State submits action taken report on mining to CEC

BANGALORE: The State government on Friday presented an action taken report to curb illegal mining in the State before the Supreme Court appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in Bangalore on Saturday.

Following a writ petition filed by Samudaya Parivartana Samaj, the Supreme Court on February 25 had asked the CEC to probe illegal mining in Bellary and other forest regions of Karnataka and submit a report in six weeks.

At the meeting, Chief Secretary S V Ranganath, Principal Secretary Forest Department Kausik Mukherjee and other officials also furnished replies to the queries sought by the CEC, including follow-up action taken by the State government in specific cases dealt in the report submitted by the Lokayukta on illegal mining in December 2008, official sources said.

The CEC has also sought the action taken on the Lokayukta report that found 1081.40 hectares of forest area encroached upon in the Bellary-Hospet-Sandur region by various mining lease holders.

The five-member CEC headed by P.V. Jayakrishnan (former forest and environment secretary) had sought from the State government its responses to a total of 14 queries.

Bellary DC withdraws NOCs

The district administration has withdrawn no objection certificates issued by the Revenue Department to 15 mining companies and has recommended cancellation of their mining leases, DHHS reports from Bellary.

The Forest department had approached the Karnataka Appellate Tribunal alleging that records had been created to show 265 acres in Ramgad reserve forest as revenue land and mining was being carried out in the said land without obtaining permission from the department.

It had sought withdrawal of the no objection certificate issued by the Revenue department. The Tribunal is yet to pass an order on the appeal.

However, deputy commissioner Anil Aditya Biswas said the NOCs have been withdrawn in view of the scheduled visit of the CEC to Centrally Empowered Committee. The 15 firms carrying out mining in the said land include the one owned by Laxmi brothers.

The district administration had also submitted a report on 14 queries.

SC directive

S R Hiremath of the Samudaya Parivartana Samaj, who was present at Friday's meeting, said the CEC expressed its unhappiness over the details provided by the mines department while stating that the details provided by forest department were satisfactory.

He alleged that illegal mining was rampant in the State with the connivance of politicians and officials. The CEC will visit Hospet, Sandur and Ramgad during the next two days to assess the extent of illegal mining.

The committee will then return to Bangalore on Monday and hold one more meeting with the Chief Secretary and other officers.

Hiremath in his petition before the Supreme Court had sought direction to take action against those who had violated the law and to recover the illegal wealth.

He also sought a direction to stay all the mining leases operating in the Bellary reserve forest area on either side of the Karnataka-Andhra Pradesh inter-State boundary including the six mining leases of which three belonged to the Reddy brothers of Bellary.
Post-KIOCL, Bhadra takes a new birth

Sedimentation has reduced drastically; mining area set to be a tiger reserve

Subhash Chandra N S

BANGALORE: River Bhadra has been showing signs of revival for the past three years, following the closure of mining operations by the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL).

The KIOCL stopped mining operations in 2008, following a Supreme Court order. Wildlife experts, who spoke to a few farmers downstream, found that the changes were already visible.

"There used to be silt deposit in the river during mining operations. But within a couple of years since the mining came to halt, the natural recovery process has set in," said Niren Jain, co-ordinator, Kudremukh Wildlife Foundation. He said there have also been indications of revival of vegetation, which was once endangered by moss accumulation.

Praveen Bhargav, managing trustee, Wildlife First, said tonnes of sediment used to enter the river during mining, which now had come down drastically. "The change needs to be analysed with fresh data," he added.

With all the signs of natural habitat coming to life and the Supreme Court dismissing a curative petition filed by KIOCL employees, wildlife enthusiasts are now of the opinion that time has come for the company for 'actual wind-up' and move out of the National Park, tipped to be a tiger reserve now.

Eco-tourism dismissed

The apex court order has even thwarted the KIOCL proposal of eco-tourism. The court has ignored the plea. The company, according to wildlife enthusiasts, had stated that the money generated from eco-tourism would help maintain the National Park.

"The apex court ignored the plea on eco-tourism plan and directed that the mine closure plan be implemented," said Bhargav.

Stating that the company's possession of land is illegal, he said one of the conditions of lease is that if the lessee continued to maintain plant and machinery within six months of demise of lease, they stand forfeited to the State government. He urged the government to act accordingly.

Tiger sightings

Union Minister for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh has also written to the chief minister in February 2011 to ensure that the mining unit is moved out. He has also suggested that the proposal for tiger reserve be forwarded.

Sources in Forest Department said a report to declare the region a tiger reserve has already been prepared. The authorities also said the region noted for sizeable population of rare and endangered lion, tailed macaque, is now known for frequent tiger sightings too.

DH News Service
BHP to invest $9 b in ore, coal

BHP Billiton, the world's largest mining company, approved $9.5 billion of investments to increase iron ore and coal production in Australia. BHP will spend $6.6 billion to expand iron-ore output to more than 220 million metric tonnes a year.
Gold, silver slip further

Press Trust of India

Mumbai, March 26

Gold and silver prices declined further on the bullion market on Saturday. Standard gold (99.5 purity) declined by Rs 35 for 10 gm to Rs 20,835. Pure gold (99.9 purity) fell by Rs 30 to Rs 20,940. Silver ready (.999 fineness) slid by Rs 155 a kg to Rs 56,430.

**Bullion rates**

**Mumbai:** Silver spot (.999 fineness): Rs 56,430; standard gold (99.5 Purity): Rs 20,835; Pure gold (99.9 purity): Rs 20,940.
Bellary mining areas under scanner

BELLARY, 26 MARCH: The Supreme Court appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) today inspected mining areas in Ramghad forest range of Sendur taluk in the district to ascertain if illegal mining was being carried out. The three-member team, headed by committee chairman, Mr PV JayaKrishna visited three areas where three firms are engaged in mining activity, perused mining maps and other records, official sources said. It also held discussions with officials of forest, mines and revenue departments, they said. The committee will continue its inspection tomorrow also. CEC will submit its report to the Supreme Court by the first week of April. pti
Invest in Indian jewellery sector: Anand Sharma

india news service

NEW DELHI, 26 MARCH: Commerce and industry minister, Mr Anand Sharma has urged global jewellery brands to invest more in India if they want to tap the huge market of the South Asian economic giant, a statement said today.

"India is the global leader in the diamonds and coloured gemstone sector, and is looking forward to greater investment by the world’s top watch and jewellery brands into the country," Mr Sharma said while inaugurating the Baselworld Fair in Switzerland.

Baselworld Fair is a premier global trade fair in the watches and gems and jewellery and attracts most of the leading brands from these sectors. India is the guest country at this year’s fair.

India, with its 1.2 billion aspiring population, offers limitless opportunities for manufacturing as well as a market, Mr Sharma added.

According to the statement issued by the ministry here, the minister also met with chief executives of several leading premier watch brands such as Rolex, Tag Heuer, Tissot, Chopard, Swatch and Raymond Weil.

India is the largest diamond cutting and polishing centre in the world, accounting for about 95 per cent share of the global market by number of pieces. The country is also the third-largest consumer of polished diamonds after the USA and Japan.
सर्फ़ा में तेजी का झटका

नई दिल्ली, (प्रेसएनपेस): शेखर बाहरी ने उड़ान का देखा था। इससे निश्चित था कि भारत में नेशनल विकास नकली नहीं होगी।

शेखर बाहरी की बुलने में पार्दी शहीद में 55700 किलोमीटर पर 6000 रुपए प्रति किलोमीटर निकल गए। इस महान निश्चय ने शहीद की नकली आते से भारत में विकास नकली मामले हुए।

राष्ट्रपति माहौल का आतिक सतह होने से भारत में नकली नहीं रही। नवं बाहरी 3761 की बजाय 3739 रुपए रह जाने का भी समय नहीं।

अभी पहलें लंदन से 1435 को टूर्नामेंट का शुरुआत होगा। इसके बाद नीलां नियोजक शहीद भारत में 35 रुपए प्रति हेक्टेयर 21165 रुपए प्रति फ़ायदा रह गए।
नाल्को रिश्वत प्रकरण
भारत नेता भगोड़ा घोषित करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू

संतोष कुमार, नई दिल्ली

नाल्को रिश्वत प्रकरण में आगामी इंडेयर के व्यापारी और भारत इंटरनेशनल फिलिंग के सीईएस आईएस भारत को राजस्थान की सीबीआई को विशेष अदालत ने भोपाल गोष्टि करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। मामले में भारत के विलंब अधिकार और जमानत सिफारिश वांछित करने के बाद से ही सीबीआई उसे हिरासत में लेने या गिरफ्तार करने की बारिश में जुड़ी थी, लेकिन वह सीबीआई के हामी नहीं कर सकता।

अगर भारत सरकार एक महान के भीतर अदालत में पेश नहीं हुए, तो अदालत उनकी सहीत होती भी कर सकती है। नेशनल एक्सप्रेस कंपनी (नाल्को) के निदेशक सीईएस एके श्रीबापाल को भारत इंटरनेशनल फिलिंग की तरफ से भारत रिलेशन फिज़ करें जाने का आरोप है। इस मामले में सीबीआई श्रीबापाल, उनकी पत्नी चांदनी श्रीबापाल, फिलिंग फीस व ब्लाक, उनकी पत्नी अनिता बजाज और भारत इंटरनेशनल कंपनी का एक अधिकारी राजस्थान सिफारिश को पालने ही गिरफ्तार कर सकती है। इन बातों के साथ सीबीआई की दायरा भारत और उनका करने के निदेशक विवाद ज्ञानिक मिल गए थे।

मामले में तक पहुंचने के लिए सीबीआई ने हाल ही में दोनों के विशेष सीबीआई को विशेष अदालत से गैर जमानत बांट जारी करने के लिए दस हिंदी का बयान दिया था। बांट जारी होने के बावजूद भारत ने सीबीआई के हामी नहीं कर सकता। जब अदालत ने अदालत में तक पहुंचने के फिज़ का भारत फिटिया कर सकता है। सीबीआई को दिल्ली के बाद अबिलकानन निधि स्वामीश और मैनो ने भारतीय भारत के भरोसा घोषित करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है।
‘एक मह के अंदर भारत आत्मसमर्पण करें, वरना हो सकती है संपत्ति जब्त’

नाल्को मामला : भारत के खिलाफ भंगोड़ा चुकाने की प्रक्रिया

लेकिन जब तक यह राष्ट्रीय आवाज की पहुंच के बाहर है, उसके बाद उसके दिशापरिक निर्देश निर्भर करने वाले नियम के अनुसार अन्य एवं बचाव करने वाले निर्णय दर्ज करने के लिए समय लगे होंगे। यहाँ तक की आयुक्त जीवाचा भारत के लिए एक नया रूप से दिखाई देने की आवश्यकता है।

भंगोड़ा के दीर्घकालिक जीवन और जयशंकर सिंह का भी नाम उपभोक्ता सामने आया है।