

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED AS PER THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (NGT) IN ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.65 OF 2025 (WZ) FILED BY SANDEEP SALEKAR VERSUS STATE OF GOA & ORS.**

**Sub: Compliance to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) order passed in Original Application No.65 Of 2025 (WZ) dated 17.06.2025**

**Ref: The Hon'ble NGT Order dated 17/06/2025.**

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in its order dated 17.06.2025 in OA No. 65 of 2025(WZ) had directed to constitute a joint committee comprising of one member each of Respondent No. 2- Goa State Pollution Control Board, Respondent No. 3 Directorate of Mines and Geology , Government of Goa, and Respondent No. 5 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi and the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) shall be the nodal agency of the said Joint Committee with a direction that the said Committee shall visit the site in question and submit a fact finding report along with corrective measures to be taken by the Project Proponent, if so required within one month.

**Composition of the Joint Committee:**

As per the directions of Hon'ble NGT, a Joint Committee was constituted with the following Members:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name and Designation</b>	<b>Organization/ Department</b>
1.	<b>Dr. Dola Bhattacharjee</b> Scientist-B	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2.	<b>Mrs. Nelita Olga Fernandes e D'silva</b> Senior Geologist	Directorate of Mines and Geology , Government of Goa
3.	<b>Mr. Sankalp Shet Dessai</b> Senior Geologist	Directorate of Mines and Geology , Government of Goa
4.	<b>Mr. Sanjay Kankonkar</b> Scientist-C	Goa State Pollution Control Board
5.	<b>Mr. Rohan R. Nagvekar</b> Assistant Environmental Engineer	Goa State Pollution Control Board

**Joint Committee Accompanied\Assisted By:**

Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Organization/ Department
1.	<b>Mr. Kundan Shet</b> Junior Environmental Engineer	Goa State Pollution Control Board
2.	<b>Mr. Waman Chari</b> Scientific Assistant	Goa State Pollution Control Board

**Brief About The Matter:**

The allegation leveled against respondent No.6 M/s Vedanta Ltd is that one of the important conditions of the EC (File No.: IA-J-11015/3/2023-IA-II(NCM) dated 23/01/2024 issued by **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** contained in Serial No.7.1 under the head 'Standard EC Conditions for Mining of Minerals', has been violated by the mining unit. The said EC Condition at Serial No.7.1 provided as follows:

*"No Transportation of the minerals shall be allowed in case of roads passing through villages/habitations. In such cases, PP shall construct a 'bypass' road for the purpose of transportation of the minerals leaving an adequate gap (say at least 200 meters) so that the adverse impact of sound and dust along with chances of accidents could be mitigated. All costs resulting from widening and strengthening of existing public road network shall be borne by the PP in consultation with nodal State Govt. Department. Transportation of minerals through road movement in case of existing village/rural roads shall be allowed in consultation with nodal State Govt. Department only after required strengthening such that the carrying capacity of roads is increased to handle the traffic load. The pollution due to transportation load on the environment will be effectively controlled and water sprinkling will also be done regularly. Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. Project should obtain Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate for all the vehicles from authorized pollution testing centres. (If applicable in case of road transport).*

**In View Of Above & In Compliance To The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) Order Dated 17.06.2025, A Site Inspection Has Been Carried Out By The Joint Committee On 15/07/2025 & The Observations Made During The Said Inspection Are As Under:**

- 1) The unit officials Mr. Dhiraj Kumar Jagdish (Deputy CEO-Iron Ore Mines Vedanta Ltd. Sesa Goa) and Mr. Jagdish Dessai (Head Environment, Vedanta Ltd Sesa Goa) were present during the inspection.
- 2) The mining unit M/s Bicholim Mineral Block- Block 1 (Auction Block) of M/s. Vedanta Limited has consent to operate of the Board vide order No.12/2024-PCB/2572178/R00017549 dated 15/04/2025 valid up to 04/03/2029 for the production of iron ore of quantity 3.0 MTPA & Dry crushing & screening plant of capacity 4.0 MTPA. (Annexure –I Enclosed)
- 3) The unit also has valid CTO for Sarmanas Barge loading jetty in the name of M/s SESA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED (Sarmanas Barge Loading Jetty) vide order No.12/2023-PCB/1890471/R00013454 dated 21/12/2023 and the same is valid up to 31/12/2028 for Repairing and Maintenance of Barges, operation of Mobile crushing & screening Plant (2 nos.) for screening of e-auctioned/ royalty paid ore, as approved by the State Government and operation of Barge Loading Jetty (Iron Ore) for handling of e-auctioned/ royalty paid ore, as approved by the State Government. (Annexure –II Enclosed)
- 4) The unit M/s SESA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED (Sarmanas Barge Loading Jetty) has installed online noise monitoring and ambient air monitoring station at the transportation route near Sarmanas Jetty (location 15.54855, 73.959416) and the same was presently not in operation due to some technical issues as informed by unit representatives. (As shown on Google image, refer fig. no. 15).
- 5) The mining unit has installed CCTV Camera at the exit gate from mine near Mayem junction towards the jetty to monitor if the trucks are properly covered with tarpaulin before exit and the same is connected to Board server. (As shown in pictures, refer fig. no. 1 & 2).

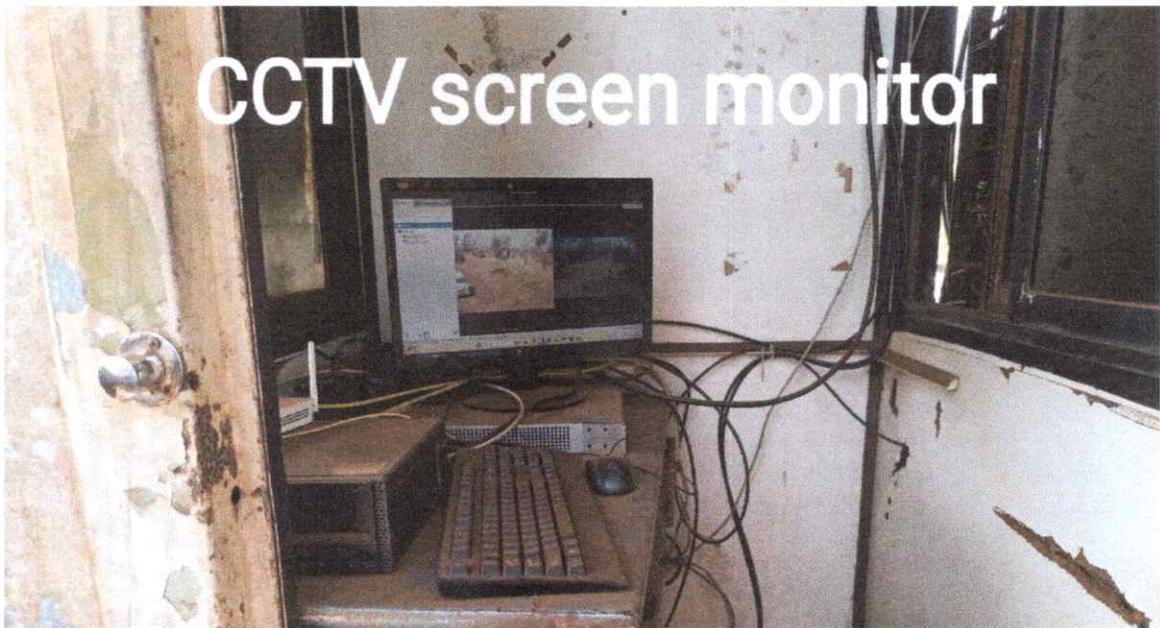
- 6) During inspection, the mining unit has produced the PUC certificates of 28 trucks engaged in iron ore transportation. (Annexure –III Enclosed)
- 7) During inspection the water sprinkling by tanker along the transportation route i.e. along the stretch from NSP-1 TOP- Pilgao junction to NBP B Gate touching the public road (MDR-20) was observed. (*As shown in picture, refer fig. no. 5*).
- 8) The unit has provided one mechanical sweeping machine for sweeping of road affected due to transportation of iron ore. However, road sweeping is not carried out during monsoon as informed by the unit officials.
- 9) During inspection, transportation of iron ore was not observed along the transportation route. The unit officials informed that the transportation of iron ore from mine to jetty through dedicated EC sanctioned route was stopped from 19/11/2024 & transportation of ore through deviated route via NBP-B gate commenced from 13/12/2024 and continued till 10/07/2025.
- 10) As per the transportation route sanctioned in the EC granted to the mining unit, the total distance from the mine to Sarmanas jetty is approx. 5.48 km of which approx. 0.94 km stretch is Major District Road (MDR-20) which is public road. The said EC sanctioned transportation route was obstructed by the villagers and the unit had sought for approval for the proposed deviation transportation route for transportation of iron ore of Vedanta Ltd. from Bicholim Mineral Block – Block I of Vedanta Ltd.
- 11) As per new deviated transportation route, the total distance for transporting iron ore from mine to Sarmanas jetty is approx. 5.62 km of which approx. 1.87 km stretch Major District Road (MDR-20) is public road. The deviated alignment of the transportation route increases by a distance of approx. 0.93 mtrs.
- 12) In view of the representation of M/s. Vedanta Ltd. filed before the Directorate of Mines & Geology, the Committee Constituted by Order dated 07/10/2024 inspected the proposed transportation route proposed for deviation of mineral transportation from Bicholim Mineral Block-I-NSP-1 TOP- Pilgao Junction-NBP B Gate to Sarmanas Jetty and submitted a report to Directorate of Mines & Geology & Chairman of Mines & Geology.

- 13) The Directorate of Mines & Geology vide letter dated 11/12/2024 had intimated the Board that the state government has permitted the proposed route deviation for iron ore transportation to the mining unit for a new route Bicholim Mineral Block-I-NSP-1 TOP-Pilgao Junction-NBP B Gate-Sarmanas Jetty for the transportation of ore from Bicholim Mineral Block-1 to Sarmanas Jetty. The mining unit has submitted the transit permit issued by the Directorate of Mines & Geology dated 13/12/2024 for transportation of iron ore along the route Bicholim Mineral Block-1-NSP-1TOP-Pilgao Junction-NBP B Gate-Sarmanas Jetty & the same was valid up to 12/02/2025. (Annexure –IV & V Enclosed)
- 14) The mining unit has submitted the latest transit permit issued by the Directorate of Mines & Geology dated 07/07/2025 for transportation of iron ore along the route Bicholim Mineral Block-1-NSP-1TOP-Pilgao Junction-NBP B Gate-Sarmanas Jetty & the same was valid up to 06/09/2025. (Annexure –VI Enclosed)
- 15) The Board vide order No No.12/2024-PCB/2572178/R00017549 dated 15/04/2025 has granted consent to operate-renewal to the mining unit with a condition (Condition no. 6. xxxviii) that if the unit proposes for any deviation in the existing approved iron ore transportation route, the unit shall provide wheel washing facility/rumbler system (cattle trap) for the ore transport vehicles at the exit point of mine prior to entering public road and should obtain prior permissions from all concerned authorities to carry out ore transportations.
- 16) During inspection, the joint committee has noticed that the mining unit has hot mixed the new internal transportation route (approx. 300 mts) i.e. a stretch from NSP-1 TOP- Pilgao junction to NBP B Gate touching the public road (MDR-20). Along the same stretch, the mining unit has provided 2 no. of cattle trap drain systems for the purpose of removing muck from the truck tires. (As shown in pictures, refer fig. no. 5, 6, 7 & 8)
- 17) The Board has installed online ambient air quality monitoring station at Pilgao through C-DAC along the transportation route of Major District Road (MDR-20) within the periphery of Mr. Siddhesh Kotkar location 15.55341, 73.958185) (As shown in picture & on Google image, refer fig. no. 10 & 15).
- 18) The mining unit has installed one manual Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station at the residential house of Mr. Anil Naik, Pilgao along the transportation route of Major

district road (MDR-20) location (15.549944, 73.957139). (As shown on Google image, refer fig. no. 15).

- 19) The mining unit has installed one manual Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station in Buffer Zone near Nani Chavan House location (15.54822, 73.96158) & near Prakash Parab house, Pilgao Village location (15.562083, 73.95444). (As shown on Google image, refer fig. no. 15).
- 20) During inspection the joint committee has also noticed that there are no habitations on either side along the deviated transportation route i.e. from New Beneficiation Plant NBP-B gate till Matwada junction at an approx distance of 930 meters (MDR-20 road). The width of the MDR-20 road is approx. 7 meters. (As shown on Google image, refer fig. no. 15).

**Pictures For Reference:**



**Fig No. 1**

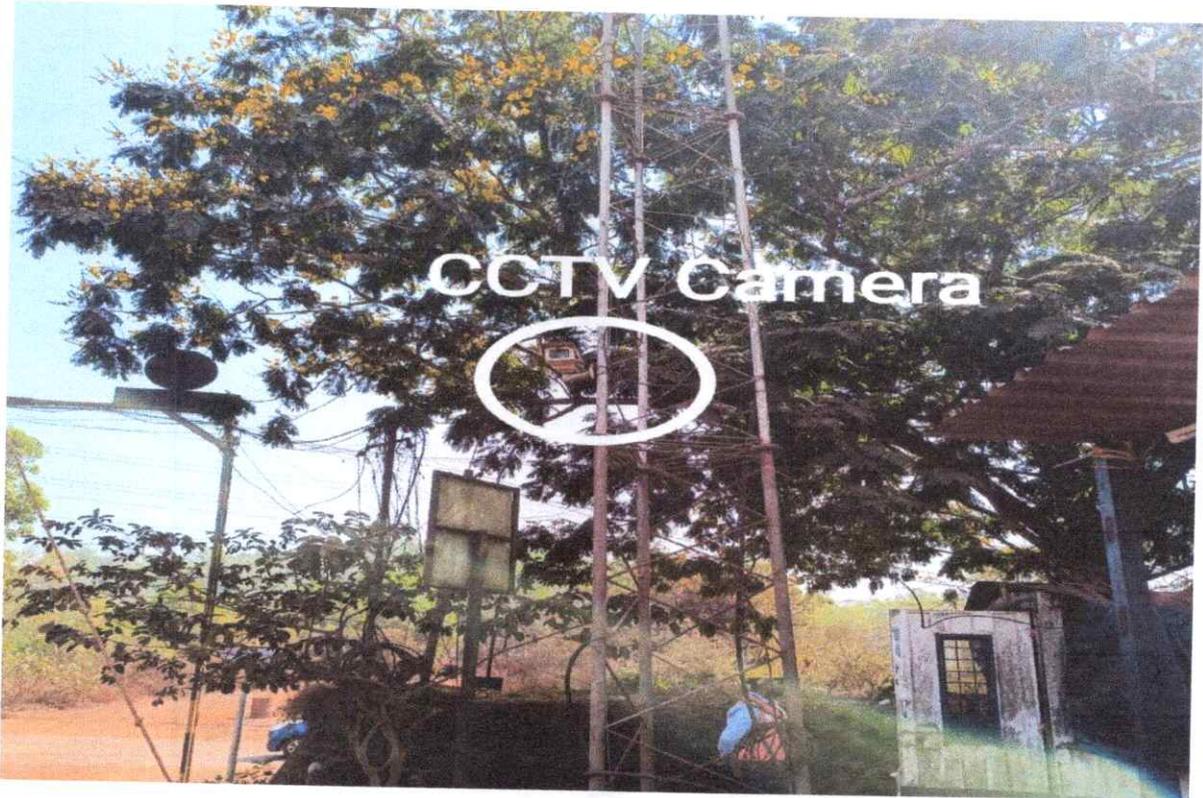


Fig No. 2

The online camera is installed at the exit of the Mayem junction to ensure the trucks transporting the iron ore are covered with tarpaulin and the online connectivity to the Board is been established and live video is visible from the office.

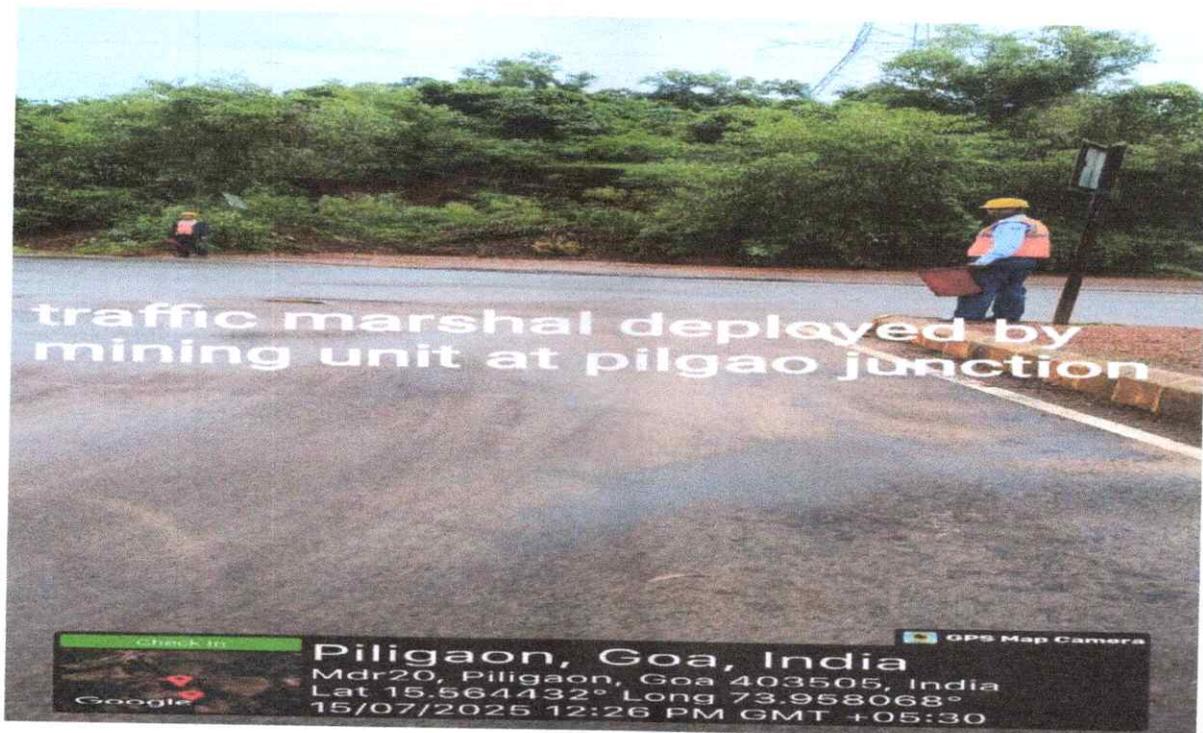


Fig No. 3



Fig No. 4

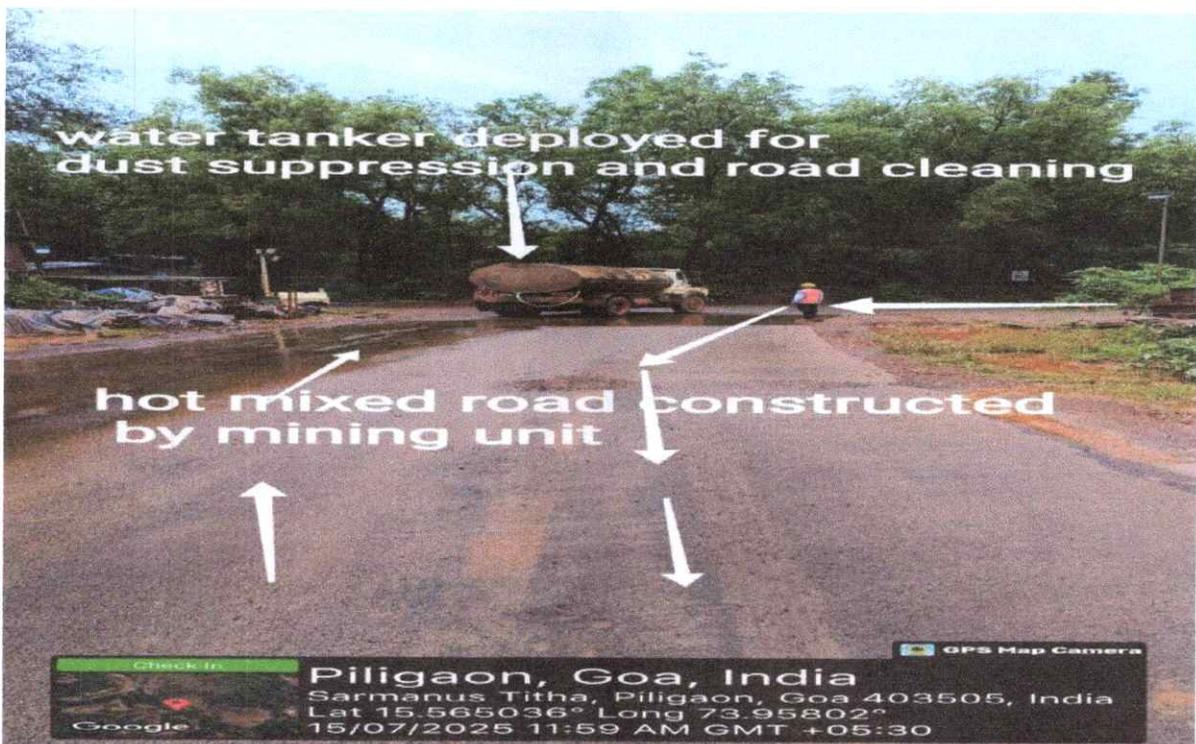


Fig No. 5

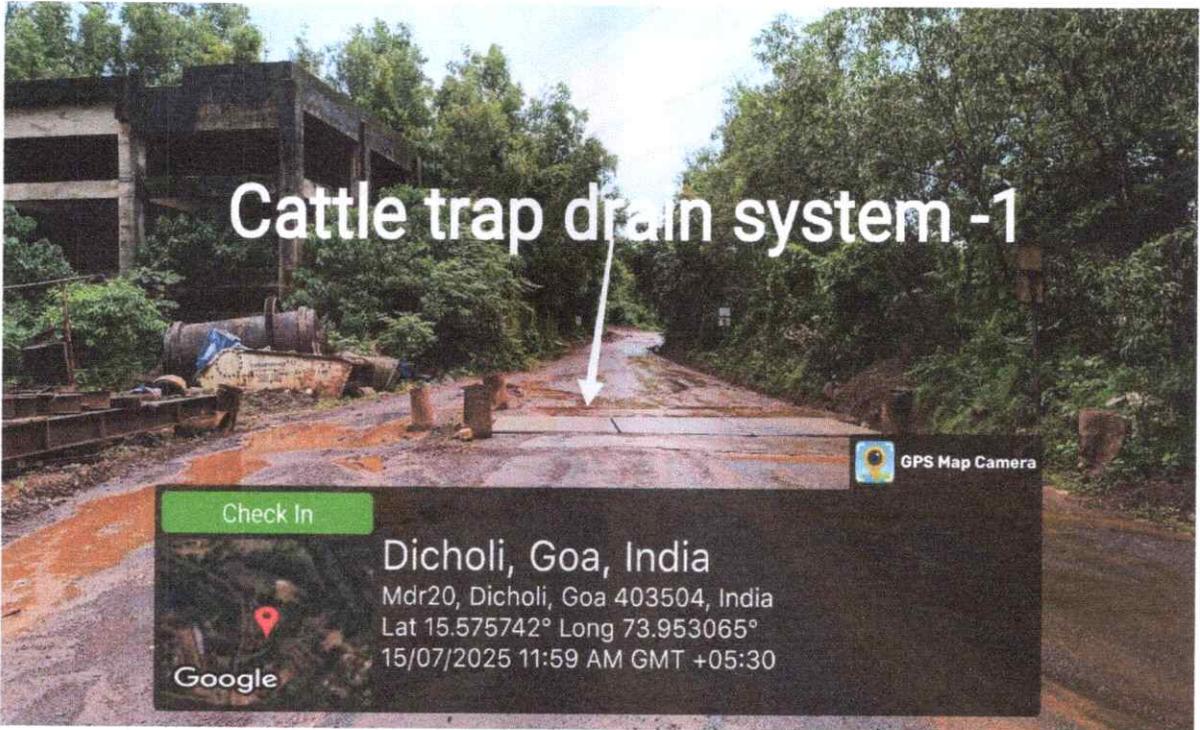


Fig No. 6

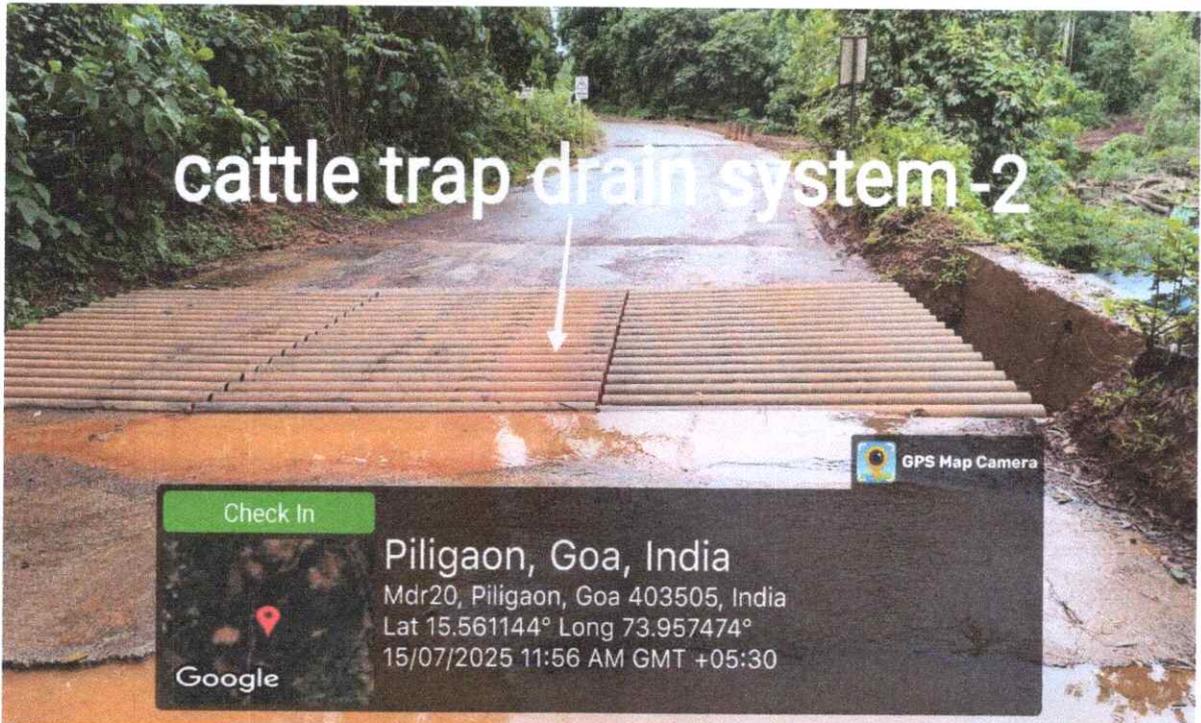


Fig No. 7

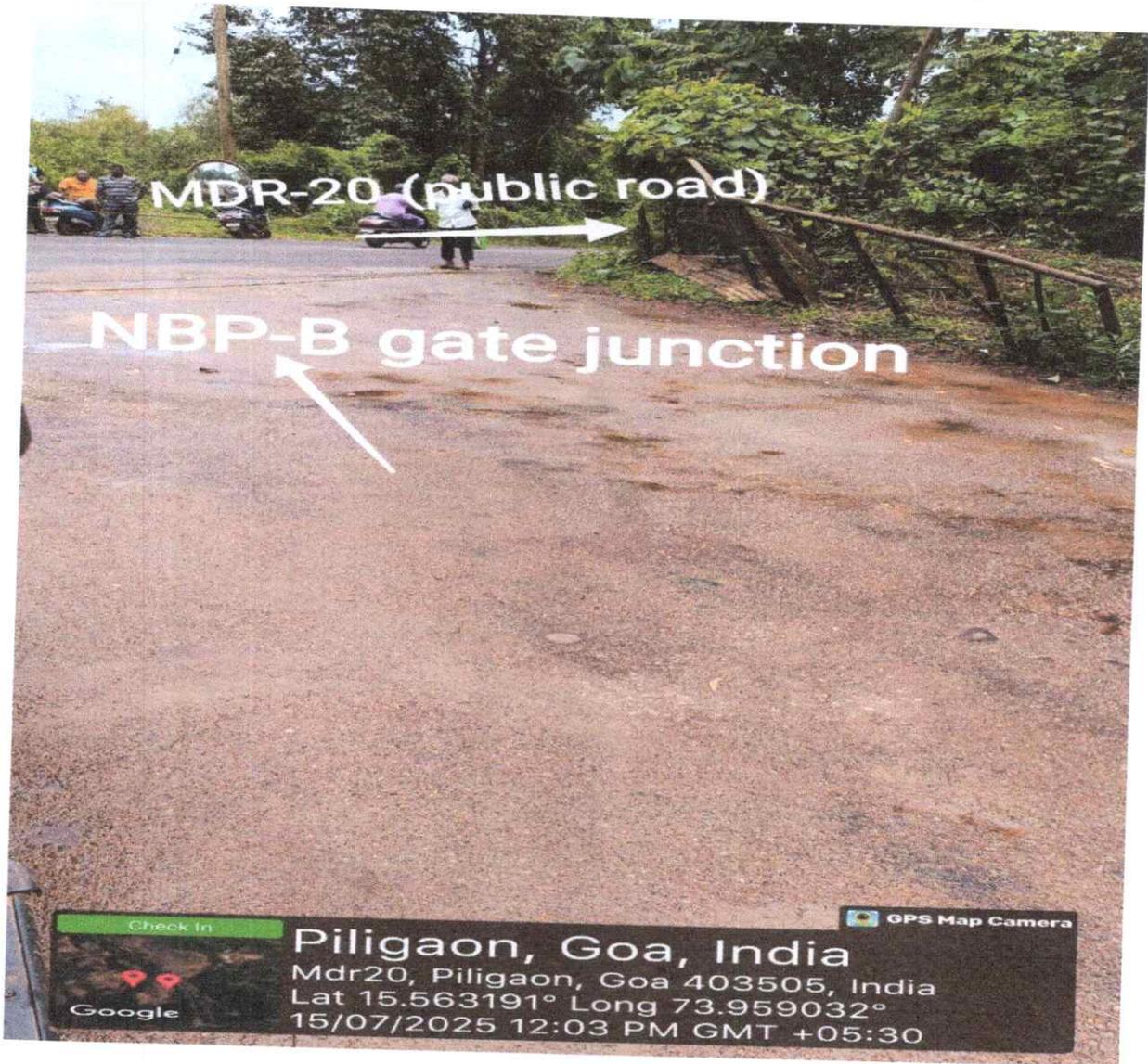


Fig No. 8

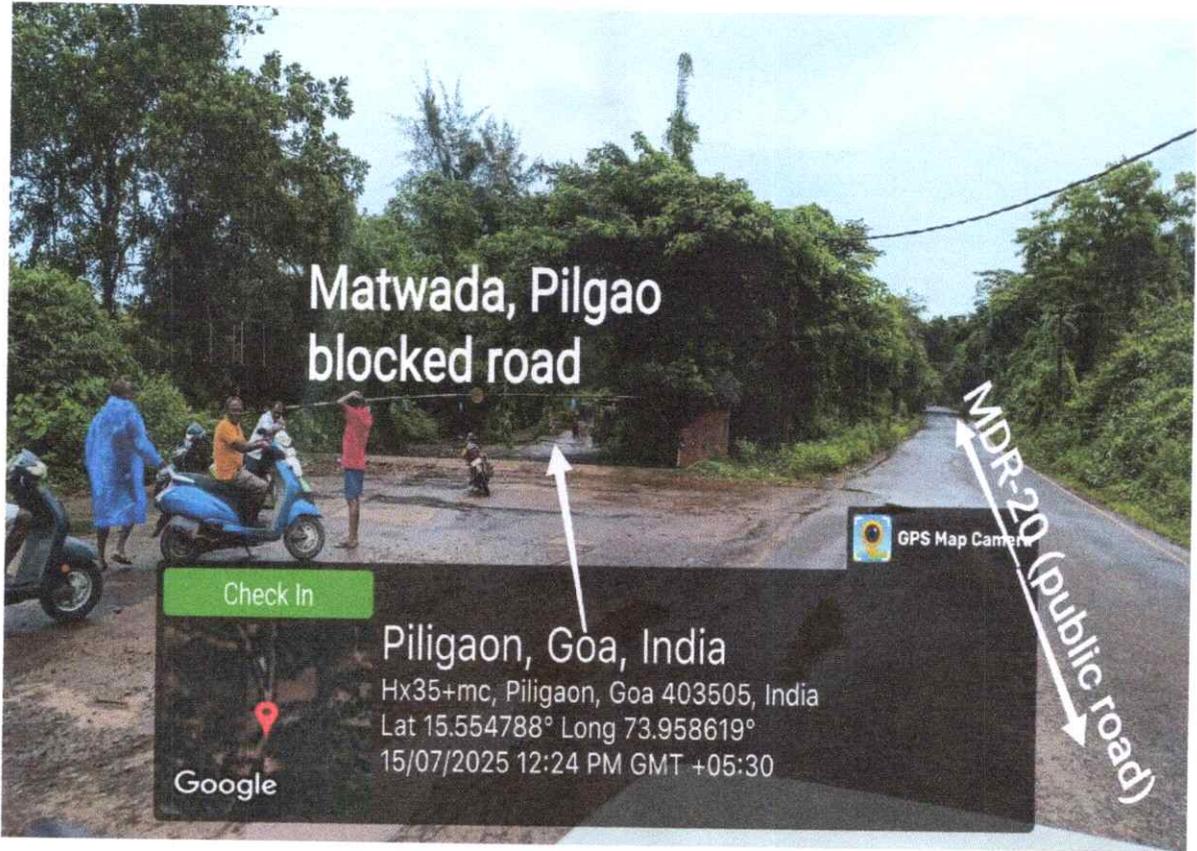


Fig No. 9



Fig No. 10

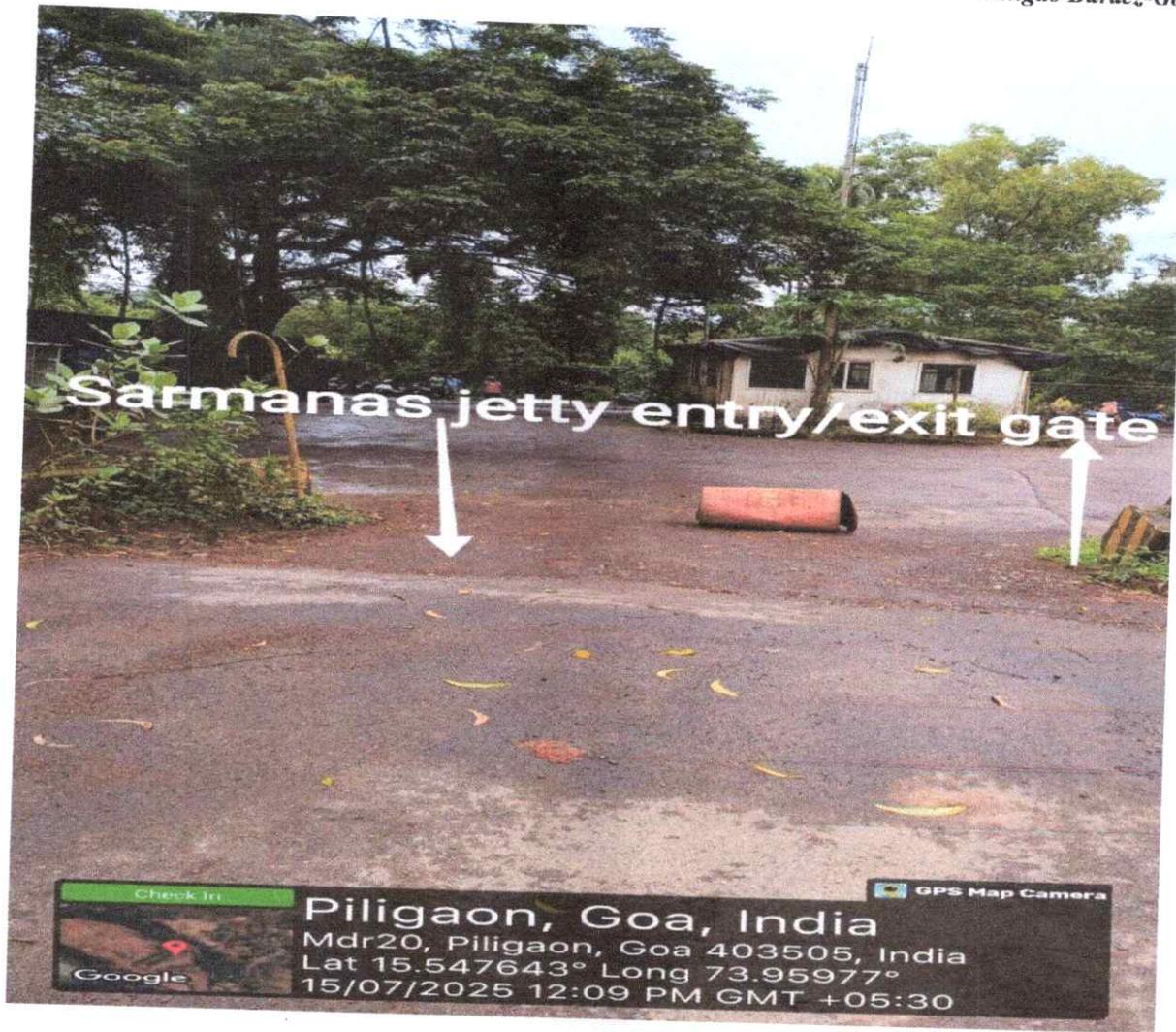


Fig No. 11

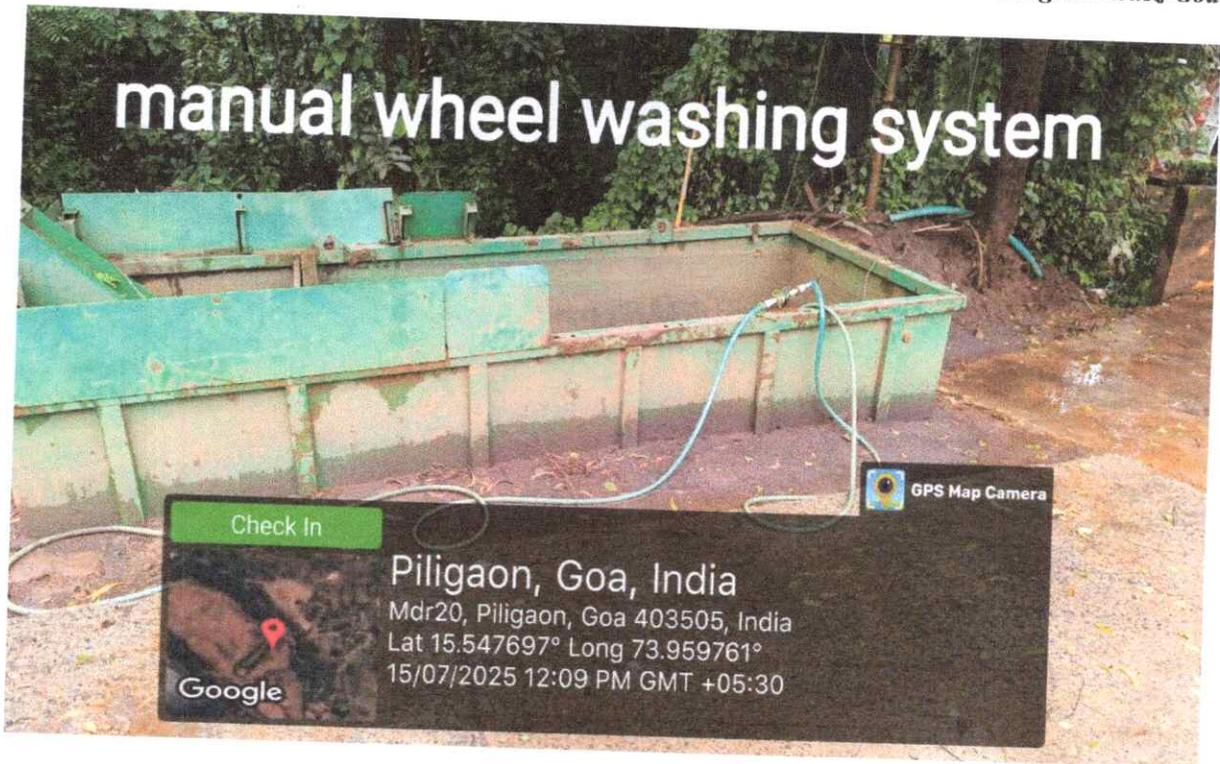


Fig No. 12

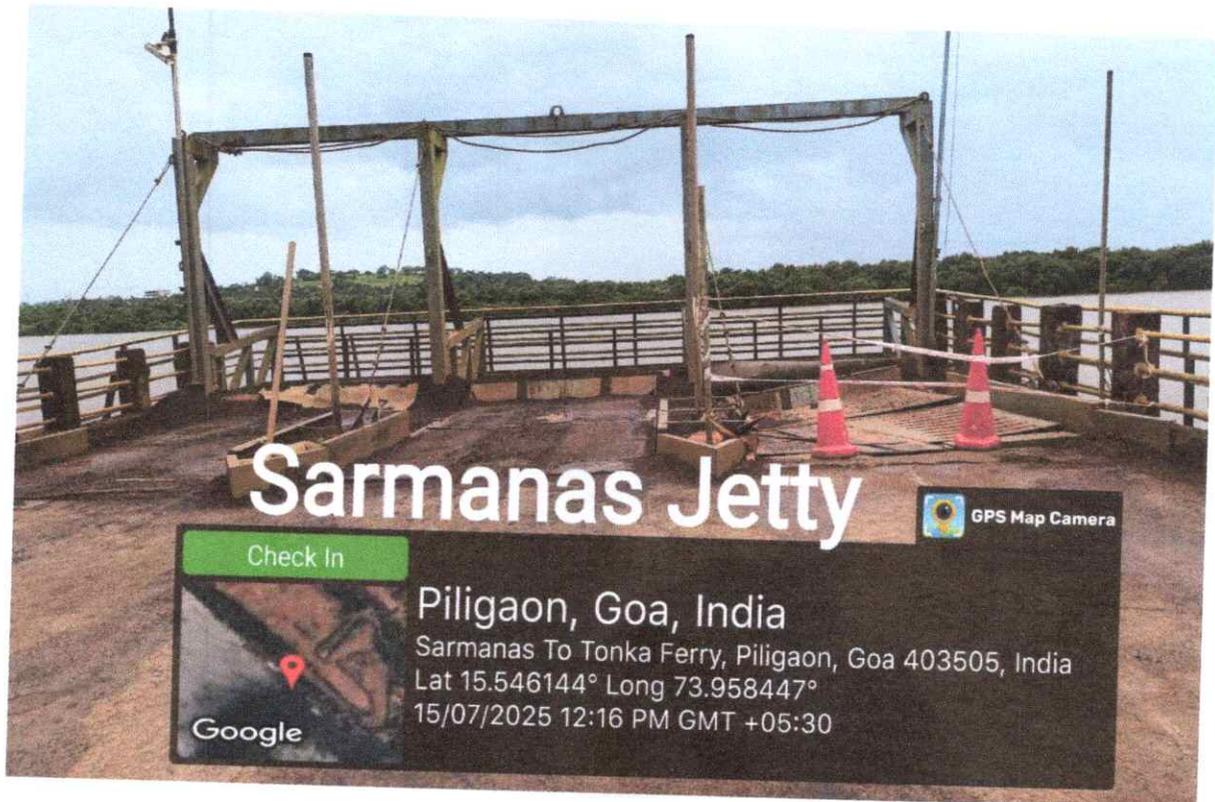


Fig No. 13



Fig No. 14

Above picture shows the Google image of habitations located along the iron ore transportation route.

GOOGLE MAP OF EXISTING TRANSPORTATION ROUTE AND ROUTE APPROVED BY AUTHORITIES DUE TO OBSTRUCTION, FROM BICHOLIM MINERAL BLOCK TO SARMANAS JETTY

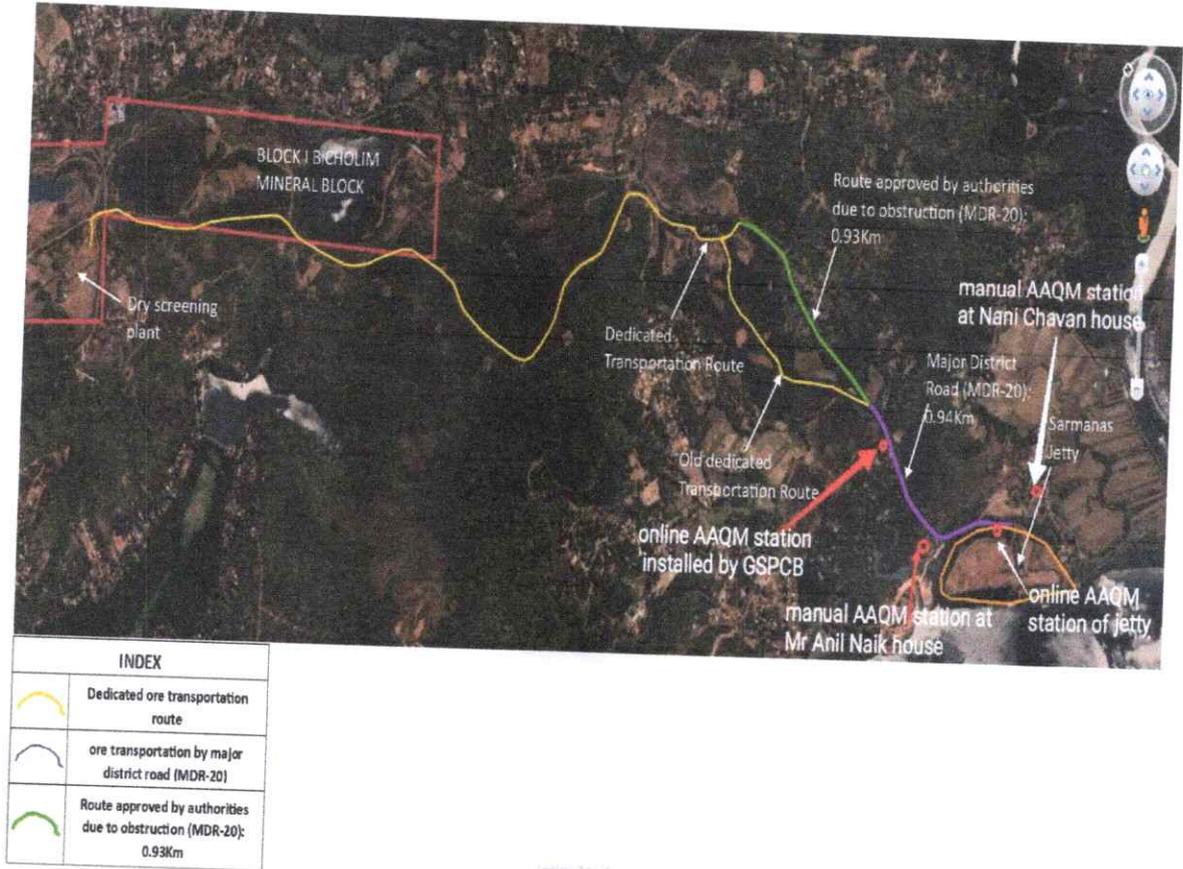


Fig No. 15

Above Google image is showing the AAQM stations along the transportation route & Sarmanas Jetty.

**Remarks/Conclusions By Joint Committee:**

- 1) The unit M/s SESA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED (Sarmanas Barge Loading Jetty) has installed online noise monitoring and ambient air monitoring station along the transportation route near Sarmanas Jetty and the same is presently not in operation due to some technical issues. The unit is required to repair operate and maintain the online connectivity of the same with the Board server on priority.
- 2) The mining unit has installed CCTV Camera at the exit gate from mine near Mayem junction towards the jetty and the same is connected to Board server.
- 3) The mining unit has submitted the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring reports from December 2024 to June 2025 carried out at the residential house of Mr. Anil Naik, Pilgao along the transportation route of Major district road (MDR-20) location (15.549944, 73.957139). As per the reports, all tested parameters are within the permissible limit. (Annexure –VII Enclosed)
- 4) The mining unit has submitted the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring reports from December 2024 to June 2025 carried out in Buffer Zone near Nani Chavan House location (15.54822, 73.96158) & near Prakash Parab house, Pilgao Village location (15.562083, 73.95444). As per the reports, all tested parameters are within the permissible limit. (Annexure –VIII Enclosed)
- 5) The mining unit has submitted the noise monitoring reports carried out in the month of January 2025 and April 2025 along the transportation route near Bagwada Pilgao village and near Sarmanas. As per the reports noise level recorded are within the permissible limit. (Annexure –IX Enclosed)
- 6) In view of the representation of M/s. Vedanta Ltd. filed before the Directorate of Mines & Geology, the Committee Constituted by Order dated 07/10/2024 inspected the proposed transportation route proposed for deviation of mineral transportation from Bicholim Mineral Block-I-NSP-1 TOP- Pilgao Junction-NBP B Gate to Sarmanas Jetty and submitted a report to Directorate of Mines & Geology & Chairman of Mines & Geology.

- 7) The Directorate of Mines & Geology vide letter dated 11/12/2024 had intimated the Board that the state government has permitted the proposed route deviation for iron ore transportation to the mining unit for a new route Bicholim Mineral Block-I-NSP-1 TOP-Pilgao Junction-NBP B Gate-Sarmanas Jetty for the transportation of ore from Bicholim Mineral Block-1 to Sarmanas Jetty. The mining unit has submitted the transit permit issued by the Directorate of Mines & Geology dated 13/12/2024 for transportation of iron ore along the route Bicholim Mineral Block-1-NSP-1TOP-Pilgao Junction-NBP B Gate-Sarmanas Jetty &the same was valid up to 12/02/2025. (Annexure –IV attached)
- 8) The mining unit has submitted the latest transit permit issued by the Directorate of Mines & Geology dated 07/07/2025 for transportation of iron ore along the route Bicholim Mineral Block-1-NSP-1TOP-Pilgao Junction-NBP B Gate-Sarmanas Jetty & the same was valid up to 06/09/2025. (Annexure –V attached)
- 9) The Board has installed online ambient air quality monitoring station at Pilgao by C-DAC along the transportation route of Major District Road (MDR-20) within the periphery of Mr. Siddhesh Kotkar location (15.55341, 73.958185). The data generated for the month of April 2025 to July 2025 indicates that all tested parameters are within the permissible limit. (Annexure –X Enclosed)
- 10) During inspection the joint committee has also noticed that there are no habitations on either side along the deviated transportation route i.e. from New Beneficiation Plant NBP-B gate till Matwada junction which utilizes additional 850 meters MDR-20 road. The width of the MDR-20 road is approx. 7 meters.
- 11) The mining unit has hot mixed the internal iron ore transportation route i.e. a stretch from Pilgao 1 top junction to NBP- B gate junction and also installed 2 nos. of cattle trap drain systems for removing tire muck. For more effective cleaning of the tires the mining unit shall install wheel washing system between two cattle trap drain systems.
- 12) The mining unit shall also carry out manual road sweeping on daily basis along the transportation route (MDR-20) especially near the NBP-B gate stretch and near the Sarmanas jetty stretch.

## Inspected by:

NAME AND DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
<b>Dr. Dola Bhattacharjee</b> Scientist-B Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	
<b>Mrs. Nelita Olga Fernandes e D'silva</b> Senior Geologist Directorate of Mines and Geology , Government of Goa	
<b>Mr. Sankalp Shet Dessai</b> Senior Geologist Directorate of Mines and Geology , Government of Goa	
<b>Mr. Sanjay Kankonkar</b> Scientist-C Goa State Pollution Control Board	
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