

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, WESTERN BENCH

AT PUNE

(UNDER SECTION 16, R/W SECTION 18 OF THE NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL ACT, 2010)

APPEAL No. 30 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

RAMESH SAZO GAUNS

....APPELLANT

Vrs

UNION OF INDIA & OTHERS

....RESPONDENTS

INDEX

SRL. No.	PARTICULARS	PAGE
1	Rejoinder Affidavit filed by Appellant to the Counter Affidavit of MOEF & CC	1-7
2	<u>ANNEXURE-1</u> TOR granted to Vedanta Ltd	8-23
3	<u>ANNEXURE-2</u> Mining Lease Deed	24-41
4	<u>ANNEXURE-3</u> Clarification Letter wrt TOR Conditions	42
5	<u>ANNEXURE-4</u> GPCB Report on Pollution of Lamgao Lake	43-46
6	<u>ANNEXURE-5</u> Vedanta, Dempo, Sesa Resources Ltd, all are same	47-48
7	<u>ANNEXURE-6</u> CCR Notification	49-51
8	<u>ANNEXURE-7</u> Regulation wrt Consrvation of Water Bodies	52
9	<u>ANNEXURE-8</u> Pirna Naroda Nagarik Kruti Samiti Vrs MOEF	53
10	<u>ANNEXURE-9</u> Draft Notification of GSWA to declare Lamgao Lake as a wetland	54-58

11	<u>ANNEXURE-10</u> News regarding Auction of Iron Ore Block in Goa	59-60
12	<u>ANNEXURE-11</u> Vedanta's Billion	61-90
13	<u>ANNEXURE-12</u> Article regarding Vedanta(Dempo) curse for Lamgao Water Lakes in Goa	91-97
14	<u>ANNEXURE-13</u> News Published regarding auction of iron ore	98-99
15	<u>ANNEXURE-14</u> News Published regarding auction of iron ore	100

FILED BY

Biswaranjan Paramguru

**BISWARANJAN PARAMGURU
ADVOCATE**

Place: Pune/Odisa
Dated:- 17.07.2025

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**REJOINDER AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE APPELLANT TO THE
COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILLED BY MoEF&CC**

1. That the Appellant specifically denied all Para of Counter Affidavit as it is filed previously in Appeal No.73 of 2024. But, the decision of MOEF&CC to adopt the Counter Affidavit filed in Appeal No. 73 of 2024 in this present Appeal No. 30 of 2024 is completely erroneous and the decision of MOEF&CC is with mala fide intention to help the Project Proponent. It is true that the Prayer of both Appeals are same, as same Environmental Clearance has been challenged, but issues/grounds to quash the Environmental Clearance are completely different. The present Appellant challenged the Environmental Clearance basically on the ground of suppression of material fact in Form 1 wrt presence of 13 lakes inside the Mining Lease Area, and suppressing the material fact that no cumulative impact assessment is required.
2. That the Appellant further denied all the Replies to The Appeal No. 73 Of 2024, as it is related to a different case. The corresponding Paras of the Petition filed by the Appellant in this present Appeal No. 30 of 2024

are reiterated to be true and correct as per the best documentary evidence stipulated hereunder.

3. It is very much indispensable to know that Vedanta Ltd, Sesa Resources Ltd, Dempo Mining Corporation Ltd, all are subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Plc. **(Please Vide Annexure-5 & 11)** In 2007, it became a majority-owned subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Plc., when Vedanta acquired 51% controlling stake from Mitsui & Co. Ltd. in June 2009, Sesa acquired VS Dempo & Co. Private Limited (now Sesa Resources Ltd.) along with its fully owned subsidiary Dempo Mining Corporation (Now Sesa Mining Corporation Ltd) and 50% equity in Goa Maritime Private Limited.)
4. That it is evident from the GSPCB Report to M/s Sesa Resources Ltd that Vedanta Ltd. was involved in illegal mining activities in its mining lease No. 12/41 of M/s Sesa Resources Ltd. **(Please Vide Annexure-4 & 12)**

The GSPCB Report wrt M/s Sesa Resources Ltd., Jeevan Vishwas (LIC) Bldg) EDC complex Patto, Panaji Goa regarding directions to construct garland drains to prevent the runoffs from the mines into the water bodies reads as follows: **(Please Vide Annexure-4)**

“In order to verify the allegations made in the said letter complaint, the Officials of the GSPCB has conducted an inspection of the water bodies at various locations as mentioned in the said complaints on 13/10/2011. The observations recorded are given below:- 1) At the boundary of the mining lease No. 12/41 of M/s Sesa Resources Ltd.. there is the Lamgao Lake overlooking the mining dumps. During the rains the runoff from the mining lease was seen flowing into the lake

and the overflow from the Lamgao lake flows into the Bicholim river. Further thick silt was observed accumulated in the lake and also around the lake. (Copy of the inspection report is enclosed herewith as Annexure 'B'). The Board Officials has also collected the water samples of the said water bodies at various locations mentioned above and the analytical report indicates that there is high turbidity level in the said water bodies. (Copy of the analysis report is enclosed herewith as Annexure 'C'). In view of the above facts and in exercise of the powers vested with this Board under section 33(A) read with section 25/26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, you are hereby directed to take all the adequate measures for controlling and preventing the mining silt from flowing into the water bodies and polluting the same by constructing garland drains around the dumps and settling pond. Further you are also required to furnish clarification with respect to the above observations along with supporting document regarding the measures adopted by you for controlling the water pollution due to mining activity on regular interval of 15 days upto 31st May, 2012.”

5. That as per Para 4 'Miscellaneous', Sub-para 4.6 of the TOR, **(Please Vide Annexure-1),**

“During the meeting, the EAC noted that Old Exavated pits exist within the mine lease Area. Hence, the Project Proponent needs to submits a letter from the Department of Geology and Mining, Govt. of Goa clarifying whether any illegal mining within the mining Lease Area has been carried out or not and whether the same has been carried out by M/s Vedanta Ltd or not?

It is evident from the GSPCB Report to M/s Sesa Resources Ltd that Vedanta Ltd. was involved in illegal mining activities in its mining lease No. 12/41 of M/s Sesa Resources Ltd. **(Please Vide Annexure-4)**. Now, in the same mining lease No. 12/41, Vedanta Ltd got Environmental Clearance **(Please Vide Annexure -2)**. Thus, this Project proponent mislead the EAC violating the EIA Notification,2006. The Letter of intent generally issued in case of new mines. As per Standard Term of Reference for 1(a) Mining of Minerals (Activity: Mining of Minerals),Standard Term of Reference Mining of Minerals, (1.Project Details) of TOR (Please Vide Annexure-1), Project Proponent should ensure that LOI is valid at the time of grant of TOR. But the Project Proponent deliberately suppressed the earlier illegal mining activities done by M/s Sesa Resources Ltd., now Vedanta Ltd and also failed to submit the copy of the previous Lease deed (Please Vide T.C. No.s at Annexure-22 of the main Appeal No.30 of 2024.Thus the clarification Letter by state of Goa wrt TOR is false. **(Pleas Vide Annexure-3)**

6. That the Draft Notification of GSWA to declare Lamgao Lake as a wetland is annexed as **Annexure-9**. The said Lamgao Lake admeasuring an area of 3375 Sq. Mt. situated in Bicholim/Lamgao in Survey No. 25/1. The Project Proponent got mining lease in the same Survey No. 25 admeasuring an Area of 3375. Mining in water bodies are strictly prohibited. **Please Vide Serial No. 54 of the mining Lease Deed at Annexure-2.**) There are various policies of Union of India prohibiting Minining activities inside water bodies/Lakes **(Please Vide Annexure-7)** . Even the Map of the wetland mean high flood level (depicted as a blue line of the said Lamgao Lake with the Zone of

influence is at Annexure-1. **(Please Vide Annexure-9)**. Even the Project Proponent is doing mining activities in some lakes, as the survey no.s of the lakes are included in the mining lease. As per TOR, in order to protect natural lakes, water bodies, there should not any mining activities within 50m safety zone of water bodies.

7. As Project Proponent suppressed these above mentioned facts in Form 1, MOEF&CC did not get any scope to examine. So, the Environmental Clearance of the Project Proponent should be quashed.
8. Previously many companies including the Project Proponent were involved in illegal iron ore mining in that Area. Salgaonkar Shipping Company Pvt Ltd, M/s Rajaram Bandekar got Iron Ore Mineral Block on Auction in a Close Proximity Area. **(Please Vide the News at Annexure-10,13&14)**. Hence, Present, Past and future cumulative assessment is required. **As per 1(a): Standard Terms of Reference for conducting Environmental Guideline (Impact Assessment Study for Non Coal Mining Projects&information to be included in in EIA/EMP Report) (iv. Cumulative Impacts)**. These impacts occur when the incremental impact of the project is combined with the cumulative effects of other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future Projects.

PRAYER

In the facts and circumstances stated above, kindly quash and set aside the Order of MOEF granting Environmental Clearance dated 23/01/2024 to Protect the Environment.

Biswaranjan Paramguru

Biswaranjan Paramguru

Dated 17/07/2025

Advocate



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, WESTERN
ZONE BENCH AT PUNE

Appeal No. 30 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

RAMESH SAZO GAUNS

...Appellant

Vrs

UNION OF INDIA & OTHERS

....Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, Ramesh Sazo Gauns, aged about 75 years, S/o: Sazo Gauns, the above named deponent, residence of H No. 1724, Paz Wada, Near Hira Talkies Theatre, Bicholim, North Goa, State: Goa, PIN: 403504 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am the Appellant in this abovenamed Appeal and I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the rejoinder Affidavit filed in this Present Appeal.

2. That, I state that, I have read and understood the contents of this Rejoinder which has been drafted under my instructions and I state that the contents of the same are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and have been read over and explained to me in my vernacular language.



[Signature]
DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified on 17/07/2025 that the contents of the above present affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and belief. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

[Signature]
DEPONENT



SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED BEFORE ME BY
Sd/- Ramesh Saza
Geums no Bicholim
who is personally known to me on this day of
17th day July year 2025
office of the notary at Bicholim
Registration No. 1821/2025

[Signature]
SHRI. R. L. MAPARI
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
BICHOLIM - GOA



File No: IA-J-11015/3/2023-IA-II(NCM)
 Government of India
 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 IA Division



Dated 16/06/2023



To,

Krishna Reddy
 VEDANTA LIMITED
 Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex, Patto, Panjim, NORTH GOA, GOA, 403001
 MK.Reddy@vedanta.co.in

Subject: Grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-regarding.

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your application for Grant of Terms of Reference (EC) under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-regarding in respect of project Block 1- Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore submitted to Ministry vide proposal number IA/GA/MIN/422323/2023 dated 09/06/2023.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) ToR Identification No.	TO23A0000GA5700309N
(ii) File No.	IA-J-11015/3/2023-IA-II(NCM)
(iii) Clearance Type	Fresh ToR
(iv) Category	A
(v) Project/Activity Included Schedule No.	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vi) Sector	Non-Coal Mining
(vii) Name of Project	Block 1- Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore
(viii) Name of Company/Organization	VEDANTA LIMITED
(ix) Location of Project (District, State)	NORTH GOA, GOA
(x) Issuing Authority	MoEF&CC
(xi) ToR Date	16/06/2023
(xii) Applicability of General Conditions	no
(xiii) Applicability of Specific Conditions	yes

This has reference to the online proposal no. IA/GA/MIN/422323/2023 dated 16.03.2023 for grant of terms of reference (ToR) for mining of Iron Ore in Bicholim Mineral Block – Block 1 (Auction Block) of M/s Vedanta Limited with proposed production capacity of 3.0 MTPA, Waste: 25.162 MTPA (Total Excavation: 28.162 MTPA) along with crushing and screening plant capacity of 4.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 478.5206 ha, located in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgoa, Maycm & Sirigao Villages of Bicholim Taluka of North Goa

District, Goa.

The details of the project and the recommendations of the EAC is at Annexure-I

Details of Products & By-products

Name of the product /By-product	Product / By-product	Quantity	Unit	Mode of Transport / Transmission	Remarks (eg. CAS number)
Iron Ore	Iron Ore	3000000	Tons per Annum (TPA)	Combination of two or three modes	mine to Iron Ore loading jetty by road and from jetty to port by water way (Through Barges)

Specific Terms of Reference

Specific Terms of Reference Mining of minerals

1. Waste Management

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
1.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for year wise backfilling

2. Land Environment

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
2.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the plan for ecology restoration

3. Water Environment

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
3.1	The Project Proponent shall prepare the scheme for mandatory recycle/reuse of water as specified by the Central Ground Water Authority for different category areas seeking NoC for ground water withdrawal and the shall submit as part of EIA/EMP report.
3.2	The Project Proponent shall explore the possibility of reduction of specific water requirement by optimization / technology up gradation, etc. The efforts shall be delineated in the EIA/EMP.
3.3	The Project Proponent shall carry out the assessment of impact due to the proposed project as per

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
	the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP. The project proponent shall conduct hydrological study for projects involving intersection of ground water table as per the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP.
3.4	The Project Proponent needs to explore the likelihood of river water entering into the mine pit below the RL of the HFL and the measures that are required to be taken for prevention of seepage and in the event of seepage to drain out the water through settling tank.
3.5	The EAC noted that the mine lease area is in close proximity to the Assnora River (flowing adjacent to the mine lease boundary on the north western side). The Project Proponent needs to submit the detailed report on the engineering design for garland drain, settling tank and check dams and its efficacy through recognized institution. The study should also include the per day silt load, settling velocity of the silt, retention time required based on the annual rainfall with a provision to monitor the water quality

4. Miscellaneous

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
4.1	The Project Proponent shall ensure the validity of the baseline data and public hearing are valid as per Ministry's OM dated 08.06.2022 at the time of submission of proposal for EC.
4.2	The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for shifting the School within the mine lease area. PP should also provide the details of the nearest school present within the mine lease area and in the vicinity of the mine lease area by mentioning the distance and direction of the school from the mine lease area, strength of the school, working time of school, blasting time and the measures to be taken for control of ground vibration and fly rock.
4.3	The Project Proponent shall conduct drone survey of the mine lease area and buffer area and submit during the appraisal for EC.
4.4	The Project Proponent needs to submit the detailed site specific protection measures for the surface features such as habitations, water bodies, school, temple, road in and around the vicinity of the mine lease area.
4.5	The instant ToR is subject to the outcome of the two said court cases i.e., WP(Civil) 2478 of 2022 (Filing Number) before the High Court of Bombay at Goa and WP 592 of 2022 before the High Court of Bombay at Goa.
4.6	During the meeting, the EAC noted that old excavated pits exist within the mine lease area. Hence, the Project Proponent needs to submit a letter from the Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Goa clarifying whether any illegal mining within the mine lease area has been carried out or not and whether the same has been carried out by M/s. Vedanta Limited or not?

5. Greenbelt

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
5.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the greenbelt/afforestation development plan for undertaking plantation in the periphery of the mine lease boundary, safety zone etc., The details of the no. of saplings proposed, type of species, spacing and the area to be covered including the cost and timeline for completion of plantation needs to be provided in the EIA report

6. Socio Economic

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
6.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit employment based skill development plan for the local people and thrust should be to provide employment to local people after imparting training
6.2	The Project Proponent needs to carry out the Public Hearing as per provisions of EIA Notification, 2006. PP should also submit the time bound action plan on concerns of the public through a separate budget with capital expenditure with a timeline of 3 years. The Project proponent shall ensure that the activities proposed under the public hearing shall be different from the CSR activities.

7. Transportation

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
7.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the map showing the transport route of the mineral from the mine lease area to the destination, impact of details of habitation at a distance of 100m from the centre on both sides of road, details of no. of trips/day to and fro, capacity of the dumper/tipper to be deployed and the dimensions of the road and the carrying capacity of the road. The Project Proponent shall ensure that the transportation route shall not pass through any village road.

8. Environment Monitoring

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
8.1	The Project Proponent should prepare the EMP considering the scenario of pollution to be generated for normative and peak total excavation for assessing air and noise pollution
8.2	The Project Proponent needs to monitor the ambient air quality and noise level at the mine lease boundary, nearest village, crusher, predominant downwind direction and at other sensitive receptors. Accordingly, Project Proponent shall propose to install Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station within certain timeline

Standard Terms of Reference for 1(a) Mining of minerals

Activity: Mining of minerals

Standard Terms of Reference Mining of minerals

1. Project Details

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
1.1	Year-wise production details since 1994 should be given, clearly stating the highest production achieved in any one year prior to 1994. It may also be categorically informed whether there had been any increase in production after the EIA Notification 1994 came into force, w.r.t. the highest production achieved prior to 1994. The production details need to submit since inception of mine duly authenticated by Department of Mines & Geology, State Government.
1.2	A copy of the document in support of rightful lessee of the mine should be submitted. In case of new mines copy of LoI granted by State Government to be submitted. PP should ensure that LoI is valid at the time of grant of ToR. PP should submit the copy of lease deed/supplementary lease deed/extension letter/transfer deed, from its initial grant to subsequent renewals/transfer/extension of validity.
1.3	PP should submit the District Survey Report (DSR) as per S.O. 3611(E) dated 25.07.2018 in case of minor minerals.
1.4	Brief of proposal to be submitted which include total excavation of the material required for the production of certain quantity of the minerals, location of the project, mining lease area, latitude longitude, seismic zone etc. In case of expansion project details of expansion viz. expansion in mining lease area or expansion in production of any particular mineral or expansion in total excavation, latest certified Compliance report (CCR) from IRO of conditions granted in existing EC needs to be submitted.
1.5	The PP should submit the real-time aerial video footage & video of the mining lease area and of the transportation route.
1.6	All corner coordinates of the mine lease area, superimposed on a High-Resolution Imagery/toposheet, topographic sheet, geomorphology and geology of the area should be provided. Such an Imagery of the proposed area should clearly show the land use and other ecological features of the study area (core and buffer zone).
1.7	Information should be provided in Survey of India Toposheet in 1:50,000 scale indicating geological map of the area, geomorphology of land forms of the area, existing minerals and mining history of the area, important water bodies, streams and rivers and soil characteristics.
1.8	The PP should collect the Baseline data (BLD) in respect of initial level of the mining lease. For this permanent bench marks (BM) needs to be established at prominent location preferably close to mining leases in question and should have precisely known relationship to the level datum of the area, typically mean sea level.
1.9	In case of sand mining, the entire mining lease area should be divided suitably into grids of 25 m x 25 m with the help of sections across the width of river and along the direction of flow of the river. The levels (MSL & RL) of the corner point of each grid needs to be recorded. Each Grid should be suitably numbered for identification. PP should identify grids which will be worked out and grids which will come under no mining zone i.e. safety barriers from the river bank. PP should comply with the sustainable sand mining management guidelines 2016 and enforcement and monitoring guidelines, 2020 etc.
1.10	A time bound Progressive Greenbelt Development Plan shall be prepared in a tabular form (indicating the linear and quantitative coverage, plant species and time frame) and submitted, keeping in mind, the same will have to be executed up front on commencement of the Project.

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
	Phase-wise plan of plantation and compensatory afforestation should be charted clearly indicating the area to be covered under plantation and the species to be planted. The details of plantation already done should be given. The plant species selected for green belt should have greater ecological value and should be of good utility value to the local population with emphasis on local and native species and the species which are tolerant to pollution.
1.11	Conceptual post mining land use and Reclamation and Restoration of mined out areas (with plans and with adequate number of sections) should be given in the EIA report.
1.12	Benefits of the Project if the Project is implemented should be spelt out. The benefits of the Project shall clearly indicate environmental, social, economic, employment potential, etc.
1.13	Compliance of the Ministry's Office Memorandum No. F: 3-50/2017-IA.III (Pt.), dated 30.05.2018 on the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated the 2nd August, 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India needs to be submitted and included in the EIA/EMP Report.

2. Forest

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
2.1	PP shall submit a certificate from Chief Conservator of Forests regarding involvement of Forest Land in the mining lease area if any. In case forest land is involved i) PP should submit the proof of application made for obtaining forest clearance and ii) a map clearly showing the forest & non-forest area.
2.2	Status of forestry clearance for the broken-up area and virgin forestland involved in the Project including deposition of net present value (NPV) and compensatory afforestation (CA) should be indicated. A copy of the forestry clearance should also be furnished.

3. Land Environment

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
3.1	PP should submit the details of survey number [viz. survey no, area in hectare, classification of land (government, private, forest, grazing land etc.), villages] duly authenticated by State Government, falling in the mining lease area.
3.2	The study area will comprise of 10km zone around the mine lease from lease periphery and the data contained in the EIA such as waste generation etc. should be for the life of the mine / lease period.
3.3	Land use of the study area delineating forest area, agricultural land, grazing land, wildlife sanctuary, national park, migratory routes of fauna, water bodies, human settlements and other ecological features should be indicated. Land use plan of the mine lease area should be prepared to encompass preoperational, operational and post operational phases and submitted. Impact, if any, of change of land use should be given.
3.4	Details of the land for any Over Burden Dumps outside the mine lease, such as extent of land area, distance from mine lease, its land use, R&R issues, if any, should be given.

4. Wildlife

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
4.1	A study shall be got done to ascertain the impact of the Mining Project on wildlife of the study area and details furnished. Impact of the project on the wildlife in the surrounding and any other protected area and accordingly, detailed mitigative measures required, should be worked out with cost implications and submitted.
4.2	A detailed biological study of the study area [core zone and buffer zone] shall be carried out. Details of flora and fauna, endangered, endemic and RET Species duly authenticated, separately for core and buffer zone should be furnished based on such primary field survey, clearly indicating the Schedule of the fauna present. PP shall submit list of Schedule-I species present in core and buffer zone duly authenticated by CWLW. In case of any Scheduled-I fauna found in the study area, the necessary plan along with budgetary provisions for their conservation should be prepared in consultation with State Forest/Wildlife Department and details furnished. Necessary allocation of funds for implementing the same should be made as part of the project cost. Proof of its submission of conservation plan to the CWLW needs to be submitted.
4.3	PP shall submit a certificate from Chief Wildlife Warden regarding distance of mining lease from the protected area falling within 10 KM of the mining lease. In case project requires clearance under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 then copy of application made for the same needs to be submitted.

5. Baseline Environment

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
5.1	One season (non-monsoon) [i.e. March - May (Summer Season); October - December (post monsoon season); December - February (winter season)] primary baseline data on ambient air quality as per CPCB Notification of 2009, water quality, noise level, soil and flora and fauna shall be collected and the AAQ and other data so compiled presented date-wise in the EIA and EMP Report. Site-specific meteorological data should also be collected. The location of the monitoring stations should be such as to represent whole of the study area and justified keeping in view the predominant downwind direction and location of sensitive receptors. There should be at least one monitoring station within 500 m of the mine lease in the pre-dominant downwind direction. The mineralogical composition of PM10, particularly for free silica, should be given.
5.2	Air quality modelling should be carried out for prediction of impact of the project on the air quality of the area. It should also take into account the impact of movement of vehicles for transportation of mineral. The details of the model used and input parameters used for modelling should be provided. The air quality contours may be shown on a location map clearly indicating the location of the site, location of sensitive receptors, if any, and the habitation. The windrose showing pre-dominant wind direction may also be indicated on the map.
5.3	The PP should submit the photograph of monitoring stations & sampling locations. The photograph should bear the date, time, latitude & longitude of the monitoring station/sampling location. In addition to this, PP should submit the original test reports and certificates of the labs from which samples were analyzed.

6. Water Environment

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
6.1	The water requirement for the Project, its availability and source should be furnished. Quantity of surface or ground water to be used for the Project should be indicated. A detailed water balance should also be provided. Submit the year wise target for reduction in consumption of the ground/surface water by developing alternative source of water through rain water harvesting measures. Description of water conservation measures proposed to be adopted in the Project should be given. Details of rainwater harvesting proposed in the Project, if any, should be provided. The capital and recurring expenditure to be incurred needs to be submitted.
6.2	Impact of the Project on the water quality, both surface and groundwater, should be assessed and necessary safeguard measures, if any required, should be provided.

7. Hydro Geology

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
7.1	Details of any stream, seasonal or otherwise, passing through the lease area and modification / diversion proposed, if any, and the impact of the same on the hydrology should be.
7.2	Information on site elevation, working depth, groundwater table etc. Should be provided both in AMSL and BGL. A schematic diagram may also be provided for the same.
7.3	Based on actual monitored data, it may clearly be shown whether working will intersect groundwater. Necessary data and documentation in this regard may be provided. In case the working bench will intersect groundwater table, a detailed Hydro Geological Study should be undertaken and Report furnished. The Report inter-alia shall include details of the aquifers present and impact of mining activities on these aquifers. Necessary permission from Central Ground Water Authority for working below ground water and for pumping of ground water should also be obtained and copy furnished. In case of surface water is proposed to be utilized then Necessary clearance from the Competent Authority for drawl of requisite quantity of water for the Project should be provided.

8. Transportation

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
8.1	Impact on local transport infrastructure due to the Project should be indicated. Projected increase in truck traffic as a result of the Project in the present road network (including those outside the Project area) should be worked out, indicating whether it is capable of handling the incremental load. Arrangement for improving the infrastructure, if contemplated (including action to be taken by other agencies such as State Government) should be covered. Project Proponent shall conduct Impact of Transportation study as per Indian Road Congress Guidelines.

9. Land Acquisition and R&R

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
9.1	Details about the land proposed for mining activities should be given with information as to whether mining conforms to the land use policy of the State; land diversion for mining should have approval

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
	from State land use board or the concerned authority.
9.2	R&R Plan/compensation details for the Project Affected People (PAP) should be furnished. While preparing the R&R Plan, the relevant State/National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy should be kept in view. In respect of SCs /STs and other weaker sections of the society in the study area, a need-based sample survey, family-wise, should be undertaken to assess their requirements, and action programmes prepared and submitted accordingly, integrating the sectoral programmes of line departments of the State Government. It may be clearly brought out whether the village(s) located in the mine lease area will be shifted or not. The issues relating to shifting of village(s) including their R&R and socio-economic aspects should be discussed in the Report.

10. Socio-Economic Environment

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
10.1	Public health implications of the Project and related activities for the population in the impact zone should be systematically evaluated and the proposed remedial measures should be detailed along with budgetary allocations.
10.2	Measures of socio-economic significance and influence to the local community proposed to be provided by the Project Proponent should be indicated. As far as possible, quantitative dimensions may be given with time frames for implementation.
10.3	Activity-wise time-bound action plan on the issues raised and commitment made during public hearing to be submitted as part of the final EMP Report in compliance of the Ministry's OM F.No.22-65/2017-IA.III dated 30th September, 2020.

11. Environmental Monitoring and Management

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
11.1	It should be clearly stated whether the proponent Company has a well laid down Environment Policy approved by its Board of Directors? If so, it may be spelt out in the EIA Report with description of the prescribed operating process/procedures to bring into focus any infringement/deviation/ violation of the environmental or forest norms/ conditions? The hierarchical system or administrative order of the Company to deal with the environmental issues and for ensuring compliance with the EC conditions may also be given. The system of reporting of non-compliances / violations of environmental norms to the Board of Directors of the Company and/or shareholders or stakeholders at large, may also be detailed in the proposed safeguard measures in each case should also be provided.

12. Critically Polluted Areas, Aravali & CRZ

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
12.1	Proximity to Areas declared as 'Critically Polluted' or the Project areas likely to come under the 'Aravali Range', (attracting court restrictions for mining operations), should also be indicated and where so required, clearance certifications from the prescribed Authorities, such as the SPCB or

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
	State Mining Dept. Should be secured and furnished to the effect that the proposed mining activities could be considered.

13. Risk Assessment & Disaster Management

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
13.1	Occupational Health impacts of the Project should be anticipated and the proposed preventive measures spelt out in detail. Details of pre-placement medical examination and periodical medical examination schedules should be incorporated in the EMP. The project specific occupational health mitigation measures with required facilities proposed in the mining area may be detailed.
13.2	A Disaster Management Plan shall be prepared and included in the EIA/EMP Report.

14. Miscellaneous

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
14.1	The general points are also to be followed: - a) All documents to be properly referenced with index and continuous page numbering. b) Where data are presented in the Report especially in Tables, the period in which the data were collected and the sources should be indicated. c) Project Proponent shall enclose all the analysis/testing reports of water, air, soil, noise etc. using the MoEF&CC/NABL accredited laboratories. All the original analysis/testing reports should be available during appraisal of the Project. d) Where the documents provided are in a language other than English, an English translation should be provided. e) The Questionnaire for environmental appraisal of mining projects as devised earlier by the Ministry shall also be filled and submitted. f) While preparing the EIA report, the instructions for the Proponents and instructions for the Consultants issued by MoEF vide O.M. No. J-11013/41/2006-IA.II (I) dated 4th August, 2009, which are available on the website of this Ministry, should be followed. g) Changes, if any made in the basic scope and project parameters (as submitted in Form-I and the PFR for securing the TOR) should be brought to the attention of MoEF&CC with reasons for such changes and permission should be sought, as the TOR may also have to be altered. Post Public Hearing changes in structure and content of the draft EIA/EMP (other than modifications arising out of the P.H. process) will entail conducting the PH again with the revised documentation. h) As per the circular no. J-11011/618/2010-IA.II (I) dated 30.5.2012, certified report of the status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the environment clearance for the existing operations of the project, should be obtained from the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, as may be applicable. i) The EIA report should also include (i) surface plan of the area indicating contours of main topographic features, drainage and mining area, (ii) geological maps and sections and (iii) sections of the mine pit and external dumps, if any, clearly showing the land features of the adjoining area.

Additional Terms of Reference

1. The prescribed TOR would be valid for a period of four years for submission of the EIA/EMP report, as per the notification S.O 751 (E) dated 17.02.2020. The instant TOR is valid up to four years from the date of issuance of TOR.

2. The Project Proponent should submit the EIA/EMP report as per the generic structure prescribed in Appendix-III of the EIA Notification, 2006 after incorporating the details of public hearing conducted and covering the above-mentioned issues, to take further necessary action for obtaining environmental clearance in accordance with the procedure prescribed

under the EIA Notification, 2006.

Copy To

1. **The Secretary**, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. **The Secretary**, Department of Mines and Geology, Ground Floor of Institute Menezes Braganza, Government of Goa.
3. **The Director**, Department of Environment and Climate Change (DoE and CC), Government of Goa.
4. **The Secretary**, Department of Forests, Government of Goa, Goa Van Bhavan, Goa.
5. **The Chief Wildlife Warden**, Goa Van Bhavan, Forest Department, Altinho, Panaji Goa. 403001.
6. **The Deputy Director General of Forests (C)**, Ministry of Env., Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, Koramangala II Block, Bangalore - 560034.
7. **The Member Secretary**, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-Cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110 032.
8. **The Member Secretary**, Central Ground Water Authority, 18/11, Jam Nagar House, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110011.
9. **The Member Secretary**, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Nr. Pilerne Industrial Estate, Opp. Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Goa 403511.
10. **The Controller General**, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440 001.
11. **The District Collector**, North Goa District, Government of Goa.
12. **Guard File.**
13. **PARIVESH Portal.**

Annexure I

The details of the project as ascertained from the documents submitted by the Project Proponent and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. The mine lease area is located between Latitude: 15°34'20.518"N to 15°36'54.018"N and Longitude: 73°54'4.754"E to 73°57'09.51"E. The mine lease area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet No: D43B14 and falls in Seismic Zone-II.
- ii. The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) Mining of Minerals and falls under Category "A" as the mining lease area is greater than 250ha and appraised at the Central level.
- iii. Details of Mine Lease:
 - a) The Project Proponent has submitted the Letter of Intent (LoI) granted by the Government of Goa vide Lr No: DMG/25/Auction Cell/LOI-function/2023/2801 dated 13.01.2023 for grant of mining lease for Block I - Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgao Mayem & Sirigao villages, Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District over an area of 478.5206 Hectare for a period of 50 (fifty) years in pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules. This letter of intent is valid for a period of 3 (three) years from the date of its issuance.

iv. Land Use/Land Cover of the Mine Lease Area:

Private land	421.1153 Ha
Government land	57.4053 Ha
Total Mining lease area (MLA)	478.5206 Ha
Private land for crusher, workshop & other infrastructure outside the MLA	Not Applicable

v. Details of Mining Plan:

- a) The Project Proponent has submitted that the Mining Plan is submitted to Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Goa for approval and is under process.
- b) The method of mining will be opencast mechanized without drilling and blasting. Total Mineral Reserves & Resources estimated as 84.743 million tonnes. Life of the mine will be 30 years @ 3.0 MTPA.
- c) The proposed bench height and width will be 7m and 10-12 m respectively. The individual bench slope will be 70° and overall pit slope will be 27°.
- d) The ore will be transported from Mine to Sarmanas jetty through dedicated road with only 0.9km stretch of public road in use.

vi. Water requirement:

Total water requirement	664 KLD	Pit Water	628 KLD
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	Ground water	36 KLD
Source	Water from Mine Pit will be used for dust suppression, Vehicle washing and Green belt. Water for domestic requirement will be met from bore well.	
Permission	The Bore wells are registered with Goa State Water Resource department. Application for using mine pit water will be submitted.	

vii. Nearest village / town/ highway/railway station / water bodies/monument

Particulars	Particular's Name	Distance & Directions
Village	Lamgoa	Within the lease area
Town	Bicholim Town	0.5 km, East
Road	State Highway SH-1	0.65 km, East
Railway Station	Tivim Railwaystation	10.5 km, North
Water Bodies	Asnora River	Touching lease boundary at one of the points
	Mandovi River	2.3 km, SW
School	Mulgao Govt. Primary School	Within the lease area
Worship places	Namuzgah/Idgah Shri Lairae Temple	Within the lease area 0.86 km

viii. Presence of Environmentally Sensitive areas in the study area:

Forest Land/Protected Area/Environmental Sensitivity Zone	Yes/ No	Details of Certificate/letter/Remarks
Forest Land	No	No Forest land is involved in the mine lease area. The following Reserve Forests are located within 10 km radius of the mine lease area such as Kharapal RF -6.7 Km Ambadgaon RF - 7.4 Km
National park	No	The Project Proponent has submitted the letter from the Office of the Dy. Conservator of Forests vide Lr No: DCF(WP)/Tech/Digi/Vol-I/75/2022-23/ 968 dated 23.01.2023 stating that the proposed Bicholim Mineral Block-I is not situated within 10 km radius from the boundary of any the protected area in the State of Goa. PP also submitted the authenticated map dated 24.01.2023 showing the distance of the following Wildlife Sanctuary from the mine lease area.
Wildlife Sanctuary	No	
Eco-Sensitive Zone(ESZ)/Eco-Sensitive Area(ESA)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Madei Wild life Sanctuary-14.105 km, E ii. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary -10.553 km, SW iii. Bondla Wild life Sanctuary -20.476 km, SE

ix. Green belt/plantation details:

Proposed area for green belt/plantation	105.8894 ha
Budget for green plant & plantation till the end of life of mine.	Rs159.0Lakhs
Particulars for Green belt/plantation	Area covered (in Ha)
7.5 m barrier & non-mineralized zone	25 ha
50 m safety zone of nallah, roads, electric lines	
Additional information (if any)	80.8894 ha (on backfilled area)

x. Rehabilitation & Resettlement:

R & R details	Not Applicable, as no resettlement is proposed during life of mine.
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xi. Details of Court Cases:

Court Case	Yes
Additional information (if any)	<p>First Case:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WP(Civil) 2478 of 2022 (Filing number) before the High Court of Bombay at Goa 2. The said writ petition has been filed against the State Government and seeks to challenge the identification of properties bearing survey no. 90/1(part) and 96/0 as part of the recently auctioned Bicholim mine. The petition alleges violation of Rule 5 & 6 of Mineral Evidence Rules and Section 10B of MMDR, Act by the State of Goa and DMG. The petitioner has prayed for quashing of auction notice to the extend it includes the property of the petitioner and grant a writ of mandamus against the Respondents. 3. Case status is pending. 4. No adverse orders have been passed. 5. As per the last order Vedanta limited was added as a party to the petition as it has won the mine in auction. <p>Second Case:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WP 592 of 2022 before the High Court of Bombay at Goa 2. The said writ petition seeks to challenge the constitutionality of the tender documents of Phase I auction of Goa mines. The petition alleges violation of Rule 5 & 6 of Mineral Evidence Rules by the State of Goa and DMG. The petition alleges non-disclosure of essential facts such as bore hole data, approved mining plan, production data of the previous five years and exploration data. The petitioner has prayed for quashing of auction notice to extend it fails to include the essential facts and in the alternative to stay the auction. 3. Case status is pending 4. No adverse orders have been passed.

	5. As per the last order Vedanta limited was added as a party to the petition as it has won the mine in auction
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- xii. The Project Proponent submitted the Affidavit in a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs 100 bearing no: A807037 dated 24.04.2023 stating that they will directions issued by MoEF&CC vide Office Memorandum F.No.3-50/2017.IA.III (Pt) dated 30th May, 2018 in terms of directions given Hon'ble Supreme Court in judgment dated 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of common cause versus Union of India &Ors.
- xiii. The total project cost estimated as Rs 250.0 Cr. The employment potential of direct employment will be 433 no.s and indirect employment will be 195 no.s.

2. The proposal was considered by the EAC of Non Coal Mining projects in its 14th meeting held on 3-4 May, 2023. Wherein the Project Proponent informed the EAC that the instant mine lease was obtained through auction and the Government of Goa granted the Letter of Intent (LoI) dated 13.01.2023 for grant of mining lease for Block I - Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, MulgaoMayem & Sirigao villages, Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District over an area of 478.5206 Ha for a period of 50 (fifty) years in pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules. This letter of intent is valid for a period of 3 (three) years from the date of its issuance. Then, the Project Proponent presented the KML file to indicate the site features in the vicinity of the mine lease area and in the study area of 10km radius. The EAC asked the Project Proponent to show the locations of the village, school and road in and around the mine lease area. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the Assnora River is flowing adjacent to the mine lease boundary on the north western side. Few habitations, a temple and a primary school exists within the mine lease area. Habitations will not be disturbed. No forest land is involved in the mine lease area. Only acacia plantations exist within the mine lease area. The Project Proponent also informed the settling ponds are under construction. The EAC on viewing the KML file noted that old excavated pits exist within the mine lease area and Assnora River is located close to the proximity of the mine lease area. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the ore will be transported from Mine to Sarmanas jetty through dedicated road with only 0.9km stretch of public road in use.

The EAC asked the Project Proponent whether there is any ban on mining activity in Goa. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that mining activity was not stopped because of CRZ and it may relate to sand mining only. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the instant mine is a first auction mine in Goa. The Project Proponent also informed the EAC that there will be no activity of drilling and blasting. Mining Plan has been submitted to Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) for approval. Nearest Village of ESA of Western Ghats is Bayalvada Village - 11.84 km. Waste will be dumped and backfilled within the mine lease area. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that there are two court cases filed against the State Govt. regarding auction procedure and the Project Proponent has been added as a party. There is no stay order or any adverse orders and the court case is in preliminary stage. The EAC was of the view that the instant ToR is subject to the outcome of the two said court cases i.e., WP(Civil) 2478 of 2022 (Filing Number) before the High Court of Bombay at Goa and WP 592 of 2022 before the High Court of Bombay at Goa. The EAC asked the

Project Proponent to inform about the present status of the mining in Goa w.r.t Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 07.02.2018. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that as per Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 07.02.2018 in Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. 32138 of 2015 in the matter of the Goa Foundation vs M/s Sesa Sterlite Ltd. And Ors it was stated the State of Goa was not under any constitutional obligation to grant fresh mining leases through the process of competitive bidding or auction and the Ministry of Environment and Forest was obliged to grant fresh environmental clearances in respect of fresh grant of mining leases in accordance with law.

After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent and the Consultant, the EAC in its EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 3-4 May, 2023, the EAC under the provisions of EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments, the EAC **recommended** the proposal for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) to M/s Vedanta Limited for mining of Iron Ore in Bicholim Mineral Block – Block 1 (Auction Block) with proposed production capacity of 3.0 MTPA, Waste: 25.162 MTPA (Total Excavation: 28.162 MTPA) along with crushing and screening plant capacity of 4.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 478.5206 ha, located in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgoa, Mayem & Sirigao Villages of Bicholim Taluka of North Goa District, Goa for undertaking detailed EIA/EMP study subject to the specific conditions in addition to the standard ToR conditions applicable for non-coal mining projects.

Validity unknown

Digitally Signed by : Mr Pankaj Verma
Member Secretary, MoEFCC (EC)

Date: 16/06/2023

MINING LEASE DEED

For and on behalf of the Governor of
Goa



(Narayan Gad)
Director of Mines & Geology/
Ex-Officio Joint Secretary
Government of Goa

For Vedanta Limited



(Dhirajkumar Jagdish)
Dy. CEO/
Authorised Signatory



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This deed for grant of a mining lease "Block I- Bicholim Mineral Block, located in North Goa" is made on 22nd March 2024 by and between the following.

PARTIES:

THE GOVERNOR OF GOA, (the "State Government"), acting through the Director, Director of Mines & Geology, having its office at Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji Goa hereinafter referred to as the **LESSOR** of the One Part.

AND

VEDANTA LIMITED incorporated in India under the Companies Act, 2013 with corporate identity number L13209MH1965PLC291394, whose registered office is at 1st Floor, C Wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue, Atul Projects, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai, Mumbai City, Maharashtra, India, 400093 and principal place of business is at Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex, Patto, Panaji, Goa 403001 hereinafter referred to as the **LESSEE** of the Second Part.

BACKGROUND:

- A. The lessee had participated in an electronic auction for grant of mining lease, for Block I- Bicholim Mineral Block, located in North Goa, pursuant to which the lessee has become eligible for grant of mining lease vide order no. DMG/25/ Auction Cell/LOI-function/2023/280 dated 13/01/2023.
- B. Accordingly, the State Government is now executing this deed for grant of a Lease to the Lessee in consideration of the fee, royalties, covenants and agreements hereinafter reserved and contained on the part of the Lessee to be paid, observed and performed.



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1. DEFINITIONS

The expressions used in this Lease shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them under the Act and the rules made thereunder.

2. GRANT OF LEASE

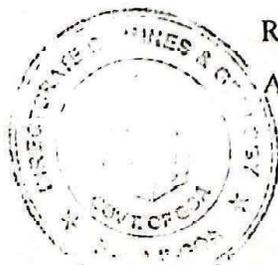
2.1. The State Government hereby grant the Lease to the Lessee over an area described in schedule B ("DGPS plan/Lease Area") for conducting mining operations for a period of 50 years, commencing from the date on which this duly executed mining lease deed is registered with respect to the following mineral(s), [Iron Ore] ("Minerals").

2.2. This Lease shall be with respect to all those the mines beds/ veins seams of the Minerals situated lying and being in or under the Lease Area.

2.3. Subject to the Lessee paying the royalties and making other payments required to be paid and observing and performing all the covenants and agreements herein contained and on the part of the Lessee to be observed and performed shall and may quietly hold and enjoy, the rights and premises of the Lease Area for and during the term hereby granted without any unlawful interruption from or by the State Government, or any person rightfully claiming under it.

3. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS:

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3.1. The rights and obligations of the State Government and the Lessee shall be as specified in the Act and the rules made thereunder, including without limitation the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbon Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016 and the Mine Development and Production Agreement dated 13/03/2024

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3.2. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing,

a) the lessee shall:-

- i. at all times comply with the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder and any other applicable law;
- ii. make prompt payment of royalty and any other payment required to be made by the Lessee;
- iii. pay such compensation as may be assessed by lawful authority in accordance with the law in force on the subject for all damage, injury, or disturbance which may be done by the Lessee in exercise of the powers granted by this Lease and to indemnified fully and completely the State Government against all claims which may be by any person or persons in respect of any such damage, injury or disturbance and all costs and expenses in connection therewith;
- iv. take measures, at his own expense, for the protection of environment like planting of trees, reclamation of mined land, use of pollution – control devices, and such other measures as may be prescribed by the Central or State Government from time to time;
- v. without delay send to the Deputy Commissioner/ Collector a report of any accident causing death or serious bodily injury or serious injury to property or seriously affecting or endangering life or property which may occur in the course of the operations under this Lease;
- vi. weigh or cause to be measured or weighed upon some part of the Lease Area all minerals from time

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won from the Lease Area, with [number of days] prior notice being given to the Deputy Commissioner/ Collector every such measuring or weighing in order that he or some person on his behalf may be present thereat;

- vii. submit to the State Government a full report periodically of the work done by the Lessee and disclose all information acquired by the Lessee in the course of the operations carried on under this Lease regarding the geology and mineral resources of the area covered by the Lease; and
- viii. pay stamp duty and registration charges as may be applicable in respect of this deed;

b) the State Government Shall:-

- i. have the right to, all times to enter into and upon and to grant or demise to any person or persons whomsoever liberty to enter into and upon the Lease Area for all or any purposes other than those for which sole rights and Lease are hereby expressly conferred upon the Lessee, including without limitation, to make on, over or through the said lands such roads, tramways and ropeways as shall be considered necessary or expedient for any purposes and to obtain from and out of the said lands such stone, earth or other materials as may be necessary or requisite for making, repairing or maintaining such roads, tramways, railways and ropeways for all purposes and as occasion shall require;

- ii. have the right to appropriate any performance security provided by the Lessee in accordance with terms of such performance security and require the Lessee to

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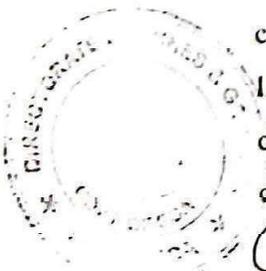
Replenish the performance security. In case the performance security has been provided through a security deposit after termination of the Lease and fulfillment of all obligations of the Lessee, such security deposit shall be returned to the Lessee after appropriate deductions. It is clarified that the security deposit shall not carry any interest; and

iii. have the right to carry out or perform any work or matters which in accordance with the covenants in that behalf are to be carried out or performed by the Lessee, but have not been so carried out or performed within the time specified in that behalf, and the Lessee shall pay the State Government on demand all expenses which shall be incurred in such carrying out or performance of the same.

3.3. If the State Government is desirous of exercising its right of pre-emption with respect to any mineral(s) the State Government shall pay the average sale price of such minerals as published by IBM prevailing at the time of pre-emption.

3.4. In the event of the existence of a state of war or emergency (of which existence the President of India shall be the sole judge and a notification to this effect in the Gazette of India shall be conclusive proof) the State Government with the consent of the Central Government shall from time to time and at all times during the said term have the right (to be exercised by a notice in writing to the Lessee/Lessees) forthwith take possession and control of the works, plant, machinery and premises of the Lessee on or in connection with the Lease Area or the operations under this Lease and during such possession or control, the Lessee shall conform to and obey all directions

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given by or on behalf of the Central or State Government regarding the use of employment of such works, plants, premises and minerals, provided that fair compensation, which shall be determined in default of agreement by the State Government shall be paid to the Lessee for all loss or damage sustained by him/them by reason or in consequence of the exercises of the powers conferred by this clause and provided also that the exercise of such power shall not determine the said term hereby granted or affect the terms and provisions of this clause.

- 3.5. If after the receipt of an offer of compensation for damage which is likely to arise from the proposed operation of the Lessee, the occupier of the surface of any part of the said lands shall refuse his consent to the exercise of the rights and powers reserved to the State Government and granted by this Lease, the Lessee shall report the matter to the State Government and shall deposit with it the amount offered as compensation and if the State Government is satisfied that amount of compensation is reasonable or if it is not so satisfied and the Lessee shall have deposited with it such further amount as the State Government may consider reasonable, the State Government shall order the occupier to allow the Lessee to enter upon the said land and carry out such operations as may be necessary for the purposes of the Lease. In assessing the amount of such compensation the State Government shall be guided by the principles of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act 2013.

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- 3.6. Every notice required to be given to the Lessee shall be given in writing to such person as may be nominated by the Lessee

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and such nomination shall be informed to the State Government in writing. If no such nomination is made then the notice shall be sent to the Lessee by registered post/speed post addressed to the Lessee at the Lessee may designate from time to time and every such service shall be deemed to be proper and valid service upon the Lessee and shall not be questioned or challenged by him.

3.7. If in any event the orders of the State Government are revised, reviewed or cancelled by the Central Government in Pursuance of proceedings under the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016, the Lessee shall not be entitled to compensation for any loss sustained by the Lessee in exercise of the powers and privileges conferred upon the Lessee by these presents.

3.8. The Lessee shall strictly comply with all the conditions stipulated in the Environmental Clearance granted for this lease.

4. GOVERNING LAW

This lease and all questions of its interpretation shall be construed in accordance with the laws of India. In the event of any dispute in relation to this Lease and in respect of all matters touching the relationship of the Lessee and the State Government, suits of petition shall be filed in civil Courts at Goa and it is hereby expressly agreed that neither party shall file a suit or appeal or bring any action at any place other than the courts named above.



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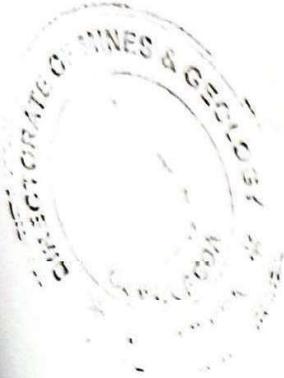
In witness whereof there presents have been executed at Panaji on

22.03.2024.

(Signature)

SIGNED AND EXECUTED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT

For and on behalf of the Governor of Goa



(Signature)

(Narayan Gad)
Director of Mines & Geology/
Ex-Officio Joint Secretary
Government of Goa

SIGNED AND EXECUTED BY THE LESSEE

For Vedanta Limited

(Signature)

(Dhirajkumar Jagdish)
Dy. CEO/
Authorised Signatory



Duly authorized to execute this lease deed pursuant to resolution passed by the board of Directors of Vedanta Limited on 08/03/2024.

Witnesses:

- Signature:
Name: Shri Abhir C. Hede
Address: Panaji, Goa

(Signature)

- Signature:
Name: Shri Chandrabas Rane
Address: Panaji, Goa.

(Signature)

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सूचना का
अधिकार
RIGHT TO
INFORMATION
(Signature)

SCHEDULE A- List of Persons

Not applicable

SCHEDULE B

AREA OF MINING LEASE (as submitted by the Successful Bidder)

Area Statement:

Sr. No.	Village	Survey No.	Area (Ha)
1	Bicholim	Road	1.0539
2	Bicholim	72	0.7787
3	Bicholim	77	17.6247
4	Bicholim	78	8.6111
5	Bicholim	78	0.1600
6	Bicholim	79	0.7132
7	Bicholim	80	5.9200
8	Bicholim	81	2.6637
9	Bicholim	82	5.4255
10	Bicholim	83	0.0368
11	Bicholim	84	1.3110
12	Bicholim	86	0.0192
13	Bicholim	88	0.0580
14	Bicholim	89	2.4912
15	Bicholim	89	0.4157
16	Bicholim	90	0.3441
17	Bicholim	95	0.0008
18	Bicholim	96	0.7824
19	Bicholim	99	3.0120
20	Bicholim	99	0.5438

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Sr. No.	Village	Survey No.	Area (Ha)
21	Bicholim	99	1.4080
22	Bordem	Road	0.1748
23	Bordem	19	0.2974
24	Bordem	21	0.0004
25	Bordem	23	3.0445
26	Bordem	31	3.7355
27	Bordem	32	0.1219
28	Bordem	33	3.6893
29	Bordem	34	0.8195
30	Bordem	40	0.1201
31	Bordem	41	4.5125
32	Bordem	42	8.5600
33	Bordem	43	6.5744
34	Bordem	44	0.1923
35	Lamgao	Road	0.6074
36	Lamgao	1	1.1198
37	Lamgao	1	0.0100
38	Lamgao	1	0.0139
39	Lamgao	9	0.1882
40	Lamgao	10	1.4280
41	Lamgao	11	0.0008
42	Lamgao	13	0.3244
43	Lamgao	14	0.8722
44	Lamgao	15	1.6150
45	Lamgao	16	18.9600
46	Lamgao	17	6.3556

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Sr. No.	Village	Survey No.	Area (Ha)
47	Lamgao	18	35.5802
48	Lamgao	19	6.2320
49	Lamgao	20	11.4400
50	Lamgao	21	29.8800
51	Lamgao	22	30.5161
52	Lamgao	23	3.1425
53	Lamgao	24	0.5425
54	Lamgao	25	0.3375
55	Lamgao	26	1.1100
56	Lamgao	27	2.2980
57	Lamgao	28	0.1045
58	Lamgao	29	2.5263
59	Lamgao	30	0.0608
60	Lamgao	46	0.1312
61	Mayem	Road	3.0144
62	Mayem	114	3.9309
63	Mayem	142	0.1536
64	Mayem	143	0.3543
65	Mayem	144	5.2502
66	Mayem	145	0.3400
67	Mayem	146	7.4794
68	Mayem	162	0.4363
69	Mayem	163	10.0093
70	Mayem	164	0.3275
71	Mayem	165	4.8500
72	Mayem	166	10.4853

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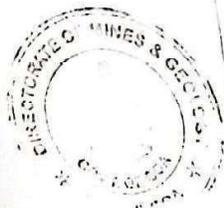
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Sr. No.	Village	Survey No.	Area (Ha)
73	Mayem	167	1.9089
74	Mayem	84	2.5505
75	Mayem	85	3.7996
76	Mayem	86	3.1179
77	Mulgao	River	0.3397
78	Mulgao	Road	1.5041
79	Mulgao	Water Body	0.1199
80	Mulgao	33	0.4475
81	Mulgao	34	1.9800
82	Mulgao	35	0.4930
83	Mulgao	48	2.4730
84	Mulgao	48	0.2965
85	Mulgao	61	0.6903
86	Mulgao	61	0.0500
87	Mulgao	62	0.6000
88	Mulgao	63	0.8774
89	Mulgao	64	1.9300
90	Mulgao	64	0.0200
91	Mulgao	65	0.5500
92	Mulgao	66	0.9595
93	Mulgao	67	3.3550
94	Mulgao	68	0.7725
95	Mulgao	69	1.6000
96	Mulgao	70	0.9000
97	Mulgao	71	0.3100
98	Mulgao	72	0.6600

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Sr. No.	Village	Survey No.	Area (Ha)
99	Mulgao	73	0.6650
100	Mulgao	74	0.1300
101	Mulgao	75	0.1900
102	Mulgao	76	0.1700
103	Mulgao	77	0.7650
104	Mulgao	78	0.4225
105	Mulgao	79	0.1623
106	Mulgao	80	0.0428
107	Mulgao	81	0.1397
108	Mulgao	86	0.1006
109	Mulgao	88	0.2322
110	Mulgao	89	0.9700
111	Mulgao	90	0.4500
112	Mulgao	91	0.1900
113	Mulgao	92	0.4300
114	Mulgao	93	0.5203
115	Mulgao	94	0.2442
116	Mulgao	95	0.9365
117	Mulgao	96	0.0357
118	Mulgao	101	0.0032
119	Mulgao	102	1.1630
120	Mulgao	103	0.6103
121	Mulgao	104	1.1556
122	Mulgao	109	0.0110
123	Mulgao	110	0.5500
124	Mulgao	111	0.8974

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[Handwritten signature]



Sr. No.	Village	Survey No.	Area (Ha)
125	Mulgao	112	0.7761
126	Mulgao	113	100.4000
127	Mulgao	114	2.5100
128	Mulgao	115	11.2000
129	Mulgao	116	5.1700
130	Mulgao	117	2.6421
131	Mulgao	118	0.0383
132	Mulgao	124	0.0139
133	Sirgao	Road	0.3293
134	Sirgao	70	0.0066
135	Sirgao	75	0.3204
136	Sirgao	76	0.9467
137	Sirgao	77	0.0227
138	Sirgao	78	3.6478
139	Sirgao	79	0.1581
140	Sirgao	80	2.5202
141	Sirgao	81	4.5433
142	Sirgao	82	12.5380
			478.5206



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S. No.	PILLAR ID	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	NORTHING	EASTING
1	BP1	15°34'29.237"N	73°57'9.051"E	1722177.3851	387688.4999
2	BP2	15°34'20.518"N	73°56'58.049"E	1721911.0834	387359.4962
3	BP3	15°35'2.564"N	73°56'27.305"E	1723207.6644	386450.1406
4	BP4	15°34'55.008"N	73°56'18.070"E	1722976.8348	386173.9091
5	BP5	15°35'28.029"N	73°55'48.621"E	1723995.9480	385301.8639
6	BP6	15°35'31.312"N	73°55'50.638"E	1724096.5390	385362.4509
7	BP7	15°35'33.692"N	73°55'48.745"E	1724169.9369	385306.4310
8	BP8	15°35'34.581"N	73°55'48.564"E	1724197.2811	385301.1640
9	BP9	15°35'36.045"N	73°55'48.005"E	1724242.3670	385284.7630
10	BP10	15°35'38.606"N	73°55'46.104"E	1724321.3520	385228.5200
11	BP11	15°35'41.836"N	73°55'44.458"E	1724420.8469	385179.9910
12	BP12	15°35'44.097"N	73°55'42.365"E	1724490.6460	385118.0180
13	BP13	15°35'42.180"N	73°55'40.104"E	1724432.0570	385050.3830
14	BP14	15°35'44.493"N	73°55'37.981"E	1724503.4620	384987.5150
15	BP15	15°35'46.421"N	73°55'40.230"E	1724562.3910	385054.7970
16	BP16	15°35'48.165"N	73°55'38.543"E	1724616.2299	385004.8130
17	BP17	15°35'50.029"N	73°55'36.922"E	1724673.7334	384956.8300
18	BP18	15°35'52.695"N	73°55'34.603"E	1724756.0070	384888.1780
19	BP19	15°35'53.998"N	73°55'32.418"E	1724796.3950	384823.3070
20	BP20	15°35'58.110"N	73°55'28.071"E	1724923.3950	384694.4540
21	BP21	15°35'57.193"N	73°55'27.361"E	1724895.3420	384673.1890
22	BP22	15°35'57.996"N	73°55'24.414"E	1724920.4510	384585.5170
23	BP23	15°36'2.083"N	73°55'18.076"E	1725046.9970	384397.4079
24	BP24	15°36'2.770"N	73°55'16.018"E	1725068.4240	384336.2190
25	BP25	15°36'3.697"N	73°55'14.536"E	1725097.1186	384292.2299
26	BP26	15°36'6.268"N	73°55'10.016"E	1725176.8179	384158.0100
27	BP27	15°36'7.134"N	73°55'9.341"E	1725203.5390	384138.0330
28	BP28	15°36'7.279"N	73°55'8.237"E	1725208.1570	384105.1690



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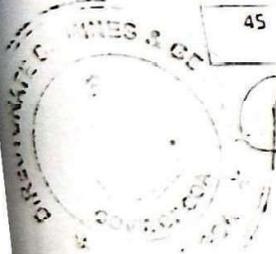


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अधिकार

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29	BP29	15°36'10.371"N	73°55'2.799"E	1725303.9970	383943.7100
30	BP30	15°36'11.513"N	73°55'1.441"E	1725339.3010	383903.4350
31	BP31	15°36'12.228"N	73°54'59.636"E	1725361.5500	383849.7870
32	BP32	15°36'15.130"N	73°54'54.917"E	1725451.4380	383709.7010
33	BP33	15°36'15.199"N	73°54'54.305"E	1725453.6420	383691.5030
34	BP34	15°36'17.857"N	73°54'49.835"E	1725536.0097	383558.7735
35	BP35	15°36'47.359"N	73°54'4.754"E	1726449.4896	382220.8547
36	BP36	15°36'54.018"N	73°54'38.669"E	1726648.9108	383231.9126
37	BP37	15°36'41.460"N	73°55'6.583"E	1726258.7730	384061.2470
38	BP38	15°36'21.653"N	73°55'46.776"E	1725644.0796	385255.1845
39	BP39	15°35'54.379"N	73°56'9.956"E	1724802.4950	385941.3570
40	BP40	15°35'47.351"N	73°56'15.530"E	1724585.6830	386106.2835
41	BP41	15°35'43.500"N	73°56'11.400"E	1724467.9640	385982.6960
42	BP42	15°35'37.025"N	73°56'16.952"E	1724268.1681	386147.0632
43	BP43	15°35'32.102"N	73°56'11.580"E	1724117.6806	385986.2991
44	BP44	15°35'8.063"N	73°56'33.322"E	1723375.7504	386630.2024
45	BP45	15°35'11.339"N	73°56'37.395"E	1723475.8160	386752.0000



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Directorate of Accounts

Opp. Old Secretariat,
Fazenda Building, Panaji Goa
Phone: 0832-2225548/21/31



Echallan No. 202400235114

e-Receipt

Department : 10 - NOTARY SERVICES

Echallan Date : 22-03-2024 19:45:23

Name and Address of Party : VEDANTA | 9866009201
PANAJI

Service: Stamp Duty

	Amount
Stamp Duty	₹ 900000000.00

Total Amount : ₹ 900,000,000.00

(Rs. Ninety Crore Only)

Department Data:

202400020270 NOTARY|202400020270 NOTARY

Bank ref No:

Status:

Success

Payment Date:

22-03-2024 20:20:37

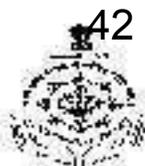
Reprint Date: 22/03/2024 21:10:05

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अधिकार
RIGHT TO
INFORMATION

Debra



42
Government of Goa
Directorate of Mines Geology
Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji-Goa

Website: dmg.goa.gov.in

e-mail: dir-mine.goa@nic.in

Phone Nos. 0832 – 2426431/2425287/2422765

File No. 03/24/2023/Major/Mines/Part/ 1489

Date: 25/07/2023

To,
M/s. Vedanta Ltd.
Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex,
Patto, Panaji, Goa
403001

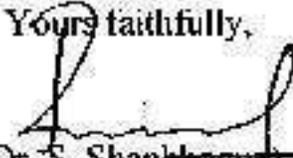
Sub: Clarification letter with respect to Terms of Reference granted to Vedanta Limited for Block I Bicholim Mine.

Sir,

This has reference to your letter dated 18/5/2023 on the subject cited above. With regards to the special condition no. xvii mentioned in the summary records of the 14th meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee held on 3-4 May 2023, it is clarified that:-

- (a) M/s. Vedanta has been declared as Preferred Bidder for Bicholim Mineral Block- Block I through an auction process conducted by the Government of Goa as per the Mineral Auction Rules, 2015.
- (b) M/s. Vedanta Ltd., was not the erstwhile lessee of the said Block prior to auction.
- (c) The matter of illegal mining in the State of Goa is under investigation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. S. Shanbhog)
Director 5771789

GOA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

गोंय राज्य प्रदुशण नियंत्रण मंडळ

Ph. Nos. : 91-832-2438567, 2438528
2438563, 2438550
Fax No. : 0832-2438528
E-mail : goapcb@rediffmail.com



Dempo Towers, 1st Floor
EDC Patta Plaza
Panaji, Goa 403 001

No.1/25/09-PCB/Vol.VIII/5828

23/11/2011

To,
M/s Sesa Resources Ltd.
Jeevan Vishwas (LIC) Bldg)
EDC complex Patta, Panaji Goa

Sub: Directions to construct gulland drains to prevent the runoffs from the mines into the water bodies.

The Goa State Pollution Control Board is in receipt of a complaint dated 15/09/2011 from Shri. Ramesh Gauns, resident of Pajwada, Bicholim Goa stating that the lakes at Langao are being polluted due to the discharge/flow of mining silt/slurry and runoff waste water from the lease area into the lake located in and around the mining lease. Further, he has also stated that the perennial spring that emerges from the lease is severely polluted. (Copy of the said letter/complaint is enclosed herewith as Annexure 'A Copy').

In order to verify the allegations made in the said letter/complaint, the Officials of the GSPCB has conducted an inspection of the water bodies at various locations as mentioned in the said complaints on 13/10/2011. The observations recorded are given below:-

- 1) At the boundary of the mining lease No. 12/41 of M/s Sesa Resources Ltd. there is the Langao Lake overlooking the mining dumps. During the rains the runoff from the mining lease was seen flowing into the lake and the overflow from the Langao lake flows into the Bicholim river. Further thick silt was observed accumulated in the lake and also around the lake. (Copy of the inspection report is enclosed herewith as Annexure 'B').

The Board Officials has also collected the water samples of the said water bodies at various locations mentioned above and the analytical report indicates that there is high turbidity level in the said water bodies. (Copy of the analysis report is enclosed herewith as Annexure 'C').

In view of the above facts and in exercise of the powers vested with this Board under section 33(A) read with section 25-26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, you are hereby directed to take all the requisite measures for controlling and preventing the mining silt from flowing into the water bodies and

polluting the same by constructing garland drains around the dumps and settling pond. Further you are also required to furnish clarification with respect to the above observations along with supporting document regarding the measures adopted by you for controlling the water pollution due to mining activity on regular interval of 15 days upto 31st May, 2012.

You are further directed to submit the compliance report to that effect within 7 days of receipt of this letter, failing which appropriate action will be initiated against your mining unit.


Member Secretary
For Goa State Pollution Control Board

Encl: As above

Copy to,

- ✓ Shri. Ramesh Gauns, Pajwada, Bicholim Goa.
- 2) Office file
- 3) Guard file

To,

M/s Sesa Resources Ltd. Jeevan Vishwas (LIC) Bldg)
EDC complex Patto, Panaji Goa

Sub: Directions to construct garland drains to prevent the runoffs from the mines into the water bodies

The Gon State Pollution Control Board in receipt of a complaint dated 15/09/2011 from Shri. Ramesh Gauns, resident of Pajwada, Bicholin Goa suiting that the lakes at Lamgao are being polluted due to the discharge/flow of mining silt/slurry and runoff waste water from the lease area into the lake located in and around the mining lease. Further, he has also stated that the perennial spring that emerges from the lease is severely polluted. (Copy of the said letter/complaint is enclosed herewith as Annexure "A Colly').

In order to verify the allegations made in the said letter complaint, the Officials of the GSPCB has conducted an inspection of the water bodies at various locations as mentioned in the said complaints on 13/10/2011. The observations recorded are given below:-

1) At the boundary of the mining lease No. 12/41 of M/s Sesa Resources Ltd.. there is the Lamgao Lake overlooking the mining dumps. During the rains the runoff from the mining lease was seen flowing into the lake and the overflow from the Lamgao lake flows into the Bicholim river. Further thick silt was observed accumulated in the lake and also around the lake. (Copy of the inspection report is enclosed herewith as Annexure 'B').

The Board Officials has also collected the water samples of the said water bodies at various locations mentioned above and the analytical report indicates that there is high turbidity level in the said water bodies. (Copy of the analysis report is enclosed herewith as Annexure 'C').

In view of the above facts and in exercise of the powers vested with this Board under section 33(A) read with section 25/26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, you are hereby directed to take all the adequate measures for controlling and preventing the mining silt from flowing into the water bodies and polluting the same by constructing garland drains around the dumps and settling pond. Further you are also required to furnish clarification with respect to the above observations along with supporting document regarding the measures adopted by you for controlling the water pollution due to mining activity on regular interval of 15 days upto 31st May, 2012.

You are further directed to submit the compliance report to that effect within 7 days of receipt of this letter, failing which appropriate action will be initiated against your mining unit.

Member Secretary

For Goa State Pollution Control Board.

Encl: As above.

Copy to:

1. Shri Ramesh Gauns, Pajwada, Bicholim, Goa.
2. Office File.
3. Guard file.



sesa goa iron ore

ANNEXURE-5



Type your text...



About Us

Sesa Goa Iron Ore, a Vedanta Group company is engaged in exploration, mining and processing of iron ore. The company was founded in 1954, as Scambi Economici SA Goa. Since then, it has grown to be one among the top low-cost producers of iron ore in the country. During 1991-1995, it diversified into the manufacture of pig iron and metallurgical coke. It has also developed indigenous and environment-friendly technology for producing high quality metallurgical coke. Sesa Goa Iron Ore also has a 60 MW power plant that produces clean power by using the waste heat recovery from its coke ovens and blast furnace gas.

In 2007, it became a majority-owned subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Plc., when Vedanta acquired 51% controlling stake from Mitsui & Co., Ltd. In June 2009, Sesa acquired VS Dempo & Co. Private

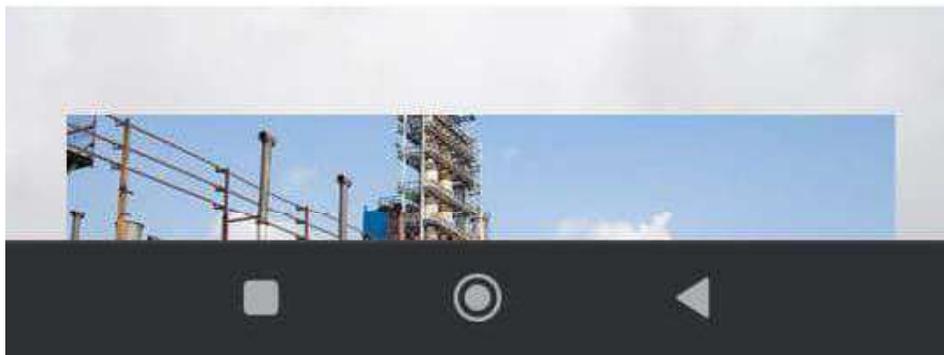
indigenous and environment-friendly technology for producing high quality metallurgical coke. Sesa Goa Iron Ore also has a 60 MW power plant that produces clean power by using the waste heat recovery from its coke ovens and blast furnace gas.

In 2007, it became a majority-owned subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Plc., when Vedanta acquired 51% controlling stake from Mitsui & Co., Ltd. In June 2009, Sesa acquired VS Dempo & Co. Private Limited (now Sesa Resources Limited) along with its fully owned subsidiary Dempo Mining Corporation (now Sesa Mining Corporation Limited) and 50% equity in Goa Maritime Private Limited.

Sesa Goa Iron Ore operations in India are in Goa and Karnataka.

The annual capacity of Sesa Goa Iron Ore Business is 5.5 MT per annum. The recent SC verdict of February 7, 2018 has brought entire mining industry in Goa to a halt. Vedanta Sesa Goa Iron Ore is hopeful of quick resolution for resumption of mining. The capacity for Iron Ore Business for Karnataka is 5.89 MTPA.

Vedanta has signed a MOU with the state government of Jharkhand to set up a 1 MTPA capacity integrated steel plant in Jharkhand. The plant would contribute to employment generation of nearly 5000 people in the state.



ANNEXURE-6

F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III [E 177258]

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 8th June, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Requirement and validity of Certified Compliance Report (CCR) issued by the IROs of MoEF&CC/MS of SPCBs/ ROs of CPCB - regarding.

The MoEF&CC issued an Office Memorandum (OM) No. J-11011/618/2010-IA.II(I) dated 30/05/2012 which mandates the requirement of Certified Compliance Report (CCR) on the conditions stipulated in the ECs to the existing projects/activities from the concerned Integrated Regional Offices (IROs) of MoEF&CC for consideration of expansion proposals for grant of Environment Clearance under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006.

2. In order to facilitate the process of obtaining CCR, MoEF&CC issued a circular No. J-11013/6/2010-IA.II(Part) dated 7/09/2017 stating that the concerned Member Secretary (MS) of EAC/SEAC shall make a request to the concerned IRO of MoEF&CC at the time of issuance of ToR for the developmental project. Such request shall be disposed of by the concerned IRO within one month. In case, if the inspection is not carried out within one month, the CCR obtained from concerned Regional Offices of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) or MS of respective State Pollution Control Boards shall also be accepted for deliberations by the EAC/SEAC.

3. In all cases involving expansion of any project or activity, CCR is mandatorily required. In this regard, instances have been brought to the notice of this Ministry wherein the Environment Clearance application for expansion projects are being submitted by the project proponent with the CCR older than three years for appraisal by the EAC/SEAC. Further, project proponents are not submitting CCR for the expansion proposals if the existing unit is running on Consent To Operate (CTO) obtained from the SPCBs/PCCs.

4. The aforesaid matter has been examined in the Ministry and it has been decided that following procedure shall be adopted by the Member Secretary (MS) of EAC/SEAC while appraising developmental projects which involve expansion, as per the provisions of EIA Notification 2006.

A. Proposals involving expansion of existing EC

- i. At the time of issuance of expansion ToR, the MS of EAC/SEAC shall endorse a copy of the ToR to the concerned IRO of MoEF&CC. Based on the same, project proponent shall approach the concerned IRO of MoEF&CC to issue CCR. Such request shall be expeditiously considered and disposed of by the concerned IRO within a time frame of three months from the date of application of project proponent. In case, the CCR is not issued within three months, the project proponent shall approach concerned Regional Offices of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) or MS of respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) or State Pollution Control Committees (SPCCs) for the same.
- ii. The CCR issued by the concerned Authority shall explicitly state the date of inspection, present status of the implementation of the project along with compliance status to each of the condition prescribed in the EC.
- iii. CCR issued by the concerned Authority shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of inspection of the project. The submission of CCR beyond older than one year from the date of inspection shall not be accepted by the concerned MS of EAC/SEAC for placing it before the EAC/SEAC for carrying out the appraisal process.
- iv. Monitoring report issued by concerned IROs in conformity to the above, if available, can also be submitted by the project proponent in place of CCR.
- v. Self-certified six monthly Compliance Report for the latest EC shall be sufficient if the project proponent applies for expansion within a period of six months from the grant of previous EC. If such application is submitted beyond the period of six months from the grant of EC, CCR shall be required for the latest EC.

B. Proposals involving expansion of existing project running on the basis of Consent To Operate (CTO) from SPCBs/ SPCCs (without requirement of EC)

- i. At the time of issuance of expansion ToR, the Member secretary of EAC/SEAC shall endorse a copy of the ToR to the concerned MS of SPCBs/SPCCs. Based on the same, project proponent shall request the concerned MS of SPCBs/PCCs to issue CCR on the compliance status to the prescribed CTO conditions. Such request shall be expeditiously considered and disposed of by the concerned SPCBs/SPCCs within a time frame of two months from the date of request of the project proponent. In case, the CCR on CTO conditions is not issued within two months, the project proponent shall approach concerned Regional Offices of CPCB for the same.
- ii. The CCR on CTO conditions shall explicitly state the date of inspection, present status of the implementation of the project along with compliance status to each of the condition prescribed in the CTO. Such CCRs shall be forwarded by the concerned Member Secretary of SPCBs/PCCs to the MoEF&CC/SEIAA.

- iii. CCR on CTO conditions issued by the concerned SPCBs/PCCs shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of inspection of the project. The submission of CCR older than one year from the date of inspection shall not be accepted by the concerned MS of EAC/SEAC for placing it before the EAC/SEAC for carrying out the appraisal process.
- iv. Self-certified Compliance Report for the latest CTO shall be sufficient if the project proponent applies for expansion within a period of one year from the grant/renewal of CTO. If such application is submitted beyond the period of one year from the grant/renewal of CTO, CCR shall be required for the latest CTO.

5. This OM is issued in supersession of OM no. J-11011/618/2010-IA.II(I) dated 30/05/2012 & J-11013/6/2010-IA.II(Part) dated 7/09/2017 and with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Sundar Ramanathan)
Scientist E

To

1. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
2. Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
3. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
4. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs
5. All the Officers of I.A. Division

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to DGF&SS (EF&CC)
5. PPS to AS(TK)/PPS to JS (SKB)
6. Website, MoEF&CC/Guard file

ANNEXURE-7



Policy for Conservation of Water Bodies

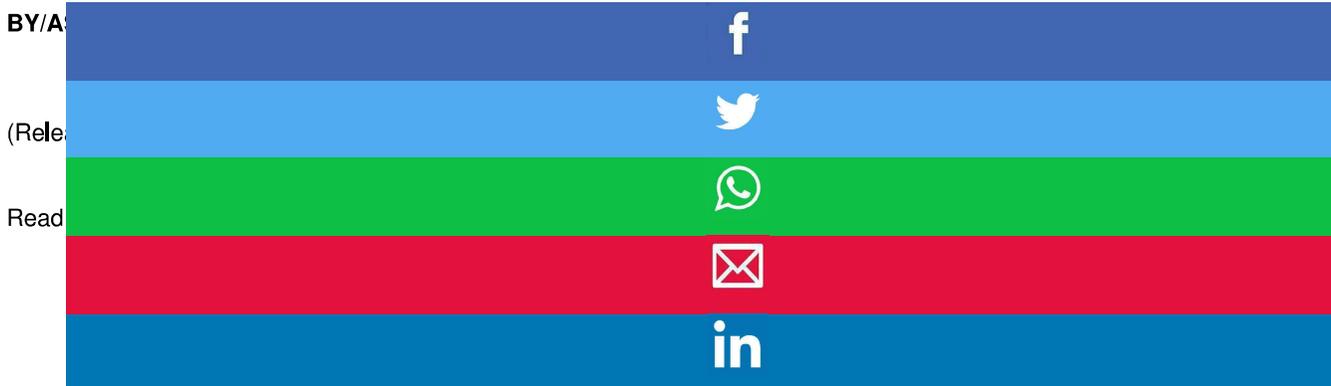
Posted on 4 MAR 2022 5:12PM by PIB Delhi

Work done to conservation of natural and man-made water bodies like baolis, tanks, ponds, johads and lakes etc., as well as formulation of policy for the same, lie in the domain of the State Government concerned. However, some of the policies framed by Government of India in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this regard, are as below

1. National Water Policy 2012 formulated by this Ministry, inter-alia, provides that encroachments and diversion of water bodies (like rivers, lakes, tanks, ponds, etc.) and drainage channels (irrigated area as well as urban area drainage) must not be allowed, and wherever it has taken place, it should be restored to the extent feasible and maintained properly
2. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 for protection, conservation and management of wetlands.
3. The provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 are being implemented by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) /Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) to regulate discharge of effluents and enforcement of standards in respect of polluting sources.
4. Government of India has stipulated general discharge standards and industry specific effluent discharge standards under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, with an aim to prevent pollution in the water bodies.
5. 'Indicative Guidelines for restoration of water bodies' have been issued by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) as a guidance to the stakeholders for ensuring restoration/ rejuvenation of water bodies.
6. Guidelines for immersion of idols in water bodies formulated during 2010 has been revised and the "Revised Guidelines on Idol Immersion in Water Bodies "are being implemented in the country with effect from 1st January, 2021.

Government of India has launched the first census of water bodies in convergence with the sixth round of minor irrigation census (reference year 2017-18) under the centrally sponsored scheme "Irrigation Census". The objective of the census of water bodies is to develop a national database for all water bodies by collecting information on all important aspects of the subject including their size, condition, status of encroachments, use, storage capacity etc. Information being compiled under this shall also include State wise and District wise details.

This Information was given by the Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Shri Bishweswar Tudu in a written reply in Lok Sabha today.



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT APPELLATE AUTHORITY,
NEW DELHI

APPEAL NO. 38 / 2009

(PIRNA NARODA NAGRIK KRUTI SAMITI AND ANTOHER VS.
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS AND OTHERS)

CORAM: HON'BLE MEMBER SHRI J.C. KALA

Appellant : Shri Ritwick Dutta, Advocate
Respondent -1 : Shri Om Prakash, Dy. Director, MoEF
(MoEF)
Respondent -2 : Shri Bhavanishankar V. Gadnis Adv.
(Goa State Pollution Control Board)
Respondent -3 : Shri Atmaram N.S Nadkatmo. Sr. Adv
(Pirna Iron Ore Mine) with Shri P.C. Sen, Advocate.

Date : 10.05.2010

The above case is listed for hearing on merit today. Upon hearing the both parties, the Authority passed the following order:

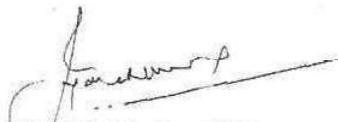
2. Affidavit filed by the Respondent-1 (MoEF) was taken on record. While this did not indicate the examination by the EAC, of 100% opposition by the people present during the hearing (as seen from the proceedings of the hearing), the learned Counsel for Respondent-3 submitted that it is not correct to state that there was no voice in favor. To this effect he drew attention of the Authority to his reply where the letters from 53 persons supporting the project were enclosed. It is, however, seen from these letters that none of these supporters were actually present during the hearing. Learned Counsel for Appellant re-iterated Delhi High Court observation in Utkarsh Mandal Vs. Union of India case [W.P.(Civil)No.9340/2009] and insisted that the EC should be quashed on the ground of non application of mind by the EAC.

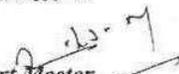
3. After hearing the arguments of both the parties, the Authority directed the Ministry to constitute a sub-committee of the EAC to visit the area and examine the reasons for whole sale public opposition to the mining and re-examine its impact on agriculture/horticulture, school children, health, habitation, river and ground water etc. and also in the light of the fact that the Ministry has imposed a moratorium on mining in Goa.

4. The committee should have three environment experts and one mining expert. Advance intimation be given to the persons of the area who opposed the project (Appellant and the Respondents). Goa Pollution Control Board to assist the committee for the visit.

5. Ministry should submit its report on the above aspects by 14th of July, 2010. Necessary notices will be issued thereafter for hearing the matter.

6. Authority also ordered to hold the Environment Clearance in abeyance until further orders


Hon'ble Member (JCK)


Court Master
NEAA

The draft of the notification, which the Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) proposes to issue in exercise of the powers conferred under rule 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, and section 25 read with sub-section (1) sub-section (3) of section 3 and section 23 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, is hereby published for the information of the persons likely to be concerned or affected thereby; and notice is hereby given that the said draft notification shall be taken into consideration on or after the expiry of a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Official Gazette containing this notification are made available to the public;

Any person interested in making any objection or suggestion, on the proposals contained in the draft notification may forward the same in writing, for consideration of the Government of Goa within the period so specified to the Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Head of Nodal Agency, Goa State Wetland Authority, or at the email address ms-gswa.goa@gov.in

DRAFT NOTIFICATION

11-2/GSWA/2023-2024/Pub./803

1. Whereas, there exists a water body known as Lamgao Lake or Lamgao tollem admeasuring an area of 3375 sq. mts. located in village Lamgao of Bicholim Taluka, North Goa district, State of Goa, which is considered to be critically significant for its ecosystem services and biodiversity values for the local communities and society at large (hereinafter referred to as the "Lamgao Lake"); which is more particularly described in Schedule-I herein under;

2. And whereas, it is considered that for sustaining these values, the ecological character of the wetland ecosystem needs to be maintained by regulating developmental activities within the wetland as well as within its zone of influence; and prohibiting activities as specified in Schedule-II.

3. And whereas, in terms of sub-rule (1) of rule 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DoE&CC) Government of Goa, through GSWA by engaging services of CSIR-NIO had prepared a Brief Document for identifying the Said Lamgao Lake as wetland;

4. And whereas, based on the Brief Document Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) in the 13th meeting of the GSWA recommended the Government of Goa to draft notify the Said Lamgao Lake as a wetland under the provisions of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

5. Hence this Draft Notification is issued by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DoE&CC) Government of Goa in the exercise of powers conferred under rule 7 of Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017, is hereby published for the information of public.

6. The extent of the wetland and its zone of influence is described in Schedule-I of this notification;

7. Activities prohibited within the wetland and its zone of influence are listed in Schedule-II of this notification. Such prohibitions shall not apply for areas designated under other Acts and Rules and listed at para 1.2 (a), (b) and (c) of Schedule-I. Relevant provisions of respective Acts and Rules shall apply in such areas.

8. Activities regulated within the wetland and their zones of influence, i.e. permitted only with permission of State Government are listed in Schedule-III of this notification. Request for permissions can be made to the Member Secretary, Goa State Wetland Authority, c/o Department of Environment and Climate Change (DoE&CC), o/o Goa State Biodiversity Board, opposite Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Bardez, Goa-403511 or at

email—ms-gswa.goa@gov.in. Such regulations shall not apply for areas designated under other Acts and Rules and listed at para 1.2 (a), (b) and (c) of Schedule-I. Relevant provisions of respective Acts and Rules shall apply in such areas.

9. Activities permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence are listed in Schedule-IV of this notification. Such permissions shall not apply for areas designated under other Acts and Rules and listed at para 1.2 (a), (b) and (c) of Schedule-I. Relevant provisions of respective Acts and Rules shall apply in such areas.

10. The Goa State Wetland Authority and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall monitor the enforcement of the provisions of this notification.

11. All the pre-existing ownership rights and privileges pertaining to identified and notified wetlands will be maintained. Further, no pre-existing ownership rights or property will be transferred to GSWA as a part of this notification, also as decided in the 13th meeting of the Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) no construction of permanent nature will be allowed in the draft notified wetland, till the final decision in this regard is taken by the authority. The status quo of the existing ownership of the notified property will be maintained.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Goa.

Dr. *Sneha S. Gitte*, IAS, Director (Environment & Climate Change).

Panaji, 13th September, 2023.

Schedule I: Location and Extent of Wetland and its Zone of Influence

1.1. Wetland

The Said Lamgao Lake admeasuring an area of 3375 sq. mts., surveyed under the following Survey Nos.

Taluka/Village	Survey No./Sub-Div. No.	Approxiamte Area in sq. mts.
Bicholim/Lamgao	25/1	335
Total		3375

1.2. Boundary of area already designated under provisions of other Acts and Rules:

1.2. (a) Area designated under Indian Forest Act, 1927; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; State Forest Act and amendments thereof.

No area of the proposed wetland known as Said Lamgao Lake falls under the above mentioned Act.

1.2. (b) Area designated under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and amendments thereof.

No area of the proposed wetland known as Said Lamgao Lake falls under the above mentioned Act.

1.2. (c) Area designated under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and amendments thereof.

No area of the proposed wetland known as Said Lamgao Lake falls under the above mentioned Act.

1.3. Zone of influence:

The Zone of influence of the Said Lamgao Lake admeasuring 427061 sq. mts., includes 50m. buffer and the properties surveyed under the following Survey Nos.

Taluka/Village	Survey No./ /Sub-Div. No.	Approximate Area in sq. mts.	Survey No./ /Sub-Div. No.	Approximate Area in sq. mts.
Bicholim/Lamgao	Buffer Zone			
	18/4	3200	18/5(P)	183
	18/6(P)	626	22/6(P)	6219
	23/3(P)	3752	23/4(P)	4567
	24/1(P)	121	24/3(P)	471
	26(P)	2942		
	Total	22081		
Bicholim/Lamgao	Zone of Influence			
	18/1(P)	11090	18/2(P)	9640
	18/3(P)	5830	18/5(P)	215
	18/7(P)	161	20/1(P)	32441
	21/1(P)	24678	22/1	5450
	22/2(P)	28788	Nalla/2(P)	532
	Nalla/3(P)	26943	Nalla/3(P)	162
	Nalla/4(P)	20294	Nalla/4(P)	74
	Nalla/5(P)	23869	Nalla/5(P)	79
	Nalla/6(P)	155647	Nalla/7	21750
	Nalla/8	400	Nalla/9	625
	Nalla/10	1425	23/1	2800
	23/2	12325	23/3(P)	1258
	23/4(P)	169	24/1(P)	2271
	23/2	1425	23/3(P)	1689
	26(P)	91	27/1(P)	183
	Total	399304		
Bicholim/Borda	Survey No./ /Sub-Div. No.	Approximate Area in sq. mts.	Survey No./ /Sub-Div. No.	Approximate Area in sq. mts.
	23/1(P)	834	23/3(P)	762
	23/6(P)	439	31/3-A(P)	173
	31/3(P)	109	31/4(P)	3359
	Total	5676		
Grand Total	427061			

The map of the wetland mean high flood level (depicted as a blue line) of the Said Lamgao Lake with the Zone of influence is at Annexure I. (For an enlarged map to scale kindly visit <https://gswa.goa.gov.in/>)

1.4. For the purpose of this wetland known as the Said Lamgao Lake the same is located within revenue village of Lamgao.

1.5. For the purpose of this wetland known as the Said Lamgao Lake the Zone of Influence is located within revenue village of Lamgao and Bordem.

Schedule II: List of activities prohibited within wetland boundary

1. Conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
2. Setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries; with the exception of modernization of existing industries which will not affect the ecological balance of the wetland under consideration.

3. Manufacture and/or handling and/or storage and/or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008; Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 and other Acts and Rules as notified by Central Government and State Government applicable to wetlands and amendments thereof;

4. Solid waste dumping and plastic waste dumping covered under Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and amendments thereof;

5. Discharge of untreated Wastes, Chemical Fertilizers, Pesticides, Effluents and any other chemicals effecting the ecological character of the wetland from Industries, Cities, Towns, Villages and any other Human settlements and/or activities;

6. Any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty meters (demarcated as a buffer zone on Annexure-I) from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules;

7. Poaching and illegal hunting covered Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and amendments thereof;

8. Extraction of soil, mud, rock and sand for commercial purposes.

[Any other activity other than mentioned above if taken up in the surrounding area that will have a direct or an indirect adverse effect on the ecological character of the wetland including water quality the same shall be prohibited.]

Schedule III: List of activities regulated within the boundary of wetland and its zone of influence and for which prior approval of [State Government/UT Administration/MoEFCC] is required to be obtained

Activity	Regulations	
	Within the boundary of wetland as shown in Annexure I	Within the zone of influence as shown in Annexure I
Cultivation of crops	Prohibited within the Wetland boundry	Existing traditional crop cultivation practices in the lowlying areas within the buffer will be allowed.
Plantation of trees	Prohibited	Planting indigeous trees permitted in buffer and zone of influence, excluding water channel.
Grazing and wallowing	Regulated	Permitted.

Approval of the GSWA shall be obtained for any other activity proposed to be conducted other than those mentioned above which may adversely affect ecological character of wetland.

Schedule IV: List of activities permitted within the boundary of wetlands and its zone of influence

Activity	Levels and types not requiring permission	
	Within the boundary of the wetland as shown in Annexure I	Within the zone of influence as shown in Annexure I
Withdrawal of water	Withdrawal of water by community by ensuring sustainble measures and without over extraction subject to approval of WRD and GSWA	Permitted in consultation with local Biodiversity Management Committee and local Village Panchayat. Need to ensure no contamination of any type is allowed which serves as a source of degrading quality and ecological character of wetland.

Goa government completes first phase of auction of iron ore mining blocks

PTI Last Updated: Dec 22, 2022, 01:38:00 PM IST

Synopsis

The industry, which used to be one of the major revenue earners for the state, had come to a standstill in 2018 after the Supreme Court quashed 88 mining leases. "The first phase of auctioning of the mining blocks has been completed. All the four blocks are assigned to the successful bidders," a senior DMG official told PTI.



The [Goa](#) government has completed the first phase of auction of mining blocks with four companies winning bids for the extraction of ore from different mineral rich stretches of the coastal state, an official said on Thursday. The state Directorate of Mines and Geology ([DMG](#)) had conducted the e-auctioning process which will pave way for the resumption of the state's iron ore mining industry in the state.

The industry, which used to be one of the major revenue earners for the state, had come to a standstill in 2018 after the [Supreme Court](#) quashed 88 mining leases.

"The first phase of auctioning of the mining blocks has been completed. All the four blocks are assigned to the successful bidders," a senior DMG official told PTI.

He said [Vedanta Limited](#) had won the bid for Bicholim-Mulgao mining [block](#) (North Goa) which has got more than 84

million tonnes of the iron [ore reserve](#).

"Salgaocar Shipping Company Pvt Ltd won the bid for Shirigao-Mayem mineral Block in North Goa. The mine has more than 24 million tonnes of ore reserve," he said.

Goa's Rajaram Bandekar Pvt Ltd successfully bid for Monte-de-Sirigao mining block (North Goa) that has 10 million tonnes of ore available for extraction, the official said.

The fourth Block comprising [Kalay](#) Mines (South Goa) was won by [Sociedade De Fomento Industries Private Limited](#). The mine has got 16.731 million tonnes of iron ore in the unexplored lease area of 75 hectares, he said.

The Directorate of Mines and Geology, through the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation, had on September 30, 2022 invited tenders to e-auction four mining blocks - Mulgao, Sirigao-Mayem and Monte-de-Sirigao, all in Bicholim taluka, and Kalay mine in Sanguem taluka.

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London
Stock Exchange Group

Vedanta's Billions

Regulatory failure,
environment &
human rights

FOIL VEDANTA
2018

Authored by

Samarendra Das, Foil Vedanta

With contributions from:

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Haryana High court, Fatima Babu – Anti Sterlite People’s Movement

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Anthropologist, C P Babel - Secretary, Ex/ Officers Association, HZL, Rajasthan, Atillah Springer, Gurinder
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Foil Vedanta

Contents

Introduction	3
Sterlite Copper: Vedanta in Thoothukudi	8
Konkola Copper Mines, Zambia	10
Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd (BALCO), Chhattisgarh	11
Vedanta Limited - Sesa Goa Iron Ore Division	13
Vedanta Aluminium Limited (VAL), Odisha	14
Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), Rajasthan	17
Talawandi Sabo Power Limited (TSPL), Punjab	18
Other scandals affecting Vedanta Resources	19
The City of London	22
References	24

Introduction

Vedanta Resources Plc [LON: VED] is a London listed FTSE 250 diversified natural resources company with a market cap of US\$ 2.922 billion (August 6, 2018), controlled and owned by Anil Agarwal and his family with a 66.87% shareholding, and 36 major shareholders with 31.38%. Vedanta Limited [VEDL] is the principal operating group listed on both the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited (BSE) with market capitalisation of US\$ 12.1 billion¹, and American Depository Receipts listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). Vedanta subsidiary Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) [HINDZINC], a BSE and NSE listed company, is the world's second largest zinc producer, and the world's 15th largest mining company with market capitalisation of US\$ 17.5 billion.²

The Vedanta group produces copper, zinc, aluminium, lead, silver, gold, iron ore, oil & gas and commercial energy and has a presence through 12 major subsidiaries and 81 companies in India, Sri Lanka, Zambia, Namibia, South Africa, UAE, Ireland, Liberia and Australia.

On 24 May 2018 thirteen people including women and children were shot dead, 217 injured, and nine disabled for life³ in a police firing during a major rally to mark 100 days of continual protest against Vedanta's copper smelter in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, India. On 24 March 2018 thousands of locals had taken part in a protest against pollution in the town.⁴ The tragedy at Tuticorin is the latest in a history of legal violations, human rights and environmental abuses associated with Vedanta, which is faced with protests at many of its operations.

This report summarises the key violations, with reference to important legal judgments and evidence. Its purpose is to inform governments, parliamentarians, regulatory bodies and investors who may be concerned with the company's behaviour.

Vedanta Resources was launched on the London Stock Exchange in 2003, raising nearly \$1 billion at its Initial Public Offering (IPO). The Department of International Development (DfID) supported the launch, and Vedanta's alumina refinery in Odisha was promoted by the UK government's Department of Trade and Industry. According to a report prepared for the City of London Corporation⁵, a London listing allows access to 'an enormous pool of capital' and tracker funds, as well as the reputational advantage associated with London's perceived high standards of transparency and corporate governance. The proceeds from Vedanta's IPO were used to support the expansion of aluminium producing subsidiary BALCO, provide initial funding for the Orissa alumina refinery project, and fund the acquisition of a further 3.5% of HZL's share capital. Vedanta became a FTSE 100 company in 2006, but slid to FTSE 250 in 2013 following the banning of its flagship Niyamgiri bauxite mine in East India after years of protests and court proceedings by the Dongria Kondh tribe.

The Agarwal family controlled 69.9% of the shares until recently, with corporate governance implications for minority shareholders. Anil's brother Navin Agarwal is an Executive Director, and his son Agnivesh Agarwal is a Director of several Vedanta subsidiaries. Anil Agarwal has been a top donor to the Conservative and Labour parties in the UK, and a major donor to both Congress and BJP parties in India from 2004 – 2012, until the

donations were found to be unconstitutional in 2014.

Vedanta Directors have included former High Commissioner of India - Sir David Gore-Booth, former Finance Minister of India - P. Chidambaram, former Home Secretary of India and Indian Ambassador to the USA (who also appeared as counsel for Vedanta in a recent case⁶), Naresh Chandra, mining mogul and former BHP Billiton CEO - Brian Gilbertson, former Rio Tinto CEO - Tom Albanese, and former Anglo American CEO - Cynthia Carroll. Former J. P. Morgan banker and one of the most well known dealmakers in London, Ian Hannam, advised on Vedanta's listing as well as many of the City's largest mining IPOs including Xstrata, BHP Billiton and Kazakhmys.

One of Vedanta's attractions for investors is its, often heralded, low cost operations. This report demonstrates that Vedanta has a consistent modus operandi across its subsidiaries, which includes: operating without appropriate permissions, failing to install or upkeep pollution control equipment, poor health and safety standards leading to a high rate of death and injury, and other corner cutting practices.

Vedanta has been the subject of a number of campaigns by various organisations in the UK since 2003, as well as four Early Day Motions in the UK parliament, and several parliamentary debates concerning its human rights and corporate governance abuses. Most recently, on 25th May 2018, Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell issued a statement accusing Vedanta of "operating illegal mining concerns, trashing the environment and forcibly evicting local people". He went on to say:

"After the massacre of the protestors this week, regulators must now take action. Vedanta must be immediately delisted from the London Stock Exchange to remove its cloak of respectability, restore confidence in the governance of the Stock Exchange, and prevent further reputational damage to London's financial markets from this rogue corporation."

The Norwegian Government Pension Fund divested in 2007. In 2016 Vedanta asked the fund to reconsider its decision on the grounds that it had improved. However the fund upheld its original decision based on an assessment of four of the company's subsidiaries: Sterlite Copper, Bharat Aluminium Company, Lanjigarh Alumina and Konkola Copper Mines, and concluded that there was 'an unacceptable risk that your company will cause or contribute to severe environmental damage and serious or systematic human rights violations'.⁷

In 2011 the former Director of the Confederation of British Industries, Richard Lambert, stated;

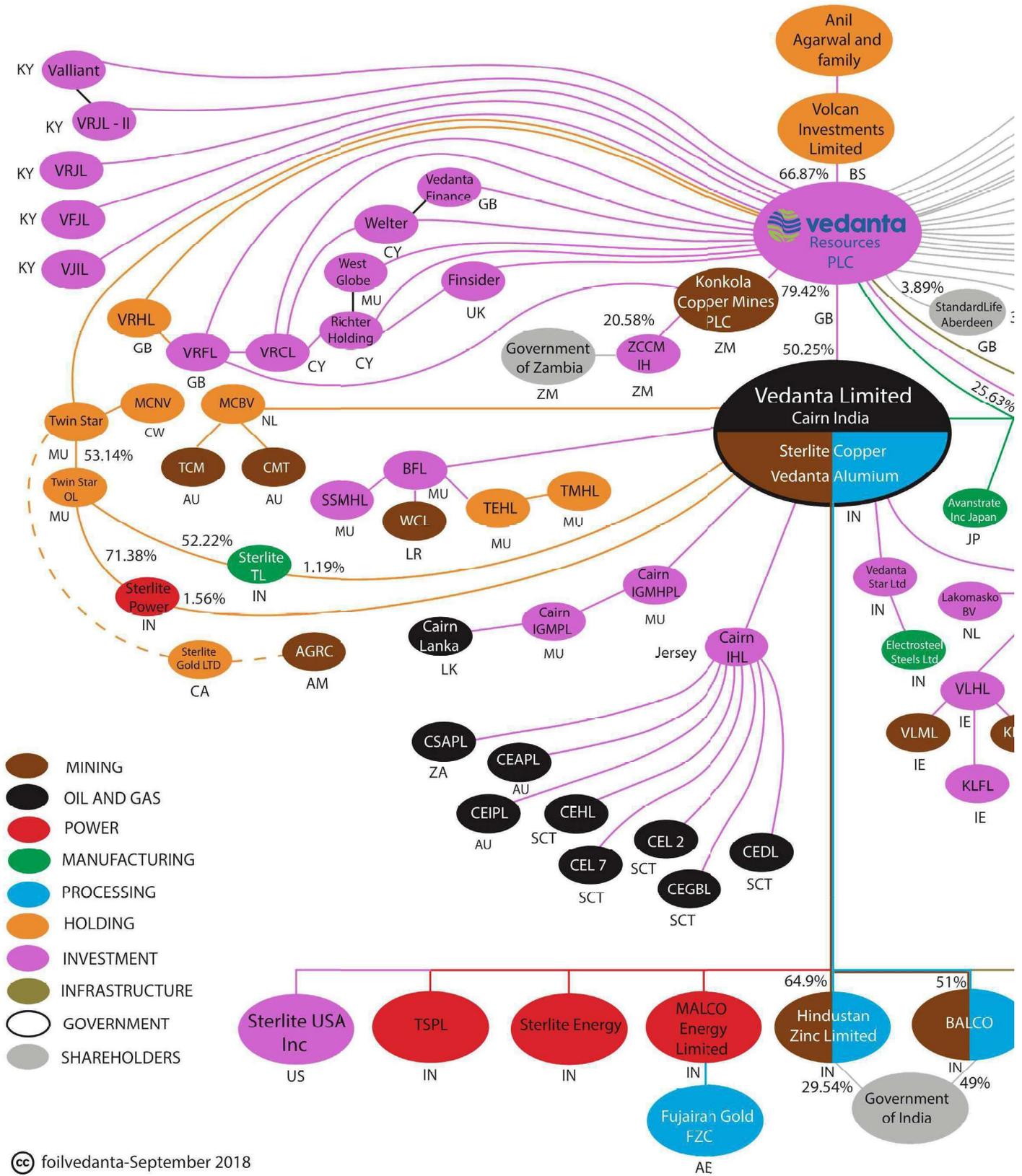
*"It never occurred to those of us who helped launch the FTSE 100 index 27 years ago that one day it would be providing a cloak of respectability and lots of passive investors for companies that challenge the canons of corporate governance, such as Vedanta, ENRC, Kazakhmys, Fresnillo. Perhaps it is time for those responsible for the index to rethink its purpose."*⁸

In India, Vedanta was the beneficiary of three State owned companies as part of India's National Mineral Policy of liberalisation and privatisation of the mining sector, which began in 1993, and has attracted criticism for corruption in the pricing and allocation of assets. Vedanta acquired the State owned Madras Aluminium Company Limited

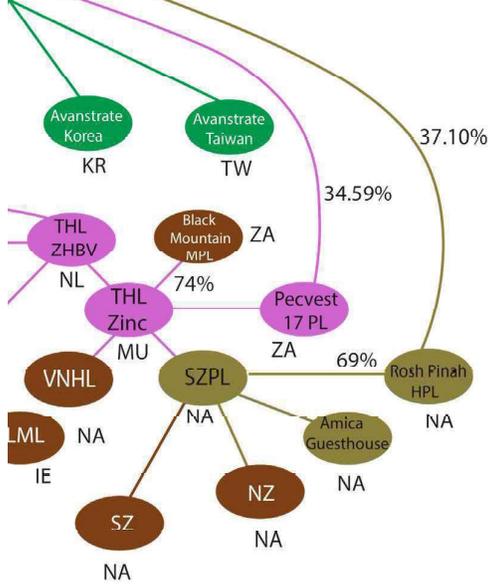
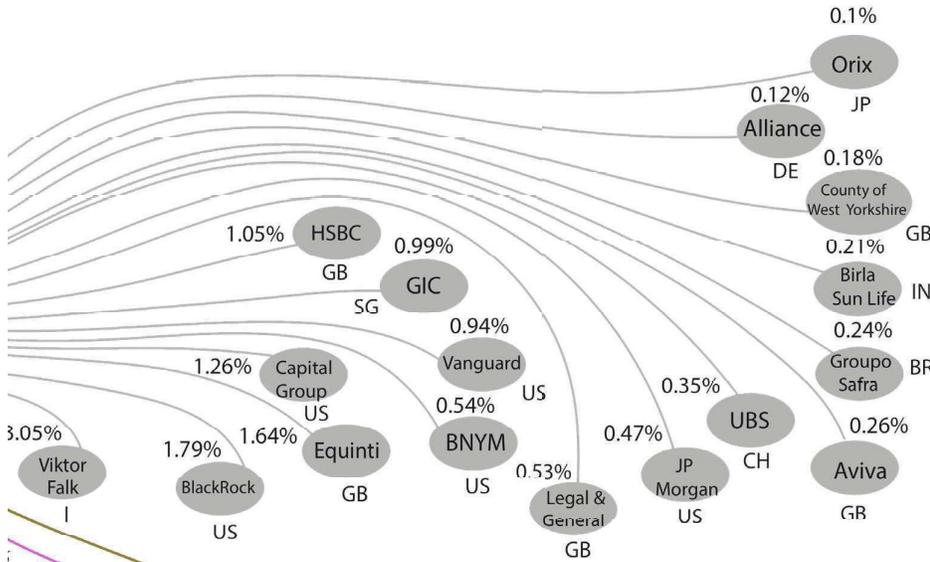
(MALCO), followed by the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) in March 2001.⁹ The gross undervaluing of BALCO has since been confirmed by the Comptroller Auditor General of India (Report No 17 of 2006).¹⁰ The publicly owned Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) was sold to Sterlite group (now Vedanta) during the tenure of the BJP-led NDA coalition amid further financial irregularities.¹¹

Despite these concerns neither the London Stock Exchange nor its regulator the Financial Conduct Authority have investigated or imposed any fines or restrictions on Vedanta since its 2003 listing. Arguably the Exchange also failed to carry out proper due diligence into the company, which had already been the subject of several major legal judgments before listing - for stock market abuse in India, as well as tax evasion and pollution in Armenia - as this report will detail.

Analysts often comment on Vedanta's complex corporate structure, with a large number of shell companies and investment holding firms located in tax havens.¹² The graph on the following pages describes the current corporate structure as fully as possible.

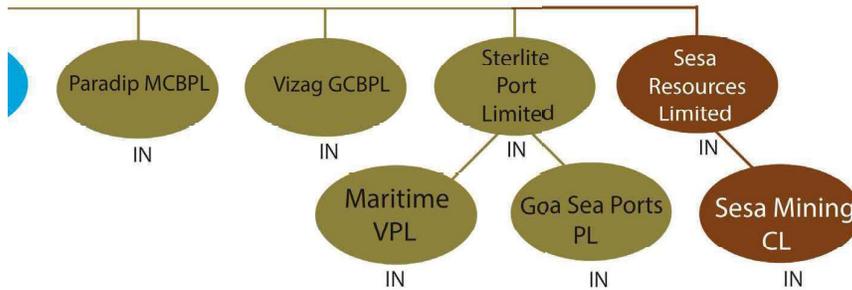


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ISO Country Codes

- AE United Arab Emirates
- AM Armenia
- AU Australia
- BR Brazil
- BS Bahamas
- CA Canada
- CH Switzerland
- CW Curacao
- CY Cyprus
- DE Germany
- GB Great Britain
- I Individual
- IE Ireland
- IN India
- JP Japan
- KR South Korea
- KY Cayman Islands
- LK Sri Lanka
- LR Liberia
- MU Mauritius
- NA Namibia
- NL Netherlands
- SCT Scotland
- SG Singapore
- TW Taiwan
- US United States of America
- ZA South Africa
- ZM Zambia



- Amica Guesthouse:** Amica Guesthouse (Pty) Ltd
- BALCO:** Bharat Aluminium Company Limited
- BFL:** Bloom Fountain Limited
- Cairn IGMHPL:** CIG Mauritius Holdings Private Limited
- Cairn IGMPL:** CIG Mauritius Private Limited
- Cairn IHL:** Cairn India Holdings Limited
- Cairn Lanka:** Cairn Lanka Private Limited
- CEAPL:** Cairn Energy Australia Pty Limited(6)
- CEDL:** Cairn Energy Discovery Limited
- CEIPL:** Cairn Energy India Pty Limited
- CEGBL:** Cairn Energy Gujarat Block 1 Limited
- CEHL:** Cairn Energy Hydrocarbons Ltd
- CEL2:** Cairn Exploration (No. 2) Limited
- CEL7:** Cairn Exploration (No. 7) Limited(6)
- CMT:** Copper Mines Of Tasmania Pty Limited
- CSAPL:** Cairn South Africa Pty Limited
- Finsider:** Finsider International Company Limited
- KLFL:** Killoran Lisheen Finance Limited
- KLML:** Killoran Lisheen Mining Limited
- Maritime VPL:** Maritime Ventures Private Limited
- MCBV:** Monte Cello BV Holding company
- MCNV:** Monte Cello Corporation NV
- MEL:** MALCO Energy Limited
- NZ:** Skorpion Mining Company (Pty) Limited
- Pecvest 17 PL:** Pecvest 17 Proprietary Ltd.
- Paradiip MCBPL:** Paradiip Multi Cargo Berth Private Limited
- Richter:** Richter Holding Limited
- Rosh Pinah HPL:** Rosh Pinah Healthcare (Pty) Ltd
- Sesa Mining CL:** Sesa Mining Corporation Limited
- SIL:** Sterlite Infracore Limited
- SPL:** Sterlite Port Limited
- SRL:** Sesa Resources Limited
- SSMHL:** Sesa Sterlite Mauritius Holdings Limited
- SZ:** Namzinc (Pty) Limited
- SZPL:** Skorpion Zinc (Pty) Limited
- TCM:** Thalanga Copper Mines Pty Limited
- TEHL:** Twin Star Energy Holdings Limited
- THL ZHBV:** THL Zinc Holding BV
- TSPL:** Talwandi Sabo Power Limited
- TMHL:** Twin Star Mauritius Holdings Limited
- Twin Star:** Twin Star Holdings Limited
- Valliant:** Valliant (Jersey) Limited
- Vedanta Finance:** Vedanta Finance UK Limited
- Vizag GCBPL:** Vizag General Cargo Berth Private Limited
- VFJL:** Vedanta Finance (Jersey) Limited
- VJIL:** Vedanta Jersey Investments Limited
- VLHL:** Vedanta Lisheen Holdings Limited
- VLML:** Vedanta Lisheen Mining Limited
- VNHL:** THL Zinc Namibia Holdings (Pty) Limited
- VRCL:** Vedanta Resources Cyprus Limited
- VRFL:** Vedanta Resources Finance Limited
- VRHL:** Vedanta Resources Holding Limited
- VRJL:** Vedanta Resources Jersey Limited
- VRJL-II:** Vedanta Resources Jersey II Limited
- WCL:** Western Cluster Limited
- Welter:** Welter Welter Trading Limited
- Westglobe:** Westglobe Limited

Ownership structure

Sterlite Copper: Vedanta in Thoothukudi

On 9 April 2018, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) rejected Vedanta Ltd's application for renewal of the operating license for its 1200 tonne per day copper plant at Thoothukudi in southern India. On 28 May 2018, after mass protests against Sterlite's pollution ended in police firings killing 13 protestors, the Government of Tamil Nadu conveyed its decision to permanently shutdown the industry. This is the fifth time that the plant has been shut down for violating environmental regulations.¹³

On 23 April 2018, the Madras High Court issued an injunction restraining Vedanta Ltd from constructing an additional factory of the same size, following which the land allocation for the proposed unit was withdrawn. In this instance, Vedanta had obtained its Environmental Clearance bypassing the mandatory public consultation. Units coming up within notified industrial estates are exempt from public consultation, but Vedanta falsely claimed that it was located within a notified industrial estate to obtain its clearance.¹⁴

Vedanta's operations in Thoothukudi are mired in illegalities

In 2004 the company constructed an entire smelter complex of 900 tpd without statutory 'Consent to Establish'.¹⁵ The unlicensed expansion was questioned by the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee on Hazardous Wastes on 21 September 2004. A Committee constituted by TNPCB¹⁶ found that the plant had already been constructed without obtaining mandatory Consent to Establish under Air and Water Acts.

In 2006 it obtained permission to expand its production to the current capacity of 1200 tpd on the basis of a false claim that it had adequate land – 172 hectares for expansion and additional environmental protection infrastructure. The company only has 102.4 ha. and faces the risk of criminal prosecution for fraud and violation of environmental law.¹⁷

Between 1996 and the present, the company has expanded its copper production capacity 10-fold within the same land area by cutting corners on pollution control. The environmental clearance for this expansion requires the company to develop a greenbelt covering 43 ha out of 172 ha. As the required 172 ha itself is not available, this statutory condition has not been complied with.¹⁸ The height of the chimney stacks should also have increased with increasing production, but have remained at a constant 60 metres despite the ten-fold expansion, with serious consequences for pollution of the neighbouring town.¹⁹

In 2013, following a gas leak which is alleged to have killed 1 person, as well as hospitalised up to 100²⁰, the Supreme Court of India found the company guilty of serious environmental violations. It noted that:

“The NEERI reports²¹ of 1998, 1999, 2003 and 2005 show that the plant of the appellant did pollute the environment through emissions which did not conform to the standards laid down by the TNPCB under the Air Act and through discharge of effluent which did not conform to the standards laid down by the TNPCB under the Water Act”.

“On account of some of these deficiencies, TNPCB did not renew the consent to operate for some periods and yet the appellants continued to operate its plant without such renewal.”

“For such damages caused to the environment from 1997 to 2012 and for operating the plant without a valid renewal for a fairly long period, the appellant-company obviously is liable to compensate by paying damages”.

*“Considering the magnitude, capacity and prosperity of the appellant-company, we are of the view that the appellant-company should be held liable for a compensation of Rs.100 crores²² for having polluted the environment in the vicinity of its plant and for having operated the plant without a renewal of the consents by the TNPCB for a fairly long period and according to us, any less amount, would not have the desired deterrent effect on the appellant-company”.*²³

The Supreme Court order and fine had little effect on Vedanta. It continued to operate its plant in violation of the law, by handling, transporting and disposing hazardous wastes without valid authorisation.²⁴

The company has also been pulled up for dumping 350,000 tonnes of copper slag in, and on the banks of, the River Uppar in Thoothukudi. This directly caused heavy flooding in upstream areas in 2015.²⁵

Samples of groundwater taken by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board as recently as in March 2018 revealed that all fifteen groundwater sources were heavily contaminated with neurotoxic lead, ranging between 4 and 55 times higher than safe levels prescribed in the Bureau of Indian Standards. Fluoride levels were also above desirable levels in three out of fifteen locations²⁶.

On 23rd July the Minister of State for Water Resources confirmed in parliament that the Central Ground Water Board had carried out a study to ascertain the ground water quality in and around the Sterlite plant finding that ‘most of the ground water samples are contaminated with high TDS and heavy metals like Lead, Cadmium, Manganese, Iron and Arsenic, which are beyond permissible limits of BIS Standards for drinking water (IS:10500 of 2012).’²⁷

In 2008 a report by the Department of Community Medicine, Tirunelveli Medical College²⁸ and other studies in this area showed increased cases of respiratory diseases (13.9%) and eczematous skin lesions (1.38%). Women in this region have more menstrual disorders, like menorrhagia and dysmenorrhea. Disorders of the Joint and Musculoskeletal system are also significantly elevated in the villages.²⁹

In July 2010 Sterlite’s Vice President of Finance Mr Varadarajan was sent to jail for Rs.746-crore (approximately US \$109 million) excise duty evasion. He was later freed following a contempt of court case.³⁰

Konkola Copper Mines, Zambia

Vedanta Resources bought a 51% controlling stake in Zambia's largest copper mine, Konkola Copper Mines (KCM), in 2004, increasing their share to 79.4% in 2005. In 2006 a tailings pipe burst, releasing highly acidic waste into local tributaries of the River Kafue. In 2011 the Zambian High Court awarded \$2 million to 2,001 claimants for damage to health and livelihood following the incident. In his ruling Justice Musonda found KCM guilty of 'gross recklessness' and turning 'the residents of Chingola into Guinea Pigs'. He stated that KCM had acted with 'impunity and immunity' as they had been 'shielded from criminal prosecution by political connections and financial influence, which put them beyond the pale of criminal justice'.³¹ In April 2015 the Supreme Court upheld the guilty verdict against KCM but reduced the payable compensation to only 12 claimants who had medical records of injury.³² To date none of them have been able to claim due to a lack of legal representation.

Later that year 1,826 farmers and fishermen living along the most affected water bodies engaged British law firm Leigh Day to file a claim against both KCM and parent company, Vedanta Resources in the UK, for continual pollution of their land and water supplies since 2004.³³ The Environmental Council of Zambia recorded another serious pollution incident in 2010 for which some villagers were compensated by KCM. A 2011 academic study³⁴ found that copper, cobalt, arsenic and lead concentrations in the Mushishima stream exceeded international limits. A 2014 report by the Auditor General of Zambia based on the KCM's own monitoring reports from 2009-2011, showed levels of copper, iron and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) consistently above statutory limits, and in some cases 100-200 times higher, flowing into local streams.³⁵ A 2010 report by Engineering firm SNC-Lavalin refers to 'constant contamination of streams with acid, solids and copper', and found that the main pollution control dam is often full to capacity and ineffective.³⁶

In April 2016 a High Court ruling granted the claimants jurisdiction to have their case against KCM and Vedanta heard in the UK, citing KCM's uncertain and opaque finances as one reason they may not be able to get justice in Zambia.³⁷ The Court of Appeal later upheld this verdict. Vedanta have now appealed the decision to the Supreme Court.³⁸

In April 2014 a video of Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal's speech to the Jain International Trade Organisation in Bangalore, in which he claimed that he was making between \$500 million and \$1 billion a year from KCM, went viral in Zambia³⁹, where KCM had filed annual losses over a number of years since 2004, hence avoiding paying taxes to the Zambian government.⁴⁰ A 2016 UNCTAD report detailed further evidence of widespread transfer mispricing and tax evasion by KCM.⁴¹ This has created serious mistrust between the government and the mining sector.⁴²

In July 2014 a London judgment in a commercial arbitration between KCM and U&M Mining found evidence of related party trading on 'less than commercial terms' and exorbitant 'management fees' paid to the parent company, constituting possible tax evasion. Justice Eder also found that Vedanta Resources had not invested in KCM as claimed, and instead KCM had been 'effectively mortgaged' by loans taken against all its assets.⁴³ In 2017 the London Commercial Court ordered KCM to pay Zambian government investment arm ZCCM-Investments Holdings Plc \$139 million of unpaid sums under a copper and cobalt price participation agreement dating back to 2004.⁴⁴

Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd (BALCO), Chhattisgarh

Recognised as India's worst industrial accident since the Bhopal gas disaster, Vedanta subsidiary BALCO's⁴⁵ 1200KW thermal power plant chimney at Korba, Chhattisgarh, central India, collapsed in September 2009 while under construction. Forty construction workers are known to have been killed, though according to eyewitness reports, there are allegedly more buried under the chimney.⁴⁶

After the collapse, engineers and officers from Chinese company Shandong Electro Power Construction Company (SEPCO) and the Indian construction company Gannon Dunkerly Construction Limited (GDCL) fled the scene, and a BALCO office containing the records of all the low paid migrant contract workers allegedly burnt down the following day. Consequently there is no accurate record of who was working at the site at the time of the collapse although most of the contract labourers who died were tribal migrants from Jharkhand, or from poverty stricken villages in the states of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Four BALCO officers were arrested and charged with culpable manslaughter, but were released on bail and have never been brought to court.

Despite successive demands for an inquiry by shareholders at Vedanta's annual general meetings in London, the company has continued to absolve itself of responsibility by attributing the collapse to a freak lightning strike. This contradicts the findings of the independent two-year inquiry carried out by District and Sessions judge Sandeep Bakshi on behalf of the Chhattisgarh Government, which dismisses the theory, and found BALCO along with SEPCO and GDCL were culpable due to a catalogue of illegalities.⁴⁷ The Bakshi report found that BALCO failed to fulfill their responsibility for obtaining the requisite statutory and legal formalities and procedures, which was a major contributory factor to the chimney collapse. It said:

“All three companies seemed to be exclusively focused on maximizing their profits. None of them have bothered to consider whether a low cost chimney can be constructed to be stable and strong. Hence all the companies involved in the construction of collapsed Chimney (BALCO, SEPCO and GDCL) are equally responsible and liable for the mishap of the Chimney under construction”⁴⁸

The report also noted that the company monitoring site safety - Bureau Veritas India Limited (BVIL) - continually alerted BALCO to the shortcomings in safety but were consistently ignored.⁴⁹

The 122 page report of the inquiry was never published after Vedanta's lawyers succeeded in getting the Chhattisgarh High Court to place a stay on it based on the claim by BALCO's lawyers that the company had not been provided with “a reasonable opportunity to be heard”.⁵⁰ However the inquiry report shows considerable pages dedicated to reporting the evidence of BALCO. Page 107 of the inquiry report states:

“Mr. Abhishek Sinha, learned counsel on the behalf of BALCO, Mr. Ashok Tiwari the learned counsel on the behalf of GDCL and on behalf of the Government, the Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Yeshwant Singh Thakur sincerely co-operated with the commission in all of its proceedings”.

Each year in subsequent Vedanta Resources Annual General Meetings in London former CEO Tom Albanese

has promised shareholders that an enquiry would be forthcoming. However this has not happened.⁵¹

Prior to chimney construction, BALCO received notices from the Chhattisgarh Forest Department telling them that it was being illegally built on protected forestland without permission. Similar notices were sent by the Revenue Department, the Town Planning Department and the Korba Municipal Corporation. The latter sent notices on 05/02/2008 and 17/06/2008 ordering BALCO to stop construction within 3 days or the building would be dismantled by the authorities. A similar notice was sent on 12/08/08 stating:

*“We have still not issued the necessary permissions. By starting construction without necessary clearances you have violated penal code 293, [1956]. According to penal code 3307 we order you to stop any further construction without permission of the MCP or we will have to dismantle any further construction, and initiate legal proceedings against you”.*⁵²

In September 2017 Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board (CGECB) issued a notice for the closure of the thermal power plant after a major breach in its ash dam wall.⁵³ But this was not heeded by BALCO.



Protest condemning the Thoothukudi massacre in front of Anil Agarwal’s residence and headquarters of Vedanta Resources and erstwhile Sterlite Gold, at 44 Hill Street, Mayfair, London.

Photo: Selin George, 2018

Vedanta Limited - Sesa Goa Iron Ore Division

Vedanta Ltd (formerly known as Sesa Sterlite Ltd/Sesa Goa Ltd) is a majority-owned subsidiary of Vedanta Resources PLC with large iron ore mines in Goa, including the Codli and Sonshi Group of mines, the Narrain mines in Karnataka and a pig iron plant in Goa.⁵⁴

Navin Agarwal, its current Chairman, claims: “Our commitment towards implementing sustainable development and community initiatives makes me confident that Vedanta Ltd will continue to create significant value for all our stakeholders”. However recent decisions of the Indian Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal show that Vedanta Ltd’s Sesa Goa Iron Division corporate behaviour is exemplified by almost absolute illegality and a “total lack of concern for the environment and the health and well being of the denizens in the vicinity of the mines”.⁵⁵

The Supreme Court’s judgment⁵⁶ found that (amongst other illegalities), Vedanta Ltd’s iron ore mines in Goa had been operating illegally since 22nd November 2007 until mining was eventually halted on 12 September 2012. Four years later the Supreme Court upheld the finding in *The Goa Foundation vs M/S Sesa Sterlite Ltd. And Ors.* 2018(2) SCALE103, but also went on to consider other evidence which found:

“The State ignored the fact that every single mining lease holder had committed some illegality or the other in varying degrees”.

The Supreme Court finding that all mining was illegal in Goa for nearly five years is yet to be officially disclosed in India or the UK by the company, either to its shareholders, or to the London Stock Exchange. The value of the ore illegally extracted and exported between 2007-2012 by Vedanta Ltd is now legally recoverable due to the judgment. The value just from the year 2007 is estimated at Rs 20,924 crores (£2.3 billion).⁵⁷ However, there will also be amounts recoverable due to other illegalities not yet calculated, including mining outside the lease area, and mining areas with invalid environmental clearance and licenses. The levels of environmental and social degradation, including the effect on Sonshi School, can be clearly seen in a video taken in relation to Vedanta Ltd’s Sonshi Group of Mines.⁵⁸ There are cogent allegations that Vedanta Ltd has also mined illegally in Karnataka.⁵⁹

The Amona pig iron plant operated by Vedanta Ltd, was expanded illegally in order to circumvent environmental protection laws and is now causing pollution in the local area.⁶⁰ In *Ramchandra Vaman Vs. M/s. SESA Goa Ltd. & Others*, the National Green Tribunal, Delhi stated:

*“We dispose of the above application with the directions that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change to examine, if any, additional or further conditions that are required to be imposed on the Project Proponent for grant of Environmental Clearance particularly keeping in view of the facts that the two units which clearly appear to be distinct units and hardly fall within the ambit and scope of the word expression [expansion][sic] used in ‘EIA Notification 2006’”.*⁶¹

Therefore, it is clear Vedanta Ltd's mining in Goa has only benefitted the shareholders of Vedanta Resources Plc, and left the people of Goa with environmental, economic and social destruction, contrary to the claims made by the company on their website or annual reports.

Vedanta Alumina Limited (VAL), Odisha

The listing of Vedanta Resources plc on the London Stock Exchange in December 2003 was based on a fictitious assumption that Vedanta had already secured a bauxite reserve in Odisha, India.⁶² It was a watershed moment as Vedanta were the first Indian company to raise US\$ 825 million, and constituted the second largest listing on the London Stock Exchange in 2003, 'counting on several former Indian politicians and diplomats among its backers.'⁶³ The bauxite reserve in question was Niyamgiri (meaning literally the Mountain of Law), sacred to the Dongria Kond, a 'Scheduled Tribe' people of India.⁶⁴

The Initial Public Offering (IPO) was advised by J. P. Morgan plc with HSBC bank and J. P. Morgan Securities Ltd as joint book-runners. Mining dealmaker Ian Hannam from J. P. Morgan was in charge of the flotation and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and Amarchand & Mangaldas & Suresh A. Shroff & Co. were the legal advisers.⁶⁵

According to Brian Gilbertson who joined Vedanta as non-executive chairman after leaving Lonmin as a consultant⁶⁶,

*"At the time of the Listing, we committed ourselves to a four-pillar strategy... The second pillar of our strategy is to complete our two mega-projects, the 250,000 tpa Korba aluminium smelter at a capital cost of US\$900 million, and the one million tpa Orissa alumina refinery (capital cost US\$800 million)."*⁶⁷

The UK Department of Trade and Investment even advertised the Lanjigarh alumina refinery, built at the foot of Niyamgiri mountain to process its bauxite, as a sales opportunity for British manufacturing, as part of the aid-funded business project that was launched in September 1998.⁶⁸ But Vedanta did not bank on the considerable local and global resistance, which culminated in a 10 year protracted battle in various courts, leading to a referendum in which the Dongria Kond and other local people succeeded in stopping the mine.

The project to set up the one million tonne per annum alumina refinery along with 75 MW coal based captive power plant at Lanjigarh on 720 hectare land, was based on an application filed by Vedanta on 19 March 2003 to the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF)⁶⁹ which asked for environmental clearance, stating that 'no forest land was involved within an area of 10 kms' and de-linking it with the mining project.⁷⁰ Based on this fact, the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), the Supreme Court's own expert examination body, reported in September 2005 objecting to 'the clearance sought by Vedanta on the grounds that the Refinery would be totally dependent on mining of bauxite from Niyamgiri Hills, Lanjigarh, which was the only vital wildlife habitat, part of which constituted elephant corridor, and also on the ground that the said project would obstruct the proposed

wildlife sanctuary and the residence of tribes like Dongria Kondha'.⁷¹

After many further cases and expert reports, the Supreme Court's judgment of April 18th 2013 finally directed the Odisha government to hold a referendum in the Niyamgiri villages to resolve the question of whether the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (TFD), such as Dongria Konds, have religious rights over the Niyamgiri Hills, which would be affected by the mining project. The judgment concluded that:

“Needless to say, if the BMP (Bauxite Mining Project), in any way, affects their religious rights, especially their right to worship their deity, known as Niyam Raja, in the hills on top of the Niyamgiri range of hills, that right has to be preserved and protected.”⁷²

Following this order, the state government of Odisha selected 12 villages⁷³, seven from Rayagada and five from Kalahandi district, to decide whether proposed bauxite mining inside Niyamgiri hill range would infringe on their religious and cultural rights. In every village the vote was unanimously against the mine. The ruling was referred to the MoEF, and Environment Minister M. Veerappa Moily rejected Vedanta's bauxite mine on 8th January 2014. The referendum was hailed as a precedent victory for Free Prior and Informed Consent.⁷⁴

Despite this, in July 2014, a public hearing for the six fold expansion of the refinery project was disrupted and opposed by Dongria people⁷⁵ after the company's notification stated that 'bauxite would be sourced 3.5km away from the Lanjigarh refinery'. The implication that Vedanta have not given up on mining the Niyamgiri Hills despite the landslide victory for the local people raises concern about their credibility. Despite repeated denials at Vedanta AGMs in London that there is still any intention to eventually mine the mountain, the company has attempted to get the authorities to re-run the local referendum which stopped the project. Furthermore, there have been midnight raids and harassment of Dongria Kond women and other local activists who are opposed to the mining, including imprisonments based on false accusations that they are maoist insurgents, kidnappings of anti mining activist's children, and suicides as a result of pressure from the pro-mining lobby. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Eastern Region Special Rapporteur has recorded that the Lanjigarh police, acting on various complaints from Vedanta's employees and contractors during 2005-2010, had filed more than 65 cases against members of local communities and named at least 250 persons as accused in these cases.^{76 77}

A number of villages surrounding Vedanta's Lanjigarh plant have demanded rehabilitation and resettlement ever since Vedanta's refinery commenced operations in 2007. In 2010 the NHRC recommended that project-affected people of Bandaguda, Kothadwar, Rengopalli, Kenduguda, Sindhbaheli and other villages located close to the refinery should be resettled with assistance from the state government or Vedanta Aluminium. The Committee report confirmed that most of them have lost the bulk of their agricultural land and have not been provided with any alternative source of livelihood.⁷⁸

In January 2012, 47 Rengopali villagers were arrested while protesting against the Odisha government's July 2011 decision to take over 0.86 hectares of their common land for the Lanjigarh west red mud pond. They continue to face harassment by company officials and lawyers to vacate the area today. The villagers are now living within a few meters of the toxic red mud pond, and suffering chronic respiratory problems.⁷⁹ Furthermore, there have been

repeated breaches of the red mud ponds at Lanjigarh, with toxic spills in to the Vanshadhara river, but despite video evidence these have been consistently denied by the company.⁸⁰



Lanjigarh refinery: The iconic tall chimney for the planned 5mpta capacity expansion remains half built before environmental clearance was sought.

Photo: Mohammed Khalil, 2018⁸¹

While there is a case pending at the National Green Tribunal against the expansion of the Lanjigarh refinery⁸², their aluminium smelter in Jharsuguda has been mired in illegalities. It was alleged that Vedanta has obtained Environment Clearance for expansion of their aluminium smelter and captive power plant at Jharsuguda, Orissa on 11 June 2008 by suppressing the involvement of forest land in the project.⁸³ The recent ash pond disaster on 28 May 2017 that flooded a significant area of agricultural land, damaging crops and polluting the River Bheden, is one of the many cases that has caused huge resentment against the company in Jharsuguda.⁸⁴

Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), Rajasthan

Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) is a Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange (India) listed company in which Vedanta Ltd has a 64.92% controlling stake. It was one of the largest cash-rich and profit making public sector companies incorporated from the erstwhile Metal Corporation of India on 10 January 1966. In April 2002, Sterlite Opportunities and Ventures Limited (SOVL) acquired 26% of the company through the disinvestment of Government of India's (GOI) stake, and later acquired an additional 20% of publicly owned shares, thereby taking management control of HZL. In August 2003, SOVL acquired additional shares to the extent of 18.92% of the paid up capital from Government of India. Later on, SOVL merged with Sterlite Industries India Ltd in April 2011, which in turn merged with Sesa Goa Ltd to form Sesa Sterlite Limited in August 2013. Sesa Sterlite was renamed Vedanta Limited in April 2015. Hindustan Zinc is now a direct subsidiary of Vedanta Limited. The Government of India own 29.54%.⁸⁵

HZL owns an 8.5 million tonne reserve and resources rock phosphate mine near Maton which is now under investigation for illegal mining concerns. The Rajasthan state pollution control board has raised concerns about heavy metals and sulphates in wastewater samples and in the lagoons near Debari zinc smelter which exceed permitted limits, but their findings have been ignored by the company.⁸⁶

The Rajasthan High Court has directed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to complete an investigation into the two-year-old pending case against former mining secretary Ashok Singhvi and Vedanta after the hearing of a petition by lawyer Ajay Kumar Jain. Rock phosphate, as an essential mineral, is a monopoly of the state. The lease was granted to HZL when it was still a state-owned company on "condition that it would only sell to Rajasthan State Mines Minerals Ltd (RSMML), a state government undertaking." According to the ACB's preliminary probe, HZL has violated the government's lease terms, including operating without environment clearance, and inviting bids for mining and selling 100,000 metric tonnes of rock phosphate which was the sole right of RSMML.⁸⁷

Since 2003 there have been several public interest litigations filed by various individuals regarding the government's sale of HZL to what is now Vedanta Ltd. A preliminary enquiry by the Central Bureau of Intelligence (CBI) Jodhpur⁸⁸ against the undervaluing of HZL started in 2013 and was referred to the CBI head office in Delhi so that an FIR could be registered. This implied that the CBI considered the case to be bona fide with huge losses to the Exchequer, but it was discontinued following the election of Narendra Modi's BJP government in 2014.⁸⁹ The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed against the sell off of HZL in 2014 has renewed the concern of undervaluation which was dismissed by the Supreme Court of India earlier.⁹⁰ Though further divestment by the government was legally stayed in 2016⁹¹, the PIL is still to be heard.⁹²

Talwandi Sabo Power Limited (TSPL), Punjab

Vedanta Ltd was selected as the developer of a 1980MW power plant in Mansa district, Punjab, to supply power to Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB) for 25 years. The plant was constructed on 2100 acres of land and is the largest green field investment in Punjab. It is also the largest private sector investment in the state of Punjab and claims to be the “Greenest Thermal Power Plant in North India”.

Various farmer organisations opposed the acquisition on the grounds that the agricultural land was fertile with good irrigation, although it was described as barren by the Punjab Government and Vedanta. Protests were curbed by implicating the protesters in false legal cases.⁹³ Almost all of these ended in acquittal. The farmers have claimed that compensation paid for their land was much lower than market value. They have filed an appeal before the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh. No efforts whatsoever were made for the rehabilitation of the small landowners.⁹⁴

The land was acquired by the government of Punjab on the basis that it would be for its own use rather than for a private company. Under the Land acquisition Act 1894 the considerations of ownership by a private company would have been more stringent. Local people feel they were misled.⁹⁵

There has been loss of access to common resources and other valuable assets such as tube wells, houses and trees, which adversely affects the poorer and Dalit locals. Their right to access this land was protected under law.⁹⁶ The rural economy (especially of the landless people) depends upon the income generated from the sale of milk as well as other animal products, but cattle directly eat the fodder growing in the contaminated soil, and drink untreated ground water and pond water. Many have lost their cattle to diseases. Sand dunes which previously acted as flood defenses were bulldozed during the plant’s construction, resulting in an increase in flooding in the region.⁹⁷ None of the required public hearings or consultations were held with the community to get Environmental Clearance.

There are complaints from local residents that at night the plant releases ash into the air, which settles on houses, crops, cattle and water bodies. People have also complained of respiratory problems, itching and burning eyes, headaches and rashes on the body. The number of cancer patients in the adjoining area is alarmingly high.⁹⁸

There have been serious allegations behind the power agreements entered between the (then) Punjab government and Talwandi Sabo Power Limited (TSPL). While government operated thermal plants are being closed, the government has agreed to buy the power at much higher rates than the market price.⁹⁹

Other scandals affecting Vedanta Resources

Government probes in Armenia and Azerbaijan:

In 1998, Sterlite (via offshore entity Twin Star Holdings in Mauritius) acquired a major stake in First Dynasty Mines Ltd [TSX: FDM], controlled by mining magnate Robert Friedland, in a deal arranged by current Vedanta strategy adviser, Canadian lawyer - John Kolada. Through First Dynasty, Sterlite Gold [TSX: SGD] (a Canadian listed company)¹⁰⁰ took over mining rights at the Zod and Meghradzor gold mines in Armenia in 2002. Within several years Sterlite Gold's subsidiary, the Ararat Gold Recovery Company (AGRC), faced protests over outsourcing of jobs and working conditions as well as issues over threat of pollution of Lake Sevan, the main potable water reservoir for the country. In 2004 the Armenian government accused AGRC of tax evasion and failure to report profits, and later froze the company's assets as well as imposing \$58 million in fines, following an investigation.^{101 102} A 2007 cable published by Wikileaks from the American Embassy in Armenia to Washington stated:

AGRC has a poor reputation in Armenia as an exploitative company that does not protect workers' rights. Vedanta and Anil Agarwal also have a poor reputation internationally and it is plausible that AGRC may have been involved in tax evasion and underreporting profits.¹⁰³

Vedanta were also accused of illegal mining by the Government of Azerbaijan, who claimed part of the lease area was in Azeri territory, located in the disputed, and geostrategic, Nagorno-Karabkh region, and asked the Indian government to intervene.¹⁰⁴

The Armenian operations were subsequently sold to Russian-Georgian firm GeoProMining Ltd [GPM] (which was already linked to Vedanta via shared directorships¹⁰⁵) in abnormal circumstances in October 2007.¹⁰⁶

Sterlite Gold also obtained mining rights in Myanmar in 1997 when the country's mining sector was first opened to foreign investors.¹⁰⁷

Insider trading

Vedanta's predecessor Sterlite Industries was indicted in 1998 and 2001 for illegal insider trading on the Bombay Stock Exchange by the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in a share price rigging scam involving 'promoter' Harshad Mehta, who had earlier been found guilty of defrauding the State Bank of India of five billion rupees. It was banned from trading in the Bombay Stock Exchange for three years. Sterlite later appealed the ruling and stayed proceedings, but the SEBI are currently appealing this decision to the Security Appellate Tribunal.^{108 109 110 111} Sterlite was also declared by the Enforcement Directorate to be violating the rules requiring companies to repatriate assets back to India.¹¹²

Asarco scandal

In 2012 Vedanta subsidiary Sterlite was ordered to pay US mining and processing company Asarco LLC \$82.75 million in damages for failing to complete their acquisition of the firm.¹¹³

Mergers and Acquisitions

In March 2017 Anil Agarwal acquired a 12.4% stake in Anglo American, via his holding company, Volcan Investments, and later increased his stake to 20%, making him Anglo's biggest shareholder and sparking speculation about his plans to merge Vedanta with the company. In July 2016 Agarwal joined Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his envoy to South Africa, demonstrating his Indian state backing.

On April 25th 2018 Vedanta incorporated Vedanta Star Ltd, a holding company under Vedanta Ltd. In June Vedanta Star placed the winning bid for bankrupt Indian steel manufacturer Electrosteel Steels Ltd (BSE/NSE) with Rs.3,500 (US \$510 million) crore borrowings from Standard Chartered Bank at 8.7 - 9.1% interest.

UK government lobbies for Vedanta

In 2011 Vedanta acquired oil and gas firm Cairn India from Scottish energy company Cairn Energy PLC despite resistance from the Indian government due to Vedanta's human rights and environmental record. A UK investigation revealed that officials in the Department for UK Trade and Investment lobbied Indian ministers to help push the deal through, after being approached by the Cairn Energy CEO. Prime Minister David Cameron even wrote to his Indian counterpart on the matter.¹¹⁴ Both Cairn Energy and Cairn India (now merged into Vedanta subsidiary Vedanta Ltd) are the subject of arbitration cases with the Indian Revenue Authority for failure to pay capital gains made on the transfer of Cairn India's assets.¹¹⁵

Vedanta subsidiary Cairn India has exploration rights for Block 1 in the South African Orange Basin Offshore oilfields in a joint venture with Petro SA. Vedanta Ltd is also developing Africa's largest zinc mine at Gamsberg mountain in the Northern Cape.

Fibre optic technology patent disputes

In 2002 OFS Fitel LLC [NASDAQ: OFS] filed proceedings against Sterlite Optical Technologies Inc [NSE: STRTECH] for infringement of patents covering a number of optical fibre technologies. The lawsuit was settled in 2010.¹¹⁶

In a separate case, Furukawa Electric North America Inc accused Sterlite Optical Technologies Inc [NSE:

STRTECH], alongside Sterlite India and Sterlite USA, of stealing patented fibre optic technology developed by Furukawa's predecessor Lucent Technologies in 2001. The case alleged that Sterlite USA had attempted to hire former Lucent employees after the company refused to grant them a patent in 1999.¹¹⁷

Financial manipulation

Sterlite's ex-VP of mergers and acquisitions, Mr Rajat Bhatia, was awarded £806,384.34 in compensation by an English employment tribunal, after being fired for raising concerns to Chairman Anil Agarwal, and an investment bank, that the information Sterlite was supplying about a \$5 million initiative for a proposed listing on NYSE was misleading and would breach its legal rules. Bhatia also raised concern that the proposed dilution of equity in an Australian company, Western Metals, would breach Australian legal rules. Bhatia had joined Sterlite on 24 April 2000 with a salary of US\$11,700.00 a month, before it was listed in LSE. The tribunal was told that Mr Agarwal threw a digital diary at him and threatened Mr Bhatia that:

"You have not seen my negative side and I will make sure that you do not have a place on this planet. I will destroy you".¹¹⁸

Divestment from Vedanta Resources

A number of shareholders have already divested from Vedanta Resources since its London listing due to human rights and ethical concerns, including the Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund^{119 120}, Scottish investment group Martin Currie¹²¹, the Church of England¹²², and Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.¹²³ A number of UK councils have been (and may still be) shareholders in Vedanta Resources PLC¹²⁴ and the Ireland National Pensions Reserve Funds hold a 0.05% share.

The City of London

The City of London, with its ‘colonial era links’¹²⁵, has been an important source of mining finance that operates at a level beyond political parties, maintaining London’s position as a top destination for many of the world’s largest mining companies such as Rio Tinto [LSE: RIO], BHP Billiton [LSE: BLT] and Anglo American [LSE: AAL].

According to one estimate there are 362 extractive companies on the London stock market, collectively worth \$1.6 trillion¹²⁶, more than the GDP of the world’s thirteenth largest economy. There are currently eight mining companies in the FTSE 100 and several more in the FTSE 250 through which vast quantities of pension and savings investments are exposed to some of the riskiest parts of the global economy, in which mining companies operate.¹²⁷

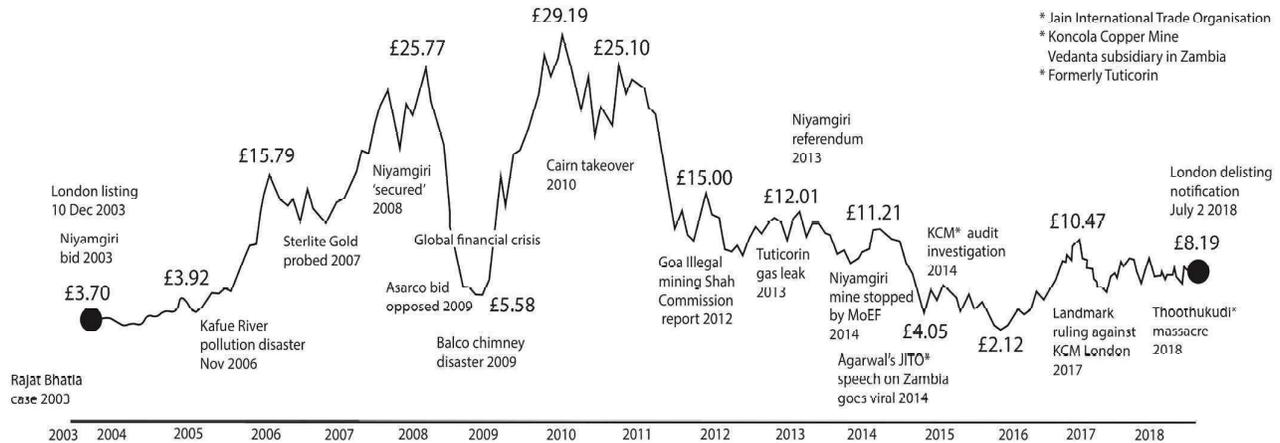
The fact that many of these mining companies have been linked to the murder or ‘massacre’ of activists - notably the Huancabamba-Cajamarca killings and torture in August 2005 (Monterrico Metals), Phulbari firing in August 2006 (GCM Resources), Kalinaganagar shootings in January 2006 (Tata Steel), Marikana massacre in August 2012 (Lonmin Plc), and the Thoothukudi massacre in May 2018 (Vedanta Resources) – should have set off alarm bells and sparked serious investigations in London.

There have also been a string of mining companies who, having benefited from the reputation of a London Stock Exchange (LSE) listing, have subsequently de-listed or demerged themselves, or attempted to re-enter through another entity, following scandals relating to human rights issues or financial irregularities and fraud. These include Eurasian Natural Resources ENRC¹²⁸ [ENRC], Kazakhmys [KAZ], BUMI [BUMI], Monterrico Metals [MNA], ESSAR [ESSR], GCM [GCM], and Lonmin [LMI], to name a few. Others have obtained a London listing through the back door by merging with a listed group. The crackdown on dominant shareholders and the reverse takeover tactics of Bumi and ENRC were brought to the attention of the Financial Services Authority and UK Listing Authority (UKLA) in the past, but none of the regulatory bodies has taken any step to address human rights or environmental concerns, or subjected companies to an inquiry of their alleged violations.¹²⁹

Like Essar, Vedanta’s London Stock Exchange (LSE) listing has enabled them to gain financial status and reputation, by attracting many reputed investment funds and super entities as shareholders. This ‘cloak of respectability’ has fuelled its rapid growth and expansion across Africa and India in recent years, and mitigated the risks associated with its legal violations and human rights and environmental abuses. However, following the killing of thirteen protesters at its Tamil Nadu copper smelter, and the subsequent closure of the copper plant, which catalysed a series of protests and negative publicity in London, majority shareholder Anil Agarwal has decided to buy back the 33% of the company he does not already own via his Bahamas based family trust Volcan Investments, and de-list from the LSE.

Some companies have de-listed due to a legitimate need to pursue long term company strategy, which may not be supported by shareholders’ emphasis on short term profitability. However in this case, Vedanta’s

track record of human rights, environmental and financial violations, together with its already complicated financial structure, strongly suggests that de-listing is part of a policy to further limit public scrutiny of its operations.



Vedanta's chequered history 2003-2018
Share price graph

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82 Case filed before the National Green Tribunal, Kolkata, OA No 01/2016 dated 03 October 2016.

83 Case filed before the National Green Tribunal, Kolkata was dismissed on grounds of limitation on 13 Nov. 2017; OA NO 151/2016/EZ dated 03 October 2016; Public Interest Litigation WP (C) (PIL) No. 2660 of 2015 filed before the High Court of Odisha.

84 Jharsuguda Banchao Samiti Vs. Ministry of Environment and Forest &...Vedanta Aluminium Ors, Application No. 351 of 2018, National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal bench, New Delhi.

85 http://www.hzllindia.com/history_milestone.aspx

86 Rajasthan Pollution Control Board F-Tech/RPCB/CPM/M-23/UID-589/282-283 dated 16 March 2017 shows high level of iron, zinc and lead in the lagoons, and cadmium, nickel and cobalt in the sludge.

87 FIR NO.266/2015 PS-Anti Corruption Bureau, Jaipur Criminal Writ Petition No 308/2017. In September 2015, an ACB probe revealed that IAS officer Ashok Singhvi, the then mining secretary had allegedly benefited Hindustan Zinc Ltd. The ACB probe found that on November 1, 2006, Singhvi first ordered revocation of a lease granted to Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) when it was a government of India-owned company. The next day, the mines department took possession of the mine. 'End probe against Singhvi by March 21: Rajasthan high court to government', Times of India, Feb 16, 2018, <https://m.timesofindia.com/city/jaipur/end-probe-against-singhvi-by-march-21-to-govt/articleshow/62938628.cms>

The Department of Mines and Geology of the State of Rajasthan issued several show cause notices to HZL in August, September and October 2006, amounting to Rs 334 Crore. These notices alleged unlawful occupation and unauthorised mining of associated minerals other than zinc and lead at HZL's Rampura Agucha, Rajpura Dariba and Zawar mines in Rajasthan during the period from July 1968 to March 2006 (see p.163 of 2017 Annual Report). HZL mentions its rock phosphate mine at Maton having capacity to produce 0.18 million MT and reserve & resource of 8.5 million MT. (p.21). Hindustan Zinc Limited Annual Report 2017, http://www.hzllindia.com/common/pdf/HZL_Final_Annual_Report_16-17.pdf

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89 'CBI may close Hindustan Zinc Ltd disinvestment probe', Press Trust of India, 7 June 2015. <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/cbi-may-close-hindustan-zinc-ltd-disinvestment-probe/article7291589.ece>

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93 For example FIR No.7 dated 29.01.2008 was filed at the police station in Jaurkian district Mansa, Punjab wherein cases under the Indian Penal Code Sections 307, 341, 323, 148, 149, 506, 427 were registered against various protesters.

94 The land of the appellants was acquired vide Notification No. 10.5.2007 US 6/10316 dated 02.07.2007 issued under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act which was published on dated 06.07.2007. Notification under section 6 of the Act was issued vide No. 10/5/2007 US6/31466 dated 27.11.2007 and published in Punjab Government Gazette dated 21.12.2007. The total land acquired was 2091 Acres and 18 Marias situated within the revenue limits of villages Banawala, Talwandi Aklia, Peron in Tehsil Mansa and village Raipur in Tehsil Sardulgarh, District Mansa. Notice under Section 9 the Act was issued and the same was published in local newspapers on 04.01.2008. About 91 cases are pending for enhancement of compensation in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

95 Letter 7447, dated 3 August 2008, submitted before the Court of Land Acquisition Collector, Mansa.

96 Rule 6 of Punjab village common lands (Regulation) Rules, 1964 framed by the Punjab government in exercise of powers under the Punjab village and common land (regulation) act 1961, one third of the cultivable land shall be reserved for giving on lease by auction to the members of the schedule caste only.

97 Rule 6 of Punjab village common lands (Regulation) Rules, 1964 framed by the Punjab government in exercise of powers under the Punjab village and common land (regulation) act 1961, one third of the cultivable land shall be reserved for giving on lease by auction to the members of the schedule caste only.

- 98** Issues about the local impact were raised at the Annual General Meeting 2017, <http://www.foilvedanta.org/articles/zero-harm-minutes-of-vedanta-resources-2017-agm/> and see, Garg Balwant, 'Power on thermal plant drive ignores studies on radiation link', August 31, 2009, Times Of India; <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/Power-on-thermal-plant-drive-ignores-studies-on-radiation-link/articleshow/4952783.cms>
- 99** As per the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission's (PSERC) tariff order for 2017-18, Punjab is to purchase 8,694 MUs (million units) from Nabha Power Ltd Rajpura (L&T) at Rs 3.97 per unit, 6,095 MUs from the Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd (TSPL/Vedanta Resources) at Rs 5.40 per unit, 1,223 MUs from GVK Power Ltd (Goindwal Sahib thermal plant) at Rs 8.70 per unit, 4,724 MUs from Sasan Ultra Mega Power Project (Reliance Power) at Rs 1.32 per unit and 3,162 MUs from Mundra Thermal Power Station (Adani Group) at Rs 2.20 per unit. See, Dhawan, Nikhila Pant, 'Power shocker', The Tribune, Jan 14, 2018. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/sunday-special/perspective/power-shocker/528064.html>
- 100** Corporate structure: Sterlite Gold Ltd [TSX:SGD] based in Yukon territory, was 100% owner of First Dynasty Mines (USA) LLC, in turn 100% owner of First Dynasty Mines Armenia Ltd (Cayman Islands), which 100% controlled Ararat Gold Recovery LLC (Armenia) – operating Zod, Meghradzor and Ararat. Price Waterhouse Coopers Formal Valuation of the Issued and Outstanding Common Shares of Sterlite Gold Ltd. as at March 10, 2006 Updated to May 8, 2006. https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1374589/000107261306002401/exh993-7_14650.htm
- 101** For a detailed account of the case see: John Helmer, 'Armenian Government accelerates move against Vedanta's Sterlite Gold', July 24, 2007. <http://johnhelmer.net/armenian-government-accelerates-move-against-vedantas-sterlite-gold/>
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- 103** AGRC were 100% owned by Vedanta's 83% subsidiary Sterlite. US embassy cable - 07YEREVAN459 HARD TIMES FOR AGRC LEAVES OTHER INVESTORS WORRIED, American Embassy in Armenia to Washington 16/04/2007, Wikileaks US Embassy Cables. <http://cables.mrkva.eu/cable.php?id=104513>
- 104** 'Vedanta probed for illegal mining', The Times of India, Mumbai, 19 May 2007, page 25
- 105** According to data in the Paradise Papers leak, a company called GPM Gold Mauritius was incorporated in 2003, with Agnivesh and Dwarka Prasad Agarwal as Directors, and later Vedanta CFO Ajay Paliwal. In 2007 Directorships changed to Russians and Georgians including Koba Nakopia, DG of Madunelli, who took over Geo Pro Mining [GPM] in 2005 before it acquired AGRC in Armenia (<http://www.geopromining.com/en/about/history/>). Agarwal controlled Volcan Investments and GeoProMining were both shareholders in GPM Gold Mauritius. See <https://offshoreleaks.icij.org/nodes/82008207>
- 106** For details on the asset 'flip' with Madneuli see John Helmer, 'Zod Mines showdown - Sterlite license in revocation hearing', Aug 4 2007. <http://johnhelmer.net/zod-gold-mine-showdown-%E2%80%93-sterlite-license-in-revocation-hearing/>
- 107** Sterlite Gold website. Corporate Summary. Archived at: <https://web.archive.org/web/20070814022902/http://www.sterlitegold.com:80/s/CorporateSummary.asp>
- 108** 'SEBI suspends three brokers in price-rigging case', The Times of India, Mumbai, India, 27 August 1999, page 15
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- 110** Dalai, Sucheta, 'SEBI 'rigs' up the market and Harshad gets away', The Times of India, Mumbai, India, 22 June 1998, page 17.
- 111** 'Proposed acquisition of a majority interest in Electrosteel Steels Limited: Litigations affecting the group.' 1st May 2018, Vedanta Resources.
- 112** <https://www.sebi.gov.in/satorders/StereliteInd.html> and Padel, Felix and Das Samarendra, 2010, Out of this Earth, Orient Blackswan Ltd, Delhi. Ibid, pp. 146.
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- 115** 'Arbitration hearings begin in Cairn India's challenge to Rs 20,500 crore tax demand', The Economic Times, May 06, 2018. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/arbitration-hearings-begin-in-cairn-indias-challenge-to-rs-20500-crore-tax-demand/articleshow/64048838.cms>
- 116** 'OFS files patent infringement suit against Sterlite Optical Technologies', PR Newswire, 18 Nov 2002.
- 117** Complaint by Furukawa Electric North America, Inc vs Sterlite Optical Technologies, Inc; Sterlite Optical Technologies, Ltd; Anand Agarwal; and Brian Chomniak. 26 February 2004, United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta.
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- 125** Rebecca Bream, Henry Tricks and Simon Bernard, 'Prospectors find rich finance seam in London's motherlode', Financial Times, August 19, 2004, page 21
- 126** Extractive Sector Companies Listed on Global Stock Exchanges, October 2012, Revenue Watch Institute, New York
- 127** 'A British economy built on mining brings danger', Financial Times, June 3/4 2006, page 16
- 128** ENRC is currently the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation into allegations of serious fraud, bribery and corruption in relation to the acquisition of substantial mineral assets. SFO website, News Releases, 13 July 2018, 'Arrest warrant issued for Eurasian Resources Group CEO', <https://www.sfo.gov.uk/2018/07/13/arrest-warrant-issued-for-eurasian-resources-group-cco/>
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On 22nd May 2018 thirteen people, including women and children, were shot dead by police on their 100th day of protest against pollution by British company Vedanta Resources' copper smelter in Tamil Nadu, India.

With this tragic event Vedanta became the latest London listed mining company linked to the murder or 'massacre' of protesters.

Like Lonmin, Glencore, Kazakhmys, ENRC, Essar, GCM Resources, Anglo Gold Ashanti, African Barrick Gold and Monterrigo Metals before them, Vedanta has benefited from the 'cloak of respectability' of a London listing, enabling its rapid growth and expansion across Africa and India in recent years, and mitigating the risks associated with its legal violations and human rights and environmental abuses.

This report summarises the company's key violations, with reference to important legal judgments and evidence, and makes a compelling case for Vedanta to be investigated and brought to justice, as well as exposing the complicity of the City of London and the Financial Conduct Authority in its crimes.

MAND - an adivasi-rights research and resource centre

ANNEXURE-12

An initiative of Gawda, Kunbi, Velip and Dhangar Federation (GAKUVED)

Friday, September 18, 2009

Vedanta (Dempo) curse for Lamgao Water lakes in Goa

Bicholim has one of biggest mines of Vedanta amongst purchased from Dempos for Rs.1750 crores few months ago. These are pictures taken on single rainy day of September 05, 2009 from the



company's mining site at Lamgao right up to Bicholim town. Mining silt of Vedanta gets washed into Bicholim river. The above picture shows high turbidity of Bicholim river water. Bicholim river is one of the important tributaries or River Mandovi.



Bicholim river carries mining silt from the company's operations in Lamgao village.



Water from mining pit is being pumped out from the Vedanta's (Dempo) mining pit at Lamgao.



Dumps over dumps. Grass used to create stable conditions is disrupted with fresh dumps. As a consequence of

this dangerous practice there is increase in mining silt flowing into the river.



View of second lake of Lamgao facing threat from these mining activities.



Collapse of rejection, runoff from the dumps allowed? This gets

into the lakes via “mining drainage system”.



Mining run off into first lake of Lamgao



Mining silted water entering first lake of Lamgao.



Mining silted water entering first lake lake continuation of water flow...



Run off of mining silt to first lake continues...



Water released from mining pit into the first lake.



Mining silted water entering the first lake lake continuation...



Mining silted water entering the first lake lake further continuation...



Mining silted water entering the first lake lake further continuation...



Mining silted water entering the first lake lake further continuation...



First lake location where traditional deiti Mhatrai temple was buried under the dempo mining rejection. New temple is under construction.



Dumping on “afforested areas”



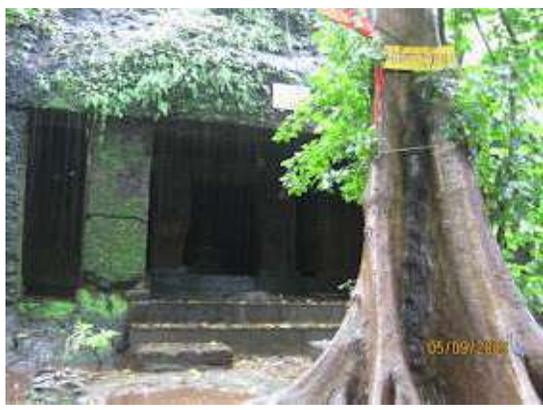
The First Lake of Lamgao



Silted water body. Thanks to mining company.



Dumping on "afforested areas". Dempos did "afforestation" and Vedanta is dumping mining rejects on top it all!



Lamgao caves under mining threats...



Lamgao's third lake



Lamgao's second lake under Vedanta threat
[Ramesh Gauns](#) and [Sebastian Rodrigues](#)

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Salgaonkar Shipping bags iron ore block at Sirigao

TNN | Dec 16, 2022, 11:11 AM IST



PANAJI: Goa-based mining company Salgaonkar Shipping Company Pvt Ltd on Thursday bagged Sirigao-Mayem iron ore block with highest auction premium of 99.2% of the average sale price of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). With this, the state government has completed the auctioning of the second mining block.

Before the lease was taken back by the government, Chowgule company was operating the mine.

“The Bicholim block-2 has been secured by Salgaonkar Shipping Company Pvt Limited at the auction. Congratulations! The directorate of mines and geology has successfully conducted the auction process in a transparent manner. It asserts the clean and efficient approach of the government of Goa,” CM Pramod Sawant tweeted. When the financial bids were opened on Wednesday, Fomento had placed the highest bid of 83% of the reserve price. The state has estimated over 23 million tonnes at Sirigao-Mayem block.

Seven firms including JSW, Shri Jagannath Steels and Power Ltd, ArcelorMittal, Salgaonkar Shipping, Vedanta, MSP Ltd and Fomento submitted their bids.

Salgaonkar Shipping Company Pvt Ltd, belongs Arjun Salgaocar. He is son of former MLA and mining baron late Anil Salgaocar. In 2017, the special investigation team (SIT) probing the illegal mining case had questioned Arjun in connection with his company's mining operations. Investigating agencies including SIT and CBI had conducted a search at Salgaocar Mining Industries (SMI) which was owned by Anil.

The state government has estimated minerals worth Rs 43,000 crore in all four of the mining blocks going for auction. The state government will conduct an auction of the Monte de Sirigao block (over nine million tonnes) on Friday. On December 21, the Kaley block (20 million tonnes) will be auctioned.

The state has identified seven more mining blocks for auctioning, and these are spread across the state. “Within 15 days, we will auction them,” director of mines and geology Suresh Shanbhogue said on Wednesday.

In 2018, the Supreme Court quashed the second renewal of 88 mining leases and brought the industry to a halt in Goa. BJP felicitated Sawant for the revival of the mining industry in Goa. The auction of mines has begun with two blocks in Bicholim finding successful bidders with lease for 50 years.

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ANNEXURE-14

The Goan Home :: Goa News :: SEIAA greenlights iron ore mining projects in Bicholim

SEIAA greenlights iron ore mining projects in Bicholim

Fomento Resources, Bandekar Mines get environmental clearance

THE GOAN NETWORK | SEPTEMBER 07, 2024, 12:40 AM IST

PANAJI

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has granted environmental clearance (EC) to Fomento Resources Pvt Ltd for its Advalpale-Thivim Mineral block (V) and Monte De Sirigao Mineral block belonging to Rajaram Bandekar Mines Pvt Ltd -- both located in Bicholim taluka.

During its meeting held last month, SEIAA, after scrutiny of the documents decided to grant EC to both the mineral blocks. While Fomento Resources proposes the production of 0.30 million tonnes of iron ore annually from Advalpale-Thivim mineral block, Rajaram Bandekar Mines has sought EC for the production of 0.5 million tonnes of ore annually.

The mineral block, which was purchased by Fomento Resources covers an area of 36.22 hectares. The public hearing for the same was held on February 13, 2024 while the public hearing of Monte De Sirigai mine was held in January. The total area of the mineral block is 95.67 Ha.

While granting EC under EIA notification 2006, SEIAA has said that the project proponent has to obtain all the required approvals clearances under all other Acts and Regulations, as applicable for the commencement of the operations.

"The Environmental Clearance to the aforementioned project is under provisions of EIA Notification, 2006. It does not tantamount to approvals/consent/permissions etc. required to be obtained under any other Act/Rule/regulation," SEIAA said while directing to implement the commitments made in the Environment Management Plan by introducing the mitigation measures.

The project proponent has to obtain NOC from the local authority for drawing the groundwater for the project activities, failing which the State Pollution Authority is debarred from granting Consent under Air and Water Act.

SEIAA has asked the company to ensure local employment and to organise employment-based apprenticeship/ internship training programmes every year with appropriate stipends for the youth and other programmes to enhance the skills of the local people.

In a bid to mitigate dust pollution, SEIAA has asked the project proponent to explore the possibility of replacing the existing trucks of 10.5 tonnes with higher capacity trucks of 25 tonnes in consultation with the stakeholders and the interest of the local community.

The SEIAA has also said that a separate iron ore transportation route from the lease area be considered, apart from maintaining the timing to ensure that there is no impact on surrounding human habitation.

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GOA NEWS

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Siolim MLA Delilah Lobo slams risking lives of students during waterfall treks



Goa on Red Alert; Heavy rains lead to waterlogging, traffic



Kerala tourist arrested for assaulting doctor at GMC



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Pernem fish market flooded due to heavy rainfall; Vendors & customers face hardships



Reginaldo assures support for Romi Konkani cause, but seeks consensus

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