that the estimated risk posed no significant health hazard to humans. The marine organisms can also be considered safe according to international guidelines.

“Our study revealed that natural radiation level is higher, whereas the fallout (human sources) radiation level is markedly less than values reported internationally. Our data would be a baseline pre-operational input, fulfilling the radio-ecological database and will also be useful in the future impact assessment of the Koodankulam nuclear power plant after it becomes operational,” Dr Feroz added.
Nalco to tie up coal for Indonesia plant by Feb

STATE-RUN Nalco is set to finalise a deal with a miner by next month for supply of coal to its $3.8 billion aluminium-cum-power project in Indonesia.

“We are looking at a coal mine basically to provide coal to our power and smelter project there (Indonesia). We need 5 mtpa for 25 years. We have zeroed in on one of the five proposals and the Board will take a final decision on it by the end of next month,” Nalco CMD BL Bagra told reporters. The aluminium major has plans to set up a 5 mtpa aluminium smelter and a 1,250 mw power plant in Indonesia entailing $3.8 billion (about Rs 18,000 crore) investment.

The coal mines shortlisted have reserves of about 200 million tonnes (mt), Bagra said. Sources said the company has zeroed in on Muara Enim mine in the East Kalimantan district of Indonesia. Bagra said five coal miners had responded to Nalco’s bid seeking sourcing of coal for its project, and two of them had fulfilled the criteria. The five firms included MEC Middle East, Pram Dwi Jaya Muara Enim and Bumi Muara Prasada.

There is no dearth of financial resources for it as the company has surplus reserves and there was no debt liability, the CMD said.

“We have Rs 4,500 crore cash balance. There is no debt liability. We have investment plans lined up for next three-four years. Our investment requirement for 2012-13 is to the tune of Rs 2,200 crore,” he said.

The Indonesia project will be managed through a special purpose vehicle (SPV), in which the aluminium major will have a controlling stake.
NMDC eyes deal to buy Oz firm by middle of Feb

STATE-RUN NMDC is likely to sign a deal by mid-February to acquire 50 per cent stake in Wonarah phosphate deposits of Australia’s Minemakers for an undisclosed sum.

“Negotiations for the deal is in its final stages and the NMDC board is likely to take a final call by January-end of early-February,” a source close to the development said.

The source added that for the deal NMDC will form a 50:50 joint venture with Minemakers and the asset will be transferred to the JV.

The Indian firm will also be making payments for the initial costs incurred on the phosphate deposits by Minemakers, the source said, adding that “by mid-February, the agreements are expected to be signed”.

Wonarah deposits of Minemakers are one of the largest under-developed phosphate reserves in Australia, with an estimated resource of 1.26 billion tonnes at 12 per cent phosphate.

The deal, for which NMDC had signed an MoU with Minemakers in June, 2011, will also mark Indian firm’s entry into fertiliser sector.

According to a preliminary study, Wonarah deposits can have two types of fertiliser production facility — 1.4 million tonne per annum (mtpa) of Superphosphoric acid with 70 per cent phosphate concentrate by the Improved Hard Process (IHP) or 2 mtpa of DAP/MAP via conventional Wet Acid Process (WAP).

Production of fertiliser through the IHP Process is estimated to require a capital cost of Aus$1.6 billion, while the WAP process route would need Aus$2.3 billion, the source said. “A detailed feasibility study of the project will be done post JV formation between NMDC and Minemakers,” the source added.

To acquire assets abroad, NMDC has earmarked $500 million and last year it acquired 50 per cent stake in another Australian firm Legacy Iron Ore for about Rs 90 crore.
NMDC-Minemakers deal likely by mid-Feb

NEW DELHI: State-run NMDC is likely to sign a deal by mid-February to acquire 50 per cent stake in Wonarah phosphate deposits of Australia's Minemakers for an undisclosed sum.

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PTI
Steel makers seek debt restructuring

Iron ore scarcity and high prices of coking coal are forcing steel makers into debt restructuring. Data from the Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) forum reveal that as on September 30, the share of iron and steel in the aggregate debt restructured by the process was the highest, at 30.9 per cent, with 26 cases.
हृदय दिल के पास पहले ही री-सेट लाइविंग है।

जीएमडीसी का नालको पर फैसला जल्द

अहमदाबाद घुमाव - गुजरात राज्य सरकार जो कंपनी गुजरात मिला हाउस देवलपमेंट कोर्पोरेशन (जीएमडीसी) का बोर्ड सर्वोच्च क्षेत्र को नैनाटल एक्स्प्रेसन कम्पनी (नालको) के साथ करार करने पर अगले महीने फैसला लेगा। दोनों कंपनियों के बीच यह करार संयुक्त नागर (जेवी) के तहत एक एक्स्प्रेसन प्लांट और एक एक्स्प्रेसन स्केलर प्रोजेक्ट लगाने के लिए होना है। इन परियोजनाओं पर निकाय 10 से 15 हज़ार करोड़ रुपये का निवेश होने की संभावना है।

गुजरात के राष्ट्रीय नियुक्त ज्युरी के महान नर्मदा ने यह जानकारी दी है कि नालको ने इसके लिए 150 करोड़ रुपये की अपनी धरोहर भी जमा कर दी है। अब हम इस मामले को अगले महीने में अपने बोर्ड में ले जाएंगे, जो कि जेवी पर अंतिम फैसला लेगा। इस परियोजना में संचार दिखावे वाली अन्य कंपनियों में हिंदिएशन, जेडेर्डब्लू एक्स्प्रेसन और अदानी इलेक्ट्रिक भी हस्तियों थे।
एनएमडीसी का ऑस्ट्रेलिया सौदा

नई दिल्ली – सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की नेशनल मिनस्ट जेलवंडर कोर्पोरेशन (एनएमडीसी) ऑस्ट्रेलिया की माइन्स्मैन्जर्स के बोनाह फॉर्सेंट ग्रिफिथ्स में 50 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी शामिल करने के लिए पत्रक नई दिल्ली, 2011 के माध्यम से करने पर हस्ताक्षर कर सकती है। इस मामले में सुझाव एक युवा हिन्दी ने यह जानकारी देते हुए कहा कि सोशल व लेकर सीटार्की अंतिम दौर में पहुंच चुकी है। इस बारे में बाहर एनएमडीसी का वोट जनवरी माह के आर्थिक या पि र फरवरी माह की सुबूत में अधिकृत फैक्टर्स ने लेगा। यू.एच. के मुनाफ्किक, कार्य के तहत एनएमडीसी ने लेकर माइन्स्मैन्जर्स के साथ एक संयुक्त ज्ञान (जेलिस) करने सही। इस जेलिस में दोनों कंपनियों की 50-50 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी होगी। माइन्स्मैन्जर्स की सभी परिसंपत्तियों का इस मामला में हस्ताक्षर किया जाएगा। हालांकि, किसी भी बयान ने अभी तक इस सौदे को रचित का खुलासा नहीं किया है।
Maoists tell AP MLAs to oppose bauxite mining

Suresh Dharur/TNS

HYDERABAD, JANUARY 15

Stepping up their campaign against the proposed bauxite mining in north coastal Andhra Pradesh, the Maoists today asked the legislators to pass a resolution in the Assembly pledging not to take up mining in the tribal areas.

The outlawed outfit, CPI (Maoist), has put up banners, posters and even distributed pamphlets in several villages in Visakhapatnam district warning of serious consequences if the MLAs went ahead with the proposal for bauxite mining.

The Maoists’ stern message came in the midst of an all-party legislators’ study tour of the tribal areas of the region. The tour is being organised by Assembly Speaker N Manohar to help MLAs gather the first-hand knowledge of issues confronting the tribals. Around 100 first-time members of the Assembly and Legislative Council are touring the region which has been witnessing protests against bauxite mining. The local tribals, environmentalists and Opposition parties have been opposing the mining on the ground that it would deprive the local villagers of their livelihood sources and harm the environment.

The widespread protests had forced a central committee of experts to cancel its visit to tribal areas to conduct public hearing last month. The Andhra Pradesh Mining Development Corporation (APMDC) proposes to take up bauxite mining in tribal areas under public-private partnership model following agreements signed with Anarak Alumina and Jindal Group.

The local resistance to bauxite mining in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts has provided a handle for Maoists to stage a comeback in the state which was once their stronghold.

They have issued an ultimatum to political leaders to quit their elected and nominated posts and join the anti-bauxite movement or face dire consequences. The Opposition TDP, Left parties, local environmentalist groups and tribal organisations have joined the anti-mining movement.

In May last year, the Maoists had gunned down a ruling Congress leader and vice-chairman of Visakhapatnam Zilla Parishad, U Somalingam, in Choudupalli village in Visakhapatnam district for supporting the bauxite mining by private companies.
तेजी के बाद कॉपर में नरमी

लंदन * गुरुवार के कुछ देराँ की क्रेडिट रेटिंग घटने से लंदन में एक धार्मिक कॉपर रूपरेखा ने नरम पड़ गई। लंदन से पहले कॉपर के दम छह महीने के उच्च स्तर पर पहुंच गए। चीन के माग में तेजी और एल्यूमिनियम में पर कॉपर की हिज़खेड़ी में उठाने के संकेतों से कॉपर में तेजी दर्ज की गई। एल्यूमिनियम पर कॉपर की तीन महीने की खरीद का भाव 8,117 डॉलर प्रति टन के स्तर पर पहुंच गया जो 31 अक्टूबर के बाद का सबसे ऊँचा भाव था। हालांकि एल्यूमिनियम में इसके दम चटककर 8,000 डॉलर प्रति टन रह गए।

पिछले सप्ताह में रूपरेखा की इसका भाव 8,005 डॉलर प्रति टन बन बदल हुआ था। बाइकोर्प कॉपर के मुद्दों के कॉपर में बढ़ती आर्थिक अस्थित्व भी जारी रह सकती है। अमेरिकी अर्थव्यवस्था से जुड़े आंकड़ों में सुचना एवं उपभोक्ताओं की मांग के कारण कॉपर में तेजी जारी रहने की संभावना है। (ब्यूरो/एजेंसी)
नालको कोयला कंपनी के साथ करेगी सीधा

नई दिल्ली। सरकारी कंपनी नालको इंडोनेशिया की 3.8 अरब डॉलर की एम्बुमिनिम व विकली परियोजना को केंद्रले को आवश्यकता के लिए एक क्षेत्र कंपनी के साथ सीधे को आगे गए, जी में अद्वितीय रूप से। यह परियोजना कंपनी को 58,000 करोड़ रुपयें की मूल्य अंकित वित्तपण्यांक का हिस्सा है। नालको के अधिकारी ऋतुविशेष निदेशक वी.ए. बाड़वा ने कहा, "हम एक कोयला खान के लिए रोज़ा रोज़ा वोल्डर है। यह अपने तौर पर हमारी इंडोनेशिया की वित्तीय एवं सर्वेक्षण परीक्षण को कैसे बढ़ाएगा। हम उन्हें से एक प्रसारण से सहयोग है। निदेशक नवन अपने महंगे के ऊपर इस बारे में अद्वितीय पूर्णता रोगी।" एम्बुमिनिम योजना को भूमिका नें इंडोनेशिया में 50 लाख टन स्थापना के लिए एम्बुमिनिम सेल्टर और 1,250 मेगावाट के विकली संयंत्र के स्थापना की योजना है जिस पर 3.8 अरब डॉलर (करीब 18,000 करोड़ रुपये) का निवेश होगा।
Commerce dept: Route iron ore export through MMTC

Mining firms, mines ministry object, fear corruption, delays

PVAIDYANATHANTHYER & PRIYADARSHI SIDDHANTA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

In a move that the iron ore mining industry says is a throwback to Inspector Raj, the commerce and industry ministry has moved a Cabinet note proposing that exports of iron ore with over 55 per cent ferrous content be canalised through the state-owned trading company MMTC Ltd. MMTC will get around 1 per cent of the value of exports as commission.

Of the total domestic output of 220 million tonnes of iron ore, Indian miners export 115 million tonnes on their own and doubt if MMTC has the capability to handle such huge quantities. They have told the mining ministry that their right to export should not be usurped. Making MMTC the sole canalising agency will encourage middlemen and brokers in the business, they argued. Further, they fear junior-level executives at MMTC may sit on orders and not clear consignments on time.

The mines ministry has already raised these concerns with the department of commerce and sought a meeting with MMTC to understand if it is indeed equipped to handle such large transactions. Big miners such as Sesa Goa have aired their apprehensions with the mines ministry. “We oppose the proposal,” said a mines ministry official, adding that the move would foster corruption.

When contacted, commerce department officials said this was an interim measure to ensure that iron ore exports continue while the government gets to keep a tab on illegal mining. At present, the Supreme Court has banned iron ore exports from Karnataka only. “Moreover, canalising exports of iron ore with ferrous content of over 55 per cent means that only about 35 million tonnes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
‘Iron ore export via MMTC’

will go through MMTC,” said a commerce department official.

Earlier, a similar demand of the commerce department was opposed by the finance ministry, which had pitched for fiscal measures. It said duties would not only discourage illegal mining and exports but also enrich the government’s coffers. It had then hiked the export duty on iron ore from 20 per cent to 30 per cent, a move that ate into the profits of the miners, but brought Rs 9,000 crore more to the exchequer. But mines ministry officials said the hike in duty reduced the profit margins of miners, but did nothing to curb illegal mining.

When contacted, the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI), the apex body of the miners, said the menace of illegal mining was due to middlemen and brokers. “They should be weeded out and only the miners should be allowed to export,” FIMI Secretary General R K Sharma told The Indian Express. The federation has also written to the commerce and mines ministries opposing the canalisation move, he said.
We want Indian cos to invest. We will ensure security: Afghan minister

IN a bid to transform Afghanistan from a war-ravaged nation to an economically prosperous one, its government is sparing no efforts to woo Indian investors. Afghan Mines Minister Wahidullah Shahrani who was in New Delhi last week spells out his expectations from India and his government’s blueprint to facilitate investments from the country to Priyadarshi Siddhanta. Excerpts:

Can you elaborate on Afghanistan’s mineral resources? How much foreign investment are you eyeing in the mining sector?
Afghanistan has a huge mineral resource base. According to global estimates, we are sitting over $2.5 trillion of untapped resources. We have huge copper mines at Balkhab and Aynak areas. Besides, we have substantial reserves of rich quality iron ore at Hajigak in the Bamiyan district and also virgin coal reserves. We are sure that by developing these mines, we will be able to generate much-needed employment for our people and also mobilise additional resources.

How much investment are you expecting from India in your mineral sector? What has been the quantum of fund flow from India for executing various development projects?
The Government of India has been the biggest donor for projects to give Afghanistan a facelift. It has already invested about Rs 10,000 crore (nearly $2 billion) in various projects. These projects encompass power, roads and water supply. In my current trip, I have met representatives from state-run and private firms urging them to explore opportunities in Afghanistan. We have been getting government-to-government investment, but we want Indian companies to invest there in roads and highways, power, agriculture and irrigation, in a big way. In this visit, I have met the Indian ministers for commerce and petroleum among others. We have also decided to ink memorandum of understanding for promoting investment in Afghanistan.

But how would the consortium raise resources as Afghanistan is in the negative list of international financial institutions?
If this is so then how are other projects being funded by such agencies in Afghanistan? We expect to conclude talks with the — AFISCO — by March and we expect them to mobilise resources by June. They would invest more than Rs 40,000 crore in Afghanistan for these assorted projects. When the project reaches full capacity, about 74,000 Afghans would be employed.

Given the security situation in Afghanistan, the Indian consortium has genuine concerns. What blueprint do you have to ensure security for such a mega project? Besides, certain sections of the Indian investors have raised issues on bidding the project calling for more transparency.
We will ensure security. We will deploy our mine protection force in and around the operational area. Needless to say, all security arrangements will be in place. We need to remember that Bamiyan has been relatively a very peaceful area, so that is why we have bid out the iron ore block and a coal block to AFISCO. We are taking adequate care for our mineral resources and are transparent in our processes.
NMDC-Minemakers deal likely by mid-Feb

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FE STUDY

More efficient in working capital usage

But miners and oil marketers lag in ‘working capital turnover ratio’ comparison

Pradip Kumar Dey

The public sector companies saw an improvement in their capital use efficiency last year. An FE study shows working capital turnover ratio of 53 PSUs (excluding banks and NBFCs) seesawed from 5.85% during ’08-09 to 4.97% during ’09-10 and 5.21% during ’10-11.

Their working capital, however, saw a steady increase from ₹1.65 lakh crore during ’08-09 to ₹1.84 lakh crore during ’09-10 (11.4% growth) and ₹2.13 lakh crore during ’10-11 (16% growth).

The working capital turnover ratio shows how effectively a PSU is using its working capital to generate sales. A PSU uses working capital to fund operations and buy raw materials. These are ultimately translated into sales revenue. The working capital turnover ratio explains the number of times the working capital is turned over in the course of a year. The higher the ratio, the better it is because it means the company is generating more sales by using less money. The ratio is arrived at by dividing the cost of sales with net working capital (current asset-current liabilities).

The aggregate net sales of the PSUs decreased by 5.3% to ₹9.13 lakh crore during ’09-10 from the level of ₹9.65 lakh crore a year earlier and increased thereafter by 21.5% to ₹11.10 lakh crore last year.

The current assets of these PSUs increased by 15.3% to ₹4.57 lakh crore during ’09-10 from ₹3.96 lakh crore during ’08-09 and further by 13.4% to ₹5.18 lakh crore during ’10-11. But current liabilities also steadily increased, by 18.1% to ₹2.73 lakh crore during ’08-09 and by 11.7% to ₹3.05 lakh crore during ’10-11.

A steady increase in the working capital turnover ratio was seen for 12 PSUs, including Petronet LNG, MMTC, GAIL(India), STC, Hindustan Organic Chemicals, GMDC and Engineers India.

A steady decrease in the working capital turnover ratio was noticed in 14 PSUs. They include IOCL, HPCL, Concor, BEL, Dredging Corp., and SJVN.

The working capital turnover ratio of IOCL steadily decreased from 33.17% during ’08-09 to 18.40% during ’09-10 and 13.79% during ’10-11. The working capital of the company increased from ₹9,955 crore during ’08-09 to ₹14,637 crore during ’09-10 (50% growth) and ₹24,007 crore during ’10-11 (64% growth).

Out of 53 PSUs, only 14 had a working capital turnover ratio below 1. Prominent among them are Coal India, HMT, NMDC, MOIL, MTNL and Punjab Communications.
No public, just hearings for mega projects

Documents reveal district administration subverted legal provisions in Korba, Chhattisgarh, to aid industry

Aman Sethi

They walked in a single file. Some were bare-chested, their shirts used to tie their hands behind their back. Many nursing Citizens from the indigenous areas, many nursing homes were seen being taken into custody. All 36 men were picked up on January 17 and marched six km to a police station on the outskirts of the coal mining town of Korba in Chhattisgarh after a public hearing, held to assess the environmental impact of a thermal power plant, turned violent.

“A crowd of about 400 villagers surrounded the district collector and myself,” said D. Sundararaj, Korba’s Superintendent of Police. “When the police pulled these back, they started pelting stones.” Mr. Sundararaj said the police then used tear gas and batons to disperse the crowd.

While much of southern Chhattisgarh is embroiled in a violent war of attrition between government forces and the guerilla army of the Communist Party of India (Maoists), resentment is rising in the State’s coal-rich central and northern districts where broad swaths of land have been acquired by privately owned thermal power plants. In Korba’s neighboring district of Jagrit-Champa, for instance, farmers are actively resisting 36 coal-fired power plants that seek to acquire close to 40,000 acres.

Large projects in predominantly tribal areas (called Scheduled Areas) must comply with a two-step process of public consultation—a public hearing to assess the environmental impact of the project, and a crucial village-level consultation—called a Gram Sabha—where villagers and government representatives agree on the terms and conditions of land acquisition. Yet, documents obtained by The Hindu reveal how officials in Chhattisgarh treat the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of 2006 and the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act of 1996 as mere formalities and routinely override gram sabhas to acquire lands on behalf of industry, prompting a withdrawal of the public from public hearings. In the past, a Planning Commission and Rural Development Minister Juraj Ramakrishnan identified the non-implementation of PSA as a reason for increasing tribal disaffection and the rise of CPI (Maoist). In Korba, the villagers were protesting against the planned expansion of a 1,230 MW power plant set up by Lanco Anuradha. “Fearfully, we gave our land willingly on the condition that the company would provide us with jobs,” said Lahar Murmu, a villager leader from Khimdi. Mr. Murmu said the company had acquired 5 acres of land in 2006, but it had neither received any compensation nor had any case in his family gained permanent employment at the plant. “This time we said we will not give any land, no public hearing shall take place,” Mr. Murmu said.

On January 7, villagers affected by the Lanco Anuradha coal plant and local gobierno officials seized the road to the public hearing and refused to attend the hearing. Villagers say a crowd of 3,000 gathered a kilometre away from the site of the hearing, the police had put the police at the scene, which were tear-gassed and batoned.

District Collector B.Y.S. Tyagi arrived at about 3 p.m. and, according to the villagers and police, interviewed, set up a table 50 metres from the crowd and announced that the public hearing had begun. “We refused to approach the table,” said Shyam Kumar Chauhan, a villager. “But a few people allied with the administration gave their opinions.” Twenty minutes later, Mr. Tyagi said that the hearing was complete and tried to leave when the crowd grew agitated and sought to stop him. “All the legal formalities of the public hearing were completely fulfilled,” said Mr. Tyagi in an interview, adding that 47 people had participated in the hearing.

Turning the tables

While environmental public hearings do mandate a gram sabha for project-affected villages, land acquisition rules formulated under PSA mandate that at least a third of the village must participate in a gram sabha, a third of whom must be women, and that if land is acquired in a tribal village to ensure that the proceedings are not biased against the local community. Yet in Lanco’s case, government officials seemed to know that meetings relating to land acquisition were already complete.

In an interview, Mr. Tyagi asserted that his office complied with all legal provisions regarding land acquisition. “For all public hearings there is a protest...[But] we go by the Act,” he said.
Haryana plans to revive mining in ravaged Aravalis

609 Hectares Identified, 280 In Restricted Zone

New Delhi: Some 30 months after the Supreme Court suspended mining in the Aravalis in May 2009 due to the havoc wrought upon this crucial range around Delhi, the Haryana government has drawn up a fresh plan to revive mining in the ravaged parts of Aravalis in Faridabad district. In fact, it has already identified 609 hectares for mining.

Records accessed by TOI show about 280 hectares of the identified areas for mining fall under the restricted zone while 400 hectares are covered under existing mining leases.

Documents available with TOI show that Mangar village in the district is likely to be the prime target for mining. At least 210 hectares in Mangar and Mohabatubad villages have been identified for future mining. The other villages where government plans to allow mining are Khoir, Sirohi, Dhauj, Kot and Alampur.

Shockingly, the areas identified by the state government include approximately 179 hectares covered under section 485 notification of Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) and Araval plantation. As per norms, areas under PLPA notifications cannot be put to any non-forestry use without prior permission of the ministry of environment and forest.

Though Haryana government has to wait for a go-ahead from the Supreme Court before allowing mining, the design behind identifying these areas seems to be to revive the old leases. The Supreme Court had stated in its order that actual mining in 600 hectares in Faridabad would commence only after the state submitted detailed rehabilitation and reclamation plans and it was approved by the apex court.
Centre likely to submit rehab plan for Aravali pits to SC soon

Dipak Kumar Dash  |  New Delhi

The Haryana government has drawn up a fresh plan to revive mining in the ravaged parts of Aravalis in Faridabad district.

"It looks like the government does not wish to revoke the existing mining leases. Mining giants have taken huge patches on lease from the village. The government should terminate all the existing leases, inspect the rehabilitation before allowing fresh mining," said R P Balwan, former conservator of forests (Gurgaon), who had fought against mining and residential activities.

After the SC order, the Haryana government had appointed Wapso, a consultancy firm, to prepare a report for rehabilitation and reclamation for the damaged areas. A copy of the report available with TOI talks about 40 mining leases. Out of the 35 abandoned pits, the rehabilitation and reclamation plan for 29 pits was prepared by the consultant.

The report mentions that out of the 29 pits, groundwater table was encountered in 13 pits. Though Wapso submitted its report, the forest department objected to its proposals. Subsequently, the government appointed the Indian Bureau of Mines to review the report.

Sources said the Union environment ministry had circulated IBM’s observations to all stakeholders and has received their feedback. It is likely to submit the report to SC soon.
उनएमडीसी जल्द ही कर सकती है अधिग्रहण सौदा

नई दिल्ली। सरकारी क्षेत्र की एनएमडीसी आदेशिता की खान रंगनियों के
कोनारा फ्लास्पेट मंडलों में 50 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी खारिज के लिए परवरी के मध्य
तक सौदे पर हस्ताक्षर कर सकती है। ममता से जुड़े सौदे से बताया, "सीढ़ी के लिए अंतिम चरण में है
और एनएमडीसी बोई इंडिया के अंत तक या परवरी के मध्य तक अंतिम निर्णय किए जाने की संभावना है।" उन्होंने कहा कि इस सीढ़ी के लिए एनएमडीसी खान रंगनियों के साथ एक संयुक्त उद्धि समक्षिका
और परिवर्तनियों संस्करण उद्धि को प्रस्तावित करने का आसार।