

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,

Principal Bench, New Delhi

Original Application No. 59/2021

In re: News item published in Times Now News dated 23.02.2021 titled "Karnataka: Six killed in quarry blast in Hiremagavalli, Chikkaballapur"

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2.	<b>Annexure-I:</b> A copy of Hon'ble NGT order dated 25.02.2021.	
3.	<b>Annexure-II:</b> A copy of CPCB Office Memorandum dated 16.03.2021 regarding Constitution of the Joint Committee.	
4.	<b>Annexure-III:</b> A copy of report submitted by Mines and Geology Department, Chikkaballapura District to Director of Mines and Geology, Bangalore and District Commissioner, Chikkaballapura.	



(Nazimuddin)

Scientist "E"

Central Pollution Control Board,  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar,  
Delhi- 110032.

Date: 17.05.2021

Place: Delhi

**REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON-**  
**“KARNATAKA: SIX KILLED IN QUARRY BLAST IN**  
**HIRENAGAVALLI, CHIKKABALLAPUR”**

**in Compliance to**  
**Directions of the Hon’ble Tribunal, Principal Bench**  
**Delhi**  
*(in the matter of O. A. No. 59/2021)*



**April, 2021**

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## CHAPTER – 1

### PREAMBLE

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in the matter of O.A No. 59 of 2021; Tribunal on its own motion based on the News Item published in Times Now News dated 23.02.2021 titled, **“Karnataka: Six killed in quarry blast in Hiremagavalli, Chikkaballapur”** passed orders dated 25.02.2021. Copy of the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 25.02.2021 is appended as **Annexure I**.

Excerpts of the News Item in Times Now News dated 23.02.2021, “Karnataka: Six killed in quarry blast in Hiremagavalli, Chikkaballapur; PM Modi expresses grief” “

- i. It was reported that six people were killed in quarry blast in Hiremagavalli, Chikkaballapur on Monday night (22.02.2021) and one was injured when the blast took place at the quarry.*
- ii. According to the preliminary information shared by the police, the quarrying work was stopped at the site on February 7 after local residents complained of rampant use of gelatin sticks. According to an agency report, citing the police, the work continued despite the ban, and another raid was conducted by the police, during which the contractor was warned not to use gelatin.*
- iii. The explosives went off when the men were trying to dispose them off. A police investigation is underway.*

Hon'ble Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi vide its orders dated 25.02.2021 appointed a six member joint committee comprising the CPCB, state PCB, District Magistrate, Chikkaballapur, nominee of Director General, Mines, GoI, Chief Controller of Explosives, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Nagpur, and the Director, Mines, Karnataka to give a report to this Tribunal. The Hon'ble Tribunal has also issued following directions to the committee;

- (i) The committee may visit the site preferably within next one week and give its report about the cause of the incident, the extent of damage caused, the extent of compensation required to be paid for damage to the environment as well as loss of lives, injuries and steps required to be taken for preventing such occurrence in future within one month.
- (ii) The committee may suitable interact with the stakeholders and, apart from considering the present incident, also consider remedial measures for preventing such incidents in the area or by other establishments even beyond the said area.
- (iii) The committee may compile information about existence and working of onsite and offsite plans in terms of The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 and conducting of mock drills and safety SOPs.

Hon'ble Tribunal vide aforesaid orders directed the committee to submit the report within one month i.e., on or before 30.04.2021.

## CHAPTER – 2

### CONSTITUTION OF JOINT COMMITTEE AND MEETINGS

In compliance to the aforesaid orders dated 25/02/2021 of Hon'ble Tribunal, New Delhi, a Joint Committee comprising of following members has been constituted by Central Pollution Control Board (Nodal Agency) vide its Office Memorandum No. Tech 39/Legal(NGT)/RD-BLR/2020-21/1323 dated 16.03.2021. Copy of the said Office Memorandum is appended as **Annexure II.**

1.	Smt. Vijayalakshmi Environmental Officer Karnataka Pollution Control Board Regional Office, Chikkaballapur (Coordinating Officer to NGT at District level, Chikkaballapur)	Member
2.	Dr. Sanjna Sharma Dy. Chief Controller of Explosives(HOO) Office of Joint Chief Controller of Explosives Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) South Circle, Chennai	Member
3.	Sh Mahantesh T Additional Director (I/C) Department of Mines & Geology(NZ) Ballari, Karnataka	Member
4.	Sh Venugopala Swamy Kadem Dy. Director of Mines Safety Directorate General of Mines Safety Bengaluru Region, Bengaluru	Member
5.	Smt Rekha R Senior Environmental Officer, Bangalore East Zonal Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board	Nodal Officer & Member



	Bengaluru, Karnataka	
6.	Smt Selvi P K Scientist D / Senior Environmental Engineer Central Pollution Control Board Regional Directorate Bangalore, Karnataka	Nodal Officer & Member

Two meetings were conducted with the members of Joint Committee by Central Pollution Control Board, Bangalore (Nodal Agency) & Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on 26.03.2021 and 06.04.2021. Minutes of the above meetings were circulated for necessary actions. First Meeting of the Joint Committee was conducted on 26.03.2021 to discuss the preliminary information to be collated for preparing the joint committee report and the schedule for the visit to the blast site in Chikkaballapur where the incident took place.

Subsequent to the site visit, second Meeting was conducted on 06.04.2021 (AN), with the members of the joint committee and officials of various departments of Government of Karnataka namely, District Administration, Police Department, Labour Department, Health Department, Department of Mines & Geology, to ascertain the facts, the cause of blast accident and the extent of damage due to the blast accident. The team of officials and members of the joint committee also visited the labourer's shed where the explosives were hidden and a Magazine.

## CHAPTER 3

### ABOUT QUARRYING

“Mine” (as defined in Section 2(1)(j) of The Mines Act, 1952) means any excavation where any operation for the purpose of searching for or obtaining minerals has been or is being carried on and includes – (i) all borings, bore holes, oil wells and accessory crude conditioning plants, including the pipe conveying mineral oil within the oilfields; (ii) all shafts, in or adjacent to and belonging to a mine, where in the course of being sunk or not; (iii) all levels and inclined planes in the course of being driven; (iv) **all opencast workings**; (v) all conveyors or aerial ropeways provided for the bringing into or removal from a mine of minerals or other articles or for the removal of refuse there from; (vi) all adits, levels, planes, machinery works, railways, tramways and sidings in or adjacent to and belonging to mine; (vii) all protective works being carried out in or adjacent to a mine; (viii) all workshop and store situated within the precincts of a mine and the same management and used primarily for the purposes connected with that mine or a number of mines under the same management; (ix) all power stations, transformer sub-stations, converter stations : rectifier stations and accumulator storage stations for supplying electricity solely or mainly for the purpose of working the mine or a number of mines under the same management; (x) any premises for the time being used for depositing sand or other material for use in a mine or for depositing refuse from a mine or in which any operations in connection with such and refuse or other material is being carried on, being premises exclusively occupied by the owner of the mine; (xi) any premises in or adjacent to and belonging to a mine or which any process ancillary to the getting, dressing operation for sale of minerals or of coke is being carried on.

“**Open cast working**” means a quarry which has been defined under section 2(1)(kk) of The Mines Act, 1952, that is to say an excavation where any operation for the purpose of searching for or obtaining minerals has

been or is being carried on, not being a shaft or an excavation which extends below superjacent ground.

The Mines Act, 1952 does not apply in certain cases as specified in Section 3, wherein the provisions of this Act, except those contained in sections 7, 8, 9, 40, 45 and 46 shall not apply to –

(a) any mine or part thereof in which excavation is being made for prospecting purposes only and not for the purpose of obtaining minerals for use or sale, provided that

(i) not more than twenty persons are employed on any one day in connection with any such excavation.

(ii) the depth of the excavation measured from its highest to its lowest point nowhere exceeds six, metres or, in the case of an excavation for coal fifteen metres: and

(iii) no part of such excavation extends below superjacent ground; or

(b) any mine engaged in the extraction of kankar, murrum laterite, boulder, gravel, shingle, ordinary sand (excluding moulding sand, glass sand and other mineral sands), ordinary clay (excluding kaolin, china clay, white clay or fire clay), building stone, [slate,] road metal, earthy fullers earth, [marl chalk] and lime stone.

Provided that –

(i) the working do not extend below superjacent ground: or

(ii) where it is an open cast working –

(a) the depth of the excavation measured from its highest to its lowest point nowhere exceeds six metres;

(b) the number of persons employed on any one day does not exceed fifty; and

(c) explosives are not used in connection with the excavation.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (Central Act 67 of 1957), Government of Karnataka has notified Karnataka Minor Minerals Concession Rules, 1994 (KMMCR, 1994). Minor minerals are classified into

two types; (i) Specified minor minerals (Ex. Granite or Ornamental Stones)  
(ii) Non-Specified Minor Minerals (Ex. Building Stones).

According to the KMMCR, 1994, the process of lease execution and registration of above two classified minor minerals is given below as **Figure 1**. As per the Mines Act, 1952, after obtaining quarry lease, as required under section 16 under Chapter IV of The Mines Act, 1952, the owner, agent or manager of a mine shall, before the commencement of any mining operation, give to the Chief Inspector, the [Controller,] Indian Bureau of Mines and the District Magistrate of the district in which the mine is situated, notice in writing in such form and containing such particulars relating to the mine, as may be prescribed.

As per the KMMCR, 1994 the Quarrying plan means a plan comprising adoption of proper mining methods and optimum utilization of minerals prepared by all lessees / licensees / working permission holders through the Recognized Qualified Person (RQP) and includes simplified quarrying plan required to be submitted for having an area less than the extent stipulated. The list of quarry leases issued in Chikkaballapur district is given as **Table 1**.

**Table 1. List of quarry leases issued in Chikkaballapur district  
(as on 25.02.2021)**

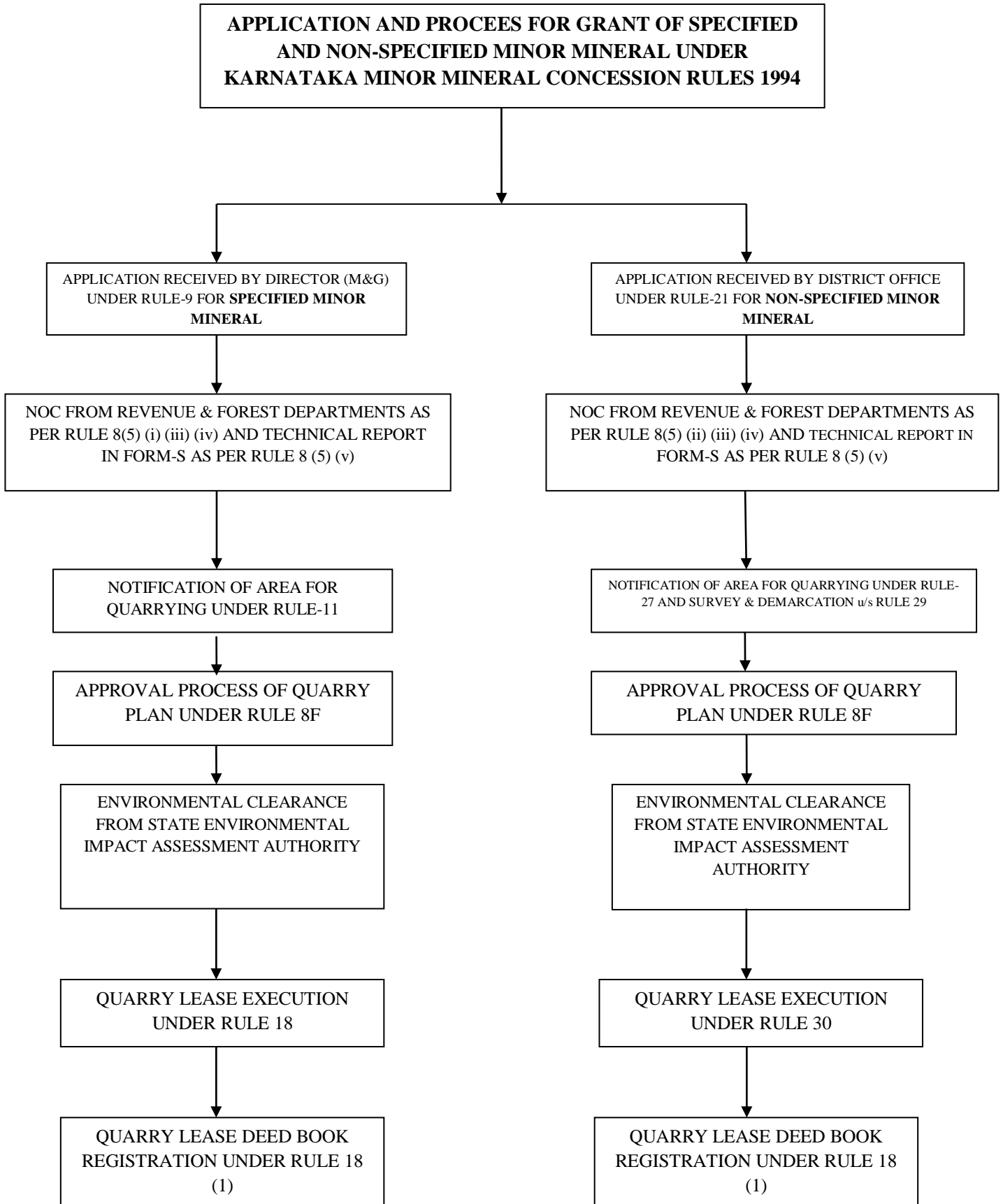
<b>TALUK</b>	<b>Ornamental/ Granite leases (No. of Leases)</b>	<b>Building Stone Lease (No. of Leases)</b>	<b>Others (No. of Leases)</b>	<b>Total leases (No. of Leases)</b>
BAGEPALLI	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>
CHKKABALLAPRUA	<b>43</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>111</b>
CHINTAMANI	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
GOWRIBIDANUR	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
GUDIBANDE	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>
SHIDLAGATTA	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>172</b>

The information regarding operational status of the quarries and crushers in Chikkaballapur district is given as **Table 2**.

**Table 2. Operational Status of the Quarries / Crushers in Chikkaballapur District**

S.No	Information regarding Quarries and Crushers in Chikkaballapura District	Status about the Quarries/Crushers operative at Present			
		Sub mine	Contract No	Operative	Inoperative
1	No of Quarries present in Chikkaballapura District	There are 172 Quarries			
2	No. Of Operative Quarries And Non-operative Quarries	Operative Quarries-128, Non-operative Quarries -44			
3	Details of Total Ornamental Stone and Building Stone	<b>Ornamental Granite</b>	68	57	11
		<b>Building Stone Quarry</b>	100	71	29
		<b>Other Sub Mine</b>	04	-	04
		<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>44</b>

**FLOW CHART OF QUARRY LEASE**



**Figure 1. Procedure for issuing Quarry lease by Department of Mines and Geology, Karnataka**

Section 4(d) of the Explosives Act, 1884, defines “explosive” as gun-powder, nitroglycerine, nitroglycol, gun-cotton, di-nitrotoluene, tri-nitrotoluene, picric acid, di-nitrophenol, tri-nitroresorcinol (styphnic acid), cyclotry methylene-trinitramine, penta-erythritol-tetranitrate, tetryl, nitroguanidine, lead azide, lead styphynate, fulminate of mercury or any other metal, diazo-di-nitrophenol, coloured fires or any other substance whether a single chemical compound or a mixture of substances, whether solid or liquid or gaseous used or manufactured with a view to produce a practical effect by explosion or pyrotechnic effect; and includes fog-signals, fireworks, fuses, rockets, percussion-caps, detonators, cartridges, ammunition of all descriptions and every adaptation or preparation of an explosive as defined in the clause.

“sale of explosives” by the manufacturer to the supplier is governed by the Indian Explosive Act, 1884, and Regulations and Rules framed thereunder, which is administered by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), Ministry of Industry, Government of India. The onward/inward/issue/usage etc., are to be maintained as per the Indian Explosive Act, 1884 and Rules framed thereunder, and returns are to be submitted to PESO.

The list of explosives that are authorized by Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) for manufacture, import, export, transport, possession, sale and use of Explosives are available on the weblinks <https://peso.gov.in/web/authorized-explosives-manufacturers-wise> and <https://peso.gov.in/web/authorized-explosives-general-items>.

Use of explosives in mines shall be in accordance with provisions laid down in Chapter XV (Explosives and Shotfiring) of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 (the MMR, 1961).

As per Regulation 153 of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1951, the explosives provided for use shall be of good quality and, as far as can be known, in good condition. No explosive shall be used in a mine except that provided by the owner, agent or manager.

Regulation 157 of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1951, stipulates that, no explosives shall be issued from the magazine or taken into any mine except in a case or container of substantial construction and securely locked. Cases or containers made of iron or steel shall be heavily galvanised; and no case or container provided for carrying detonators shall be constructed of metal or other conductive material. No detonator shall be kept in a case or container which contains other explosives, materials or tools; and two or more types of detonators shall not be kept in the same case or container. Provided that nothing in this sub-regulation shall restrict the conveyance of primer cartridges fitted with detonators in the same case or container for use in a wet working or in a sinking shaft or winze. No detonator shall be taken out from a case or container unless it is required for immediate use. No case or container shall contain more than five kilogrammes of explosives, and no person shall have in his possession at one time in any place more than one such case or container. Provided that nothing in this sub-regulation shall prohibit the conveyance of larger quantity of explosives in bulk for supplying an under ground magazine. Provided further that the chief Inspector may, by an order in writing and subject to such conditions as he may specify therein, permit the carrying of a larger quantity of explosives in a single case or container, or the use, at one time in one place, of more than one such case or container. Every case or container shall be numbered, and as far as practicable, the same case or container shall be issued to the same blaster or competent person, as the case may be, every day. The key of every case or container shall be retained by the blaster in his own possession throughout his shift.

Regulation 158 of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1951, stipulates that, with regard to transportation of explosives – while explosives in bulk are lowered or raised in a shaft or winze, a distinguishing mark shall be attached to the cage, skip or bucket containing the explosive, or the person in charge of explosives shall travel in the same cage, skip or bucket. Every cage, skip or bucket containing explosives shall gently lowered or raised; and it shall be the duty of banksman or bellman, as the case may be,



to adequately warn the winding engineman before the cage, skip or bucket is set in motion. Where explosives are being carried on a ladder, every case or container shall be securely fastened to the person carrying it. No person other than a blaster shall carry any priming cartridge into a shaft, which is in the course of being sunk. No such cartridge shall be so carried except in a thick felt bag or other container sufficient to prevent it from shock.

Rule 2(31) defines “Magazine”, which means a building or structure (other than an explosives manufacturing building) intended for storage of explosives, especially constructed in accordance with the specification provided under the Explosive Rules, 2008 or of a design and approved by the Chief Controller.

Regulation 154 of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1951, stipulates that, with regard to Storage of Explosives - No owner, agent or manager shall store, or knowingly allow any other person to store, within the premises of a mine any explosives otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of rules made under the Indian Explosives Act, 1884. Explosives shall not be taken into or kept in any building except a magazine duly approved by the Licencing Authority under the Indian Explosives Act, 1884. Provided that the Regional Inspector may by an order in writing and subject to such conditions as he may specify therein, permit the use of any store or premises specially constructed at or near the entrance to a mine for the temporary storage of explosives intended for use in the mine or of surplus explosives brought out of the mine at the end of a shift. Explosives shall not be stored below ground in a mine except with the approval in writing of the Chief Inspector and subject to such conditions as he may specify therein. Such storage shall be done only in a magazine or magazines duly licenced in accordance with the provisions of rules made under the Indian Explosives Act, 1884. Every licence granted by the licencing Authority under the Indian Explosives Act, 1884 for the storage of explosives, or a true copy thereof, shall be kept at the office of the mine.

Blasting is carried out to breakdown the rocks into small particles. As per the regulation 160 of the MMR, 1951, the preparation of charges, the

charging and stemming of holes shall be carried out by or under the personal supervision of a competent person, in these regulations referred to as a 'blaster'. The blaster shall fire the shots himself.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT**

The explosive blast incident happened when unauthorized staff and workers / labourers of M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP crusher (as per data submitted to the committee) tried to dispose of the illegally possessed explosives (connected with M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates) in a government gomala land (barren land) at survey no. 168, Varlakonda village, Gudibande taluk near Hiremagavalli village at a distance about 1 km from the crusher i.e. M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP. On 23.02.2021, a huge sound of explosion was heard by the local people at about 00:45 am, that lasted for less than a minute, near the crusher at Hiremagavalli village, as informed by the public to the inspector of Gudibande police station.

The explosive material and its accessories were illegally possessed by M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates, quarry and were hidden near the bushes of labourers shed in Hiremagavalli village located at a distance of 1.5 km from the blast site and about 700 m from M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates.

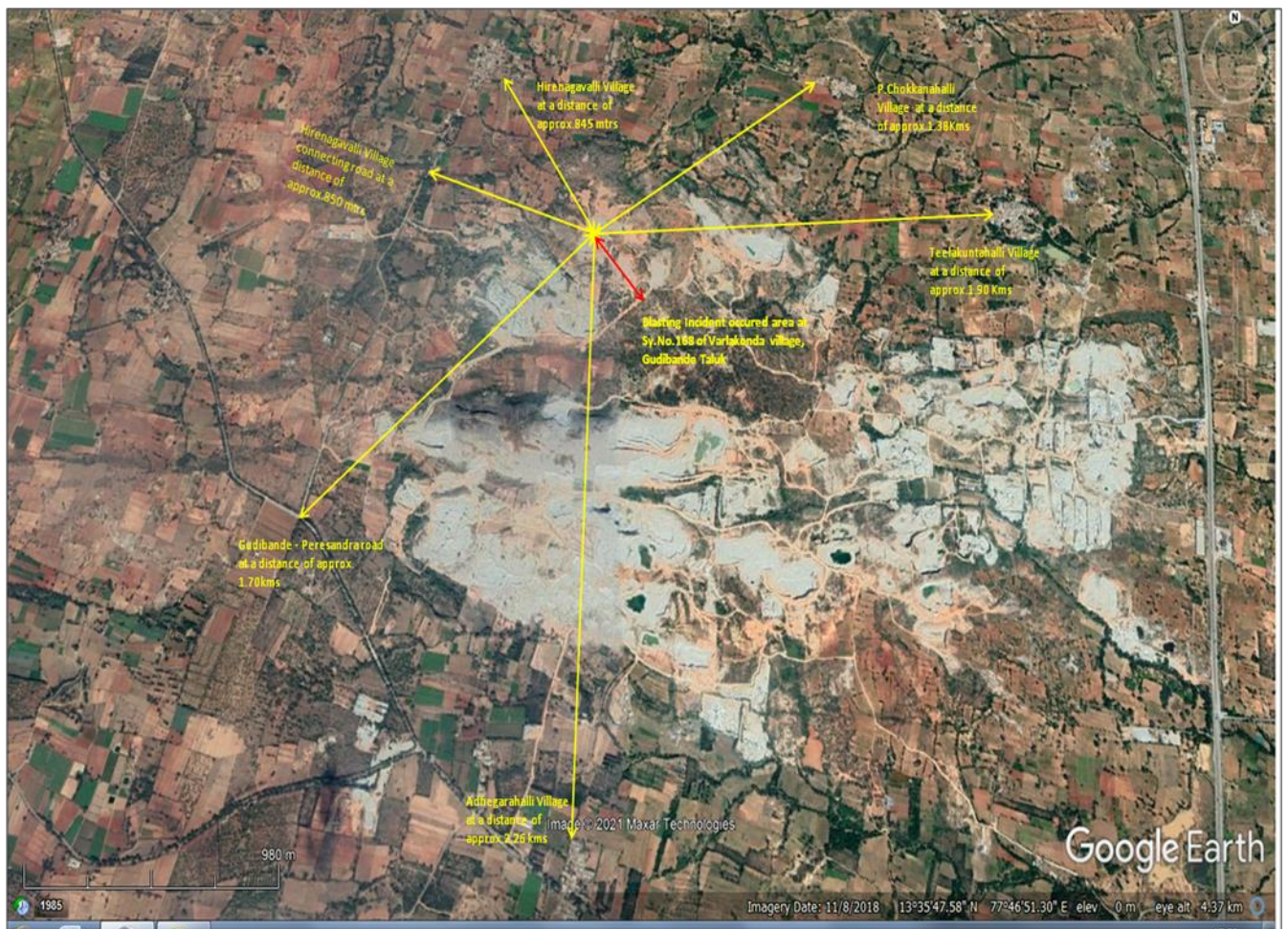
In the blast, six persons, namely, Sh Uma Mahesh (Manager), Sh Ramu (Supervisor), Sh Abhi Nayak (accountant), Sh Nepali Mahesh Sing Bore (security guard), Sh Gangadara (system operator), Sh Muralikrishna (computer operator) who were working in M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP died on the spot.

The dead bodies were found scattered within a radius of 25 metres and they were identified by the police department. The dead bodies were sent for post-mortem to District Hospital, Chikkaballapur.

In the said incident, a person named Sh Mohammed Riyaz Ansari, driver of M/s Bhramaravasini Crusher suffered minor injuries. He drove the vehicle i.e. TATA ACE (bearing vehicle no. KA-40-A-8789), in which

unauthorisedly/illegally possessed explosives were being carried. He parked the vehicle at a distance of about 30 metres away from the blast site. Therefore, he suffered minor injuries.

The google image showing the blast site along with surrounding areas is given as **Figure 2** below:



**Figure 2. Google image of the blast site and surrounding areas**

During inspection of M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates, it was informed that 02 vehicles and explosive materials were seized on 07.02.2021 and 22.02.2021 by local police before the occurrence of the blast. The impounded material were transported safely to the nearby Magazine and were disposed off under the guidance of Bomb squad attached to State Intelligence, Bangalore after getting court permission.

## CHAPTER – 5

### JOINT COMMITTEE SURVEY AND INVESTIGATION

#### 5.1 Preliminary Reconnaissance Survey and Observations

The Joint Committee visited the blast site on 06.04.2021, to ascertain the sequence of events, the cause of blast accident and the extent of damage caused due to the explosion that occurred on 23.02.2021 at around 00:45 hrs.

The joint committee visited and surveyed the blast site Sy.No.168 of Varlakonda Village with latitude and longitude as 13°37'08" N and 77°45'50" E. The surrounding boundaries of the site are given below:

North: Part of Sy.No.168 of Varlakonda Village, near by boundary is P.Chokkanahalli Village of Chikkaballapura Taluk.

South: Part of Sy.No.168 of Varlakonda Village, near by boundary is Janalkunte Village of Chikkaballapura Taluk.

East: Part of Sy.No.168 of Varlakonda Village

West: Part of Sy.No.168 of Varlakonda Village

Subsequently, the joint committee also visited the quarry i.e. M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates [Quarry Lease No. 100 dated 21.07.2010 over an extent of 3-20 acres leased for a period of twenty years] located about 01 km from the blast site at Sy No. 11 of Janalakunte Village, Chikkaballapura Taluk and district. The committee observed that the said quarry was directed to stop mining operations since 08.02.2021 and the same was found suspended. The committee also noted that three crushers namely M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP, M/s Pravahi Manufacturing private

limited, M/s ECO sand are located within a radius of 1-2 km of the blast site.

Further, the committee visited the place near labourer's shed where the illegally possessed explosives were hidden which is about 1.5 km from the blast site. The bushy area was not accessible by the committee and was appearing to be downside of the labourer's shed. A Magazine named M/s Shivnarayan Enterprises, Puttaparti village, Bagepalli taluk, Chikkaballapur district was visited by the committee which is located at a distance of about 40 km from the site.

During the survey, the committee observed that the blast has not occurred within the lease area of the Quarry belonging to M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates. The blast site is located in Sy.No.168 of Varlakonda Village, Gudibande Taluk. The area is a Government Gomala Land, that is a barren and rocky land with no public movements and structures around. There was an abandoned quarry site adjacent to the blast site and it was informed by the representative of Department of Mines and Geology that the quarry lease was expired. Photographs of the Joint Committee visits and survey is provided below at **Figure 3**:



(a) Visit and Survey of the Joint Committee to the Blast site



(b) Visit to the labourers shed where the explosives were hidden before blast



(c) Visit to a Magazine M/s Shivnarayan Enterprises, Puttaparti village, Bagepalli taluk, Chikkaballapur district

**Figure 3. Photographs of the visit and survey conducted by the Joint Committee with concerned Department of Karnataka State on 06.04.2021**

After the visit, the joint committee gathered the information related to the blast in the office of District Administration from the officials of concerned departments on 06.04.2021. The joint committee was explained about the sequence of events and actions taken prior to the day of the incident as given below;

S.No	Date / Time	Events prior to the incident	Remarks
1.	22.01.2021	Subsequent to the Blasting incident happened at Hunasodu village of Shivamogga District on 21.01.2021, Senior Geologist had called upon an urgent meeting involving all lease holders in Chikkaballapura District on	-

		22.01.2021 and instructed to take safety measures in Quarry area as per rules and regulations.	
2.	01.02.2021	<p>i. From 01.02.2021 to 02.03.2021, a one month programme was conducted by Mines and Geology Department, Chikkaballapura District to create awareness regarding Mining safety among the Lease holders and Public.</p> <p>ii. Superintendent of Police, Chikkaballapur district, held a wireless conference with all PSI's, PI's, CPI's and DySP's of Chikkaballapur district to ensure that all police officers visit all crushers, quarries, ornamental mining and explosives storage magazines in the district to personally examine whether mining is being legally carried out, to check and report illegal storage of explosives.</p>	-
3.	02.02.2021	<p>(i) One-day workshop organized by District Administration on usage of explosive materials was conducted in meeting hall, zilla panchayath. All police officers of the District, owner of stone quarries and Magazine holders participated in the workshop-cum-training program organized by District Administration.</p> <p>(ii) Dy SP of Chikkaballapur sub-division received information about</p>	-



		<p>transportation and use of explosives illegally by some persons near a hill next to Hanagattanahalli village near D.Palya under the jurisdiction of Manchenahalli police station. An immediate raid was undertaken followed by a case registered at Manchenahalli Police Station under Crime No. 23/2021, u/s 3 &amp; 4 IES Act-1908, u/s 4,4(1a), 21, 22, 23(1a) as per prohibition of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.</p> <p>(iii) PI of Gudibande police station received information about illegal storage of explosives in the shed of land belonging to Sh Ramesh of Adegarahalli village, Mandikal hobli and a case was registered at the Gudibande police station crime no: 21/2021, u/s 4 &amp; 6 IES Act-1908 and action taken as per law.</p>	
4.	03.02.2021	<p>(i) Dy SP of Chinthamani sub-division CPI of Chinthamani circle and all PSI's visited 3 quarries and 3 crushers near the villages Madabahalli, Ragutthalli and Santhekallahalli under their jurisdiction and reported that everything is in order after examining quarries and crushers.</p> <p>(ii) The CPI and PSIs of Shidlagatta</p>	-

		<p>circle have visited and examined a magazine near Kondappagaripalli village; one quarry and magazine near Ontooru village falling under their jurisdiction.</p> <p>(iii) The CPI and all PSIs of Chikkaballapur circle, chikkaballapur district, inspected Guvvalakanahalli, Kariganapalya and 6 quarries and crushers near Kanivenarayanapura and one magazine near Ketenahalli village in the jurisdiction of Nandigiridhama police station.</p> <p>(iv) The PI of Gudibande police station have visited and examined 10 quarries and 12 crushers in their jurisdiction and have reported that after the explosion that occurred at Hunasodu village of Shivamoga district earlier, work in quarries and crushers have been stopped.</p> <p>(v) The PSI of Manchenahalli police station, in Dyavasandra village under their jurisdiction have examined the magazines at nearby A.R minings and Dhurga enterprises.</p> <p>(vi) The CPI and PSI's of Bagepalli circle have visited 2 quarries and inspected the area of about 8 stone mining of ornamental stones.</p> <p>(vii) CPI Nayaz Baig received information regarding explosives kept</p>	
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		illegally near a boulder at the stone hill at survey no.46, near Varnampalli village a raid was conducted and inspection done, and case registered at Bagepalli Police Station in Crime No: 31/2021, u/s 286, 336 IPC and u/s 3,4,5 IES Act-1908 and investigation is in progress.	
5.	04.02.2021	<p>(i) Notices were issued by different Police Station of Chikkaballapur district to owners of all Explosives Magazines who supply explosive to Quarries, owners of crushers in Chikkaballapur district, on the enforcement of Laws and Acts framed by the Government and instructions has been given for not violating the rules and regulations/follow rules strictly without fail.</p> <p>(ii) The DySP of Chikkaballapur sub-division has sent a letter to the Department of Mines and Geology requesting to make an appeal to the owners of magazines, owners of crushers and stone quarries in the purview of the Sub-divisional area to know whether the explosives stored by the owners of crushers, stone quarries are functioning legally and possesses all relevant documents. Also, the Department of Mines and Geology were asked about number of quarries in</p>	-

		<p>Chikkaballapur district (both functional and non-functional).</p> <p>(iii) A meeting was organized by the district task force committee (Mines) and district stone crushing units licensing and control Authority at the DC office under the chairmanship of District Commissioner. In the said meeting, it was decided that the Geologists, Tahsildars, Circle inspectors, police sub-inspectors and Range Forest Officers must, with suitable coordination, take appropriate measures as per law to prevent illegal stone mining and transportation. It was also instructed that all quarry owners must obtain licences to use explosives from DGMS or concerned Authority, and undertake all safety measures and compliances to ensure that no accidents occur.</p>	
6.	06.02.2021	Police officers have inspected all stone quarries, crushers and explosives magazines in Chikkaballapur district and it was observed that all the operations have been stopped.	
7.	07.02.2021	SP along with Dy. SP of Chikkaballapur and PI of Gudibande Police Station made a surprise inspection to 05	

		<p>crushers and 06 quarries. The mining operations in all the crushers and quarries were stopped except in the lease belonging to M/s Sri Shridi Sai Aggregates quarry.</p> <p>In Bhramaravasini Crusher near Hiremagavalli, connected with M/s Sri Shridi Sai Aggregates, explosives were found stored illegally. The explosives at the site were collected and impounded; whereas no explosives were found elsewhere on further search. In this regard, PI of Gudibande Police Station registered a case Crime No. 25/2021 u/s 286, 336 IPC, Sec 4, 6 IES Act-1908, Sec 5(a), 9(b) Explosives Act, 1984 and investigation is underway.</p> <p>Thereafter, the quarry belonging to M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates has been totally shutdown and halted.</p>	
8.	08.02.2021	<p>The Department of Mines and Geology issued notices to all building stone quarries including M/s Sri Shirdi Sai aggregates. It has been instructed in the respective notice to submit permission obtained from concerned Authority and Director of Mines and Safety (DGMS) as mentioned in additional rules and regulations issued along with Quarry Lease deed book. Further, they are directed to submit a copy if already permission is obtained</p>	

		within 07 days from the notice received date. Also, mentioned to operate Quarry only after obtaining permission from DGMS.	
9.	09.02.2021	SP, Chikkaballapur district, instructed all police officers at Gudibande police station to take up all precautionary measures with regard to the explosives substances being used in all the stone quarries of the sub-division and all measures to be taken with respect to the licenced stone quarries in the sub-division. The proceedings of the meeting containing the measures to be implemented was prepared and submitted to Inspector General of Police, Central range, Bengaluru vide communication no. SB/CC/67/2021 dated 10.02.2021.	
10.	16.02.2021	An email (vide no. SB/CC/66/2021 dated 16.02.2021) was sent to all PSIs, PIs and CPIs of chikkaballapur district to collect information about licenced quarries in the district, inspect explosive magazines stored with explosive substances, to report present status of cases registered since 10 years, to investigate accused gone under cover with reference to the cases recorded herein, to obtain information about those carrying and transporting explosives illegally and to ensure that	

		no untoward incidents happen.	
11.	22.02.2021	<p>On the night, police department visited M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates and seized the tractor, compressor involved in the case which had already been registered against them.</p> <p>On 22.02.2021, the day before the incident police could not find any explosives at the quarry site (but later it was found that they were hidden near the labourer's shed).</p>	<p>During the inspection by police department to the quarry M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates, the explosives could not be found &amp; seized (but later it was found that they were hidden near the labourers shed).</p> <p>Thereby, the offenders tried to dispose off the explosives inappropriately leading to the blast.</p>
12.	23.02.2021	<p>Blast occurred in Sy no. 168, Hiremagavalli village, Varlakonda Village, Gudibande Taluk Chikkaballapur district at 00:45 am.</p>	<p>The explosives were carried to the blast site in the midnight at around 11:45 PM and the blast occurred</p>

			at 00:45 am on 23.02.2021.
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With regard to inspection of M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates, it was informed by the police department that, 02 vehicles and explosive materials were seized on 07.02.2021 and 22.02.2021 before the blast occurred. The impounded material were transported safely to the nearby magazine and were disposed of under the guidance of Bomb squad attached to State Intelligence, Bangalore after getting court permission.

It was observed that there were no residential colonies, government buildings/public structures, water bodies or vegetation in and around the blast site except small bushes. Therefore, no visible impact on the environment was found. Photographs of the accident spot and the nearby areas are given above.

The Joint Committee was informed that subsequent to the explosion happened in Hunasodu in Shivamoga District, Department of Mines & Geology called a meeting of all building stone quarry owners meeting and insisted them to follow the guidelines and procedures of existing rules. Photographs of the meeting is appended as **Figure 4**.



**Figure 4. Meeting conducted by Department of Geology and Mines, Karnataka**

As per the direction of Director, Department of Mines and Geology monthly awareness programme was started from 01.02.2021 to 02.03.2021 to create awareness regarding mining safety among the lease holders and public. In this period, all the geologists visited their respective jurisdiction



quarry area and insisted to the lease holders to follow the norms, guidelines and procedures of existing rules. Photographs of the meeting is appended as **Figure 5.**

Further, as a means to create awareness among the Mines & Geology, quarry owners, blasters, Magazine holders, police department, and other stakeholders, an awareness campaign was conducted on 02.02.2021 under the chairmanship of District Administration and Superintendent of Police involving resource person from DGMS.

It was informed by Department of Mines and Geology that Continuous inspections were conducted by Police Department and Department of Mines & Geology from 01.02.2021 onwards. Then, notice dated 04.02.2021 was issued by Police Department to all quarries and magazine holders, asking to produce relevant documents regarding the mining activity as well as storage of explosives.

Notice dated 08.02.2021 was issued by Dept of Mines & Geology, Chikkaballapur to all building stone quarries including M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates, wherein it has been instructed to submit permission obtained from concerned authority and DGMS as per rules. If not, it was instructed to operate quarry only after obtaining such permission from DGMS.



**Figure 5. Awareness program conducted by District Administration and Police Department**

## **5.2 Statement of the Survivor of the blast accident**

As per the statement of the driver (survivor of the blast incident), he was working as a JCB operator and driver of other vehicles near the village, Chikkaballapur at Bhramaravasini Jelly crusher since past 6 years. G.S Nagaraj and Raghavendra Reddy are the official partners of M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M – Sanders LLP, whereas Mrs Chandrakala (c/o G S Nagaraj), Sh P V Shivareddy, Sh S N Srinivasan, Sh Ramalingareddy, Dr Lakshmipathy are the sleeping partners of the crusher. About 14-15 North Indians and locals from Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand work in M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M – Sanders LLP located in survey no. 24 (about 03 acre 10 guntas area). M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates (about 03 acre 20 guntas) is a stone quarry located about 200 metre from the above crusher at Survey no. 11 of Jonnalakunte village. The quarry was built by Sh G S Nagaraj and Sh Ragavendra Reddy in Andhra Pradesh who are the official partners whereas Sh Madhusudana Reddy, Bangalore, Sh Sunil Kumar, Inamincenahalli, Chikkaballapur, Sh Tirumalappa, Sh Imtiyaj, Sh Ravindra, Dommatamari village, Pavagada district are the sleeping partners. Sh Imtiyaz, sleeping partner of the firm died almost a year ago due to illness.

It was also reported that, some of the explosives stored illegally were impounded by the police during repeated inspections prior to the day of the fatal incident i.e. 23.02.2021. On 22.02.2021, the day before the incident police could not find the explosives at the quarry site as they were hidden at the Jelly Crusher by the workers of the quarry. Therefore, Sh D V Ravindra, Sh Venkatasiva Reddy and Sh Ganesh decided to destroy the explosives in order to escape from actions by police department. Sh Nagaraj and Sh Raghavendra Reddy phoned Sh Uma Mahesh, Engineer working in the quarry to destroy the explosives. He, in turn called Sh Ramu, Supervisor and few workers of crusher named Sh Abhinayak, computer operator, Sh Mahesh Singh Bohra, Gorkha at the quarry, Sh Gangadhar Babu and Sh Mohammed Riaz Ansari, driver to destruct the explosives. Then, the explosives were loaded in TATA ACE KA408789 on 22.02.2021 at 11:30 PM

which was followed by another worker from Siddipet, Telangana in a Two-Wheeler.

As they reached an isolated location situated at Survey No. 168 near Hiremagavalli at about 1 km from the crusher, near Varlakonda village, the persons got down from the vehicle and carried the explosives to destroy. Suddenly, it exploded with a huge noise and eventually, six people who carried the explosives died on the spot. Fortunately, the driver who was sitting inside the vehicle suffered sharp injuries due to stone shards fell on the right heel, foot, left knee and bottom of the legs. Also stone pieces shattered the right side mirror of the vehicle thereby causing injuries on the left side chest and lips with blood wounds.

By hearing the huge noise, Sh Praveen working in a nearby crusher admitted the person in Chikkaballapur government hospital. The statement of the incident was taken by the police on 24.02.2021 at 09:00 am.

### **5.3 Findings and Observations of the Joint Committee**

1. The employees of M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M – Sanders LLP under the instructions of owners of M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates and M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M – Sanders LLP, did the possession, storage, transport and disposal of the explosives in an unauthorized and illegal manner.
2. The owner of the quarry belonging to M/s Sri Shride Sai Aggregates did not submit notice of opening to DGMS as required under the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952 and relevant regulations framed there under.

Then, the quarry activities were stopped by Department of Mines & Geology and Police by issuing notices for non-compliance.

3. The management of M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates tried to dispose/destroy the explosive illegally possessed and stored illegally in unauthorized place (bushes) near labour shed.
4. The vehicle (bearing no KA-40-A 8789 TATA ACE) (not an explosive van) was used for carrying the explosives and the explosives were improperly disposed off in the open area thus, endangering own safety as well as public safety. The committee has been informed that as per the statement of the vehicle driver (injured), the explosives were disposed off by unauthorized persons at 00:45 AM (midnight).
5. The source, supply and accountability of the explosive from a magazine licence holder or otherwise is unknown and is under investigation by Crime Investigation Department, Karnataka.
6. The details of the deceased persons in the blast (exact DOB, Date of joining, work experience, qualification and skill/training in handling explosives) is under investigation by Crime Investigation Department, Karnataka.  
The details of the owners/partners and employees (exact DOB, Date of joining/experience, qualification and skill/training in handling explosives) is under investigation by Crime Investigation Department, Karnataka.
7. The only survivor of the accident / blast i.e driver of the vehicle who carried the explosives is under judicial custody.
8. The type and name of explosives and accessories, being disposed could not be ascertained. However, the sample has been collected by the forensic department, which has been in turn sealed and handed over to Forensic Science Lab, Bengaluru by police

department. The result of analysis is awaited for further examination.

9. Non-compliances on the provisions of the Rules and Regulations observed are provided as section 5.3 below.

#### **5.4 Non-compliances of the Rules and Regulations by M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates**

Contraventions, under the Indian Explosive Act, 1984 and rules framed thereunder, done by management of the quarry belonging to M/s Sri Shride Sai Aggregates in operation of the mine is as under:

- i. As per subrule 5 of Rule 10 of the Explosive Rules, 2008, restriction on handling explosives stipulates that no person shall handle or cause to be handled any explosive between the hour of sunset and sunrise unless otherwise specifically permitted by the licensing authority, provided that nothing in this rule shall apply to handling of explosives during dark hours if proper illumination is provided in the area and the place is guarded.
- ii. As per subrule 3 of Rule 10 Restriction on transport — (a) Any explosive of Class 5 (Fulminate) or detonator or any other explosive of Class 6 (Ammunition) containing its own means of ignition or initiation, or an explosive of Class 7 (Fireworks) shall not be transported in the same carriage, or save as provided in Part 3 of Schedule VI in the same vessel and shall not be conveyed or handled with any explosives not of the class and division to which it belongs.
  - (a) No person shall transport any explosive with explosives belonging to Compatibility Group K referred to against serial number 10 in Table 1 under Part 3 of Schedule I, in a vehicle.
  - (b) No person shall transport explosives of Class 3 or Class 2 (high explosives) along with detonators.

- (c) Nothing in clauses (a) and (b) shall apply to the transport of explosives of Class 2 and/or Class 3, safety fuse, detonating fuse and detonators in a compressor mounted motor truck or tractor covered under a licence as per these rules.
- ii. Rule 63 of the Explosive Rules, 2008, stipulate restriction on transport of explosives except fireworks and safety fuse by vehicles other than Road vans or compressor mounted motor truck or tractor that, no explosive other than Fireworks or safety fuse shall be transported by any carriage which is not, a road van or compressor mounted motor truck or tractor: provided that any carriage, which is not a road van or compressor mounted motor truck or tractor, may transport any explosive if the distance from the place of loading to the place of destination does not exceed 10 kilometres and the following conditions are complied with- (a) the transport of explosives is restricted to the period between sunrise and sunset; (b) the explosives are accompanied by at least two able-bodied Guards; (c) a Red flag is displayed on each card; the packages containing explosives are suitably covered by tarpaulin, and secured.
- iii. As per Sub Rule 1 of Rule 71 of the Explosive Rules, 2008, under Chapter VII regarding possession in licensed premises – A person holding licence for possession of explosives granted under these rules shall store the explosives only in premises specified in licence.
- iv. As per Sub Rule 4 of Rule 90 of the Explosive Rules, 2008, regarding Restriction on conveyance of explosives to or at the blasting site – Explosives left over after the day's work shall be returned to the licenced premises from which the same was taken.
- v. As per Rule 96 of the Explosive Rules, 2008, regarding Person in charge to be responsible — The licensee or a shot firer employed by him to be in-charge of blasting operations shall take all precautions against fire,

accident, loss, pilferage etc., of explosives and will be personally held responsible for any contravention of the relevant provisions of the Act or Rules thereof.

- vi. As per Rule 97 of the Explosive Rules, 2008, regarding Blasting operations in mines.—Blasting operations in mines shall be carried out as per the Mines Act, 1952(35 of 1952) and such operations shall be carried out according to regulations framed under that Act. The shot firer employed for blasting operations shall take all precautions against fire, accident, loss, pilferage etc., of the explosives and personally be held responsible for any contravention of the provisions of the Explosives Act, 1884 and the rules thereof.

Subsequently, it was also found contraventions, under the Mines Act, 1952 and regulations framed there under, done by management of the quarry belonging to M/s Sri Shride Sai Aggregates while operation of the mine/Quarry:

- vii. As required under the section 16 of the Mines Act, 1952 read with Regulation 3 of the MMR, 1961 - Notice of opening: The owner, agent or manager of a mine shall, **at least one month before the commencement of any mining operation**, give to the Chief Inspector, the Controller, Indian Bureau of Mines and the District Magistrate of the district in which the mine is situated, notice in writing in such form and containing such particulars relating to the mine, as may be prescribed (enumerated in Regulation 3 of the MMR, 1961).
- viii. As required under Section 17 of the Mines Act, 1952 read with Regulation 34 of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961, no mine shall be opened, worked or re-opened unless there is a manager of the mine, being a person duly appointed and having such qualification as are required under the said regulation for the overall management, control, supervision and direction of the mining operations.
- ix. As required under Section 18 of the Mines Act, 1952- Duties and responsibilities of owners, agents and managers: - (1) the owner and

agent of every mine shall each be responsible for making financial and other provisions and for taking such other steps as may be necessary for compliance with the provisions of this Act and the regulations, rules, bye-laws and orders made thereunder.

The owner, agent and manager of every mine shall each be responsible to see that all operations carried on in connection with the mine are conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Act and of the regulations, rules, bye-laws and orders made thereunder.

- x. Regulation 160 of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961, Blaster: (1) The preparation of charges, the charging and stemming of holes shall be carried out by or under the personal supervision of a competent person, in these regulations referred to as a 'blaster'. The blaster shall fire the shots himself. No person shall be appointed to be a blaster unless he is the holder of Manager's, Foreman's Mate's or Blaster's certificate.

No person whose wages depend on the amount of mineral, rock or debris obtained by firing shots, shall be appointed to perform the duties of a blaster.

Note: The shotfirer certificate holder (issued by PESO) or Magazine license holder is not authorised to conduct blasting in the mines]  
The blaster shall be appointed by the owner of the quarry lease.



## CHAPTER 6

### IMPACT DUE TO THE BLAST OF EXPLOSIVES

#### 6.1 Impact on Human life

As per the information furnished by the driver involved in the incident to the police department, about 10-12 kg of explosives blasted at the site for less than a minute with a huge noise. Among seven persons involved in the unauthorized disposal, six persons died on the spot and one person suffered minor injuries. The person (driver) who suffered minor injuries was waiting in the vehicle that was parked at a distance of about 30 metres. The joint committee, therefore, assessed that the blast might have occurred due to either of the following: confinement of the explosives or presence of detonators or use of fire or disposal of entire lot of explosives at a time or unscientific mode of disposal. The impact (viz., air pressure, noise, vibration, dust, particles etc.) might have occurred within the radius of 30 metres causing death of persons (06) who were in immediate vicinity.

#### 6.2 Impact on Environment

It was observed that there were no residential colonies, government buildings/public structures, water bodies or vegetation in and around the blast site except small bushes within 200 metres. Therefore, no visible impact on the environment found. Photographs of the accident spot and the nearby areas before and after the blast incident are given below at **Figure 6**.

No damage has been caused either to any water bodies, public structures or government buildings as observed in and around the surrounding area due to the incident. No loss of livestock and no impact on the flora and fauna around the site was observed as the site is a barren land. The same was confirmed with the officials who visited immediately after the incident, which comprised of district administration, Superintendent of Police, District Health Officer, Department of Mines and Geology etc.

The explosives blast might have caused vibration, air overpressure, dust particles, noise and gases etc. Blasting in controlled conditions and planned technique generally, causes loud noise called air blast or air overpressure. Air overpressure, however, is not simply the sound that is heard, it is an atmospheric pressure wave consisting of high frequency sound that is audible (20 – 20000Hz) and low frequency sound or concussion that is sub audible (< 20 Hz) and cannot be heard. Either or both of the sound waves can cause damage if the sound pressure is high enough and intolerable. The joint committee was informed that the blasting did not last for more than ONE minute and the intensity of impact on environment (except huge noise and loss of lives) as above may be negligible.

The joint committee also observed that there was no fire incident subsequent to the blast incident, as there were no inflammable substances present in and around the blast site (eg. Trees, dry vegetation etc.).

Further, in case the explosives (about 10-12 Kg) is of Ammonium nitrate, or AN ( $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ ) based compound, as reported in various studies that the basis of most explosives used in the mining industry. Its detonation usually needs to be deliberately initiated, but there have been a number of instances when it has spontaneously exploded, at great risk to life and property. In this blast case also the joint committee awaits the detailed sample report of the Forensic and Central Investigation Department, Government of Karnataka for the information on the type and category of explosive material that caused the explosion. Upon receipt of complete information, a technical team of officials involving Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation to examine the matter and assess the possible impact on the environment (for example, decomposition of chemical compounds in explosives into gases etc.) that might have been caused due to the explosion.



**Figure 6. Google imagery of the blast site before and after the incident**

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **ACTION TAKEN REPORT AND MEASURES TO AVOID SUCH INCIDENTS**

#### **7.1 Action Taken Report on Defaulters**

##### **A. Action taken by District Collectorate and Police Department**

As a consequence of the unforeseen blast incident, functioning of all the quarries, crushers along with transportation of all explosive substances have been completely stopped. Later, permission was given for 05 quarries where all the relevant documents were available. About 08 cases were registered as a result of raids and investigation in some quarries for information about illegal storage and usage. Further, strict measures were taken to ensure compliance of all rules, possession of all necessary documents and to conduct/operate crushers/quarries only after obtaining legal permission.

The Explosive Audit Committee comprising of Police Department and Department of Mines & Geology has been formed for inspection, monitoring and auditing of all magazines and quarry located in the district.

A committee comprising of officer of Revenue Department, Police Department, Forest Department, Department of Mines & Geology and KSPCB has been formed for inspection of stone crusher and quarry and for verification of legalized mandatory documents.

The explosive audit committee by Department of Police has formed for inspection and monitoring of all quarries and magazines located in the district. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) was prepared and circulated to all quarry and magazine owners regarding the detailed procedures to be followed for strict compliance while usage, storage and transportation of explosives.

## **B. Action Taken by Department of Mines and Geology**

From 01.02.2021 to 02.03.2021, one month programme was conducted by Mines and Geology Department, Chikkaballapura District to create awareness regarding Mining safety among the Lease holders and Public.

The report submitted by Department of Mines and Geology, Chikkaballapura District to Director, Mines and Geology, Bangalore and District Commissioner, Chikkaballapura regarding the blast incident is appended as **Annexure III**.

On 25.02.2021, a district task force (Mines) meeting was held under the chairmanship of District Commissioner wherein, decision was taken regarding formation of officers team including Police Department, Department of Forest, Revenue, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Department of Mines & Geology to inspect the quarries and crushers for document verification along with use of explosives audit.

On 05.03.2021, a district task force (Mines) meeting was held under the chairmanship of District Commissioner. Task force officers team inspected 05 quarries and 06 crushers and the report was placed before the District Task Force Committee for review and as per the decision of the committee, out of 71 active quarries and 54 crushers, 05 quarries and 06 crushers were allowed to operate as per the legal provisions.

On 07.04.2021, a district task force (Mines) meeting was held under the chairmanship of District Commissioner. Task force officers team inspected remaining 66 quarries and 48 crushers and the report was placed before the District Task Force Committee for review. As per the decision of the committee, out of 71 active quarries and 54 crushers, additionally 12 quarries and 38 crushers were allowed to operate as per the legal provisions.

### **C. Action Taken by Directorate General of Mines and Safety**

The two blasts one at Shivamoga and the other at Chikkaballapur, occurred well outside the leasehold area, allotted for mining operations, and therefore do not come under the purview of The Mines Act, 1952 (administered by DGMS). However, some safety promotional initiatives were taken up such as;

- (i) On 09.02.2021, a meeting held with DC, Shivamoga, Senior Geologist, DMG and quarry owners on mines safety,
- (ii) On 23.02.2021, a meeting on mines safety held with quarry owners of Shivamoga district at DGMS, SZ, Bengaluru,
- (iii) On 01.03.2021, a meeting on mines safety held with quarry owners of Shivamoga district at DGMS, SZ, Bengaluru,
- (iv) On 05.03.2021, a meeting with mine owners of Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural District.
- (v) On 24.02.2021, a meeting on mines safety held with MP, Shivamoga, Director, DMG, Karnataka and DC, Shivamoga at CM, Camp office, Bengaluru.
- (vi) On 10.03.2021 an orientation program on the Mines Act, 1952 to the Director and officers of Department of Mines and Geology, Karnataka at Kanija Bhawan, Bengaluru.
- (vii) On 17.03.2021, a workshop cum awareness program on mines safety by officials of DGMS to owners, managers and other stakeholders organised by Quarry Owners' Federation, Karnataka at Palace Grounds, Bengaluru.
- (viii) On 26.03.2021, a meeting with Minister of Mines, Karnataka and their officials, Director (DMG) at Vikash Shoudha, Bengaluru regarding the latest developments in the operation of the mines and the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952.

- (ix) On 28.02.2021, a meeting with police, SP Tavarekere, quarry owners and officials from Revenue Department, DMG, Transport Department.

To ensure safety of persons employed in the mine statutory persons are required to be appointed in the mine. To provide statutory persons to the mining industry, statutory examinations like mining mate, blaster (Junior Mining Examination) were conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021. Senior mining examinations like First Class Manager's Certificate of Competency and Second Class Manager's Certificate of Competency were conducted from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2021.

In addition, on 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 2021, a medical board was conducted for revalidation of the statutory certificates held under the Mines Act, 1952.

#### **D. Action taken by Chief Controller of Explosives**

It was reported in Times Now News dated 23/02/2021 that six killed in quarry blast in Hiremagavalli, Chikkaballapur. Honourable National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in the matter of O.A. No. 59 of 2021 *suo moto* passed orders dated 25/02/2021 and appointed a six member Joint Committee comprising the CPCB, State PCB, Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur, District Magistrate, Chikkaballapur, nominee of Director General, Mines and the Director of Mines, Karnataka to give report to the Tribunal within one month i.e. on or before 30/04/2021.

The Deputy Superintendent of Police & Investigating Officer, Special Enquiry Division, CID, Bengaluru, vide his letter No. SED/Guidebande PS/2020 – 2021 dated 24/03/2021 informed the Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Mangalore that CID is conducting investigation in Crime No. 34/2021 u/s 286, 304 IPC r/w 356 of Explosives Substances Act, 1908 and Section 9(b) of Explosives Act, 1884 of Gudibande Police Station. He informed that lot of quarries are being operated without any licence and purchasing explosives also illegally and requested to furnish the role of

PESO under Explosives Substances Act, 1908, Explosives Act, 1884 and Explosives Rules, 2008 to assist in the investigation.

The Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, vide his letter No. E.2(5) Chikkaballapur dated 26/03/2021 furnished the following details:

1. Illegal manufacture, transport, storage, sale or use of Explosives in quarry/mines does not come under the purview of PESO as opined by the Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur, the final statutory authority for civil explosives (Commercial Explosives) in India.
2. PESO is not the competent authority to issue Quarry/Mines permit and no licence has been issued in the name of Sri Sai Aggregates, Gundibande Taluk, Chikkaballapur District for possession for use/sale of explosives.
3. All the District Magistrates/Superintendent of Police have been provided with user ID and password by the Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur to monitor online the sale, use and transport of explosives in their jurisdiction.
4. PESO is issuing licence for legal possession of authorised explosives for sale/use after obtaining No Objection Certificate from the District Authority concerned as per Rule 102 of Explosives Rules, 2008 and transport of explosives by an explosives road van. At the time of issue of licence, a copy of the same is invariably forwarded to the concerned District Authority and Superintendent of Police as per Rule 107(2) and 137 of explosives Rules, 2008.
5. There is a laid down Rule 128 (1) to (4) of Explosives Rules, 2008 for inspection of legal/authorised explosives. As per Rule 128 (4) of Explosives Rules, 2008, the Executive Magistrate or Police Officers authorised to carry



out inspection of the magazines located within their jurisdiction once in six months to ascertain any violation of Acts and Rules.

6. Safety aspects regarding labours in legal mines do not fall under the purview of PESO. Mines falls under the purview of DGMS and legal quarries falls under the purview of Directors of Industrial Safety & Health, Mines and Geology Department.

7. PESO issues Shot Firer Permit as per Rule 107 of Explosives Rules, 2008 to undertake blasting in authorised quarries as per Rule 96 of Explosives Rules, 2008 and blasting in approved mines may be carried out by the Permit Holders issued by the DGMS.

*As per Rule 96 of Explosives Rules 2008 - The licensee or a short fire employed by him to be in charge of legal blasting operations shall take all precautions against fire, accidents loss, pilferage etc of Explosives and will be personally held responsible for any contravention of the relevant provisions of Act & Rule thereof.*

8. Only the licenses issued by PESO for Manufacture, Transport, Storage & Sale, Use of authorized explosives falls under the purview of PESO for inspection.

Illegal manufacture, transport, storage, sale or use of Explosives in quarry/mines does not come under the purview of PESO. The explosion occurred when the men were trying to dispose the explosives at a place which is not covered under any licence issued under the Explosives Rules, 2008. Neither information regarding the licence holder nor copy of FIR filed in Crime No. 34/2021 u/s 286, 304 IPC r/w 356 of Explosives Substances Act, 1908 and Section 9(b) of Explosives Act, 1884 of Gudibande Police Station has been received by the Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Mangalore. Moreover, the Honourable National Green Tribunal appointed six member committee to investigate in to the accident and ordered to file a

report on or before 30/04/2021. Therefore no action has been initiated under the Explosives Rules, 2008 so far.

On receipt of the FIR against any person possessing licence under Explosives Rules, 2008, further necessary action under Explosives Act, 1884 and the Explosives Rules, 2008 will be initiated.

## **CHAPTER 8**

### **COMPENSATION**

#### **8.1 EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION**

Six persons namely, Sh Uma Mahesh (Manager), Sh Ramu (Supervisor), Sh Abhi Nayak (accountant), Sh Nepali Mahesh Sing Bore (security guard), Sh Gangadara (system operator), Sh Muralikrishna (computer operator) who were working in the stone crusher i.e. M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP, Hiremagavalli Village, Chikkaballapur died on the spot. One person named Sh Mohammed Riyaz Ansari, driver of M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP who drove the vehicle i.e. TATA ACE (bearing vehicle no. KA-40-A-8789), suffered minor injuries.

As informed by the police department, the post mortem reports of the deceased persons are available with the Central Investigation Department, Karnataka for detailed investigation of the cause of the incident. The cause of death has been recorded by police department as death on the spot due to huge explosion of explosives.

As per the reports of the District Health & Family Welfare Office, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka (No. DHO/CBP/P.S/J. Committee/01/2020-21 dated 30.03.2021) the person (driver) injured due to blasting of explosives was shifted from the blast site to District hospital through Ambulance (108) on 23.02.2021 at 03.24 am. Preliminary medical checkup was conducted and it was found that the patient was in conscious state, vitals were stable. Whereas, he was suffering from hearing loss in the right ear with multiple abrasions on the face, hand and leg. Then, he was referred to ENT department of Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru. Now, after the medical check up and treatment, the health status of Sh Riyaz, aged, 35 years was given as stable and is in police custody.

Also, as per the records of the police department the following persons were found as accused for the blast and cases were registered against them;

I. Sh Nagaraj, Owner, M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates (co-owner of M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP)

II. Sh Ragavendhra Reddy, Owner, M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP ((co-owner of M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates);

III. Other workers/partners of M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates & M/s Bhramaravasini M-Sander LLP are as below;

1. Sh Lakshmipathi Reddy, M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP
2. Sh Venkata Shiva Reddy, partner, M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP
3. Sh D V Ravindra, partner, M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates
4. Sh H S Madhusudhan Reddy, partner, M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates
5. Sh Manjunatha Reddy, partner, M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates
6. Sh Praveena
7. Sh Ananda
8. Sh Ganesha
9. Sh M Murthy
10. Sh M Sambashiva Reddy

IV. The following are the deceased persons and one injured person, recorded as accused by the police department;

1. Sh Uma Mahesh, Manager, M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP
2. Sh Ramu, Supervisor, M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP
3. Sh Abhilash, Accountant, M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP
4. Sh Mahesh Singh Bora, Security Guard, M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP
5. Sh Gangadhar Babu, System Operator, M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP
6. Sh Chikkodu Murali @ Muralikrishna, Computer Operator M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP

The details of the six deceased persons and one injured person are provided in **Table 3** below;

**Table 3. Details of the persons who deceased and injured in the blast**

S.No	Name	Living status	DOB	Age/ Sex	Qualification	Date of joining the unit	Experience in No of Yrs.	Employee status and registration details
1.	Sh Uma Mahesh	Deceased	-	34 Yrs/M	-	-	-	Manager, M/s Shree Bhramaravasi ni M-sanders LLP
2.	Sh Ramu	Deceased	-	27 Yrs/M	-	-	-	Supervisor, Shree Bhramaravasi ni M-sanders LLP
3.	Sh Mahesh Singh Bora	Deceased	-	31 Yrs/M	-	-	-	Security Guard, Shree Bhramaravasi ni M-sanders LLP
4.	Sh Gangadhar Babu	Deceased	-	36 Yrs/M	-	-	-	System Operator, Shree Bhramaravasi ni M-sanders LLP
5.	Sh Abhilash @ Abhinayak	Deceased	-	25 Yrs/M	-	-	-	Accountant, Shree Bhramaravasi ni M-sanders LLP
6.	Sh Chikkodi Murali @ Muralikrishna	Deceased	-	24 Yrs/M	-	-	-	Computer Operator (Weighing), Shree Bhramaravasi ni M-sanders LLP
7.	Sh	Alive	-	35	-	-	-	Driver, Shree

	Muhammed Riyaz			Yrs/M				Bhramaravasi ni M-sanders LLP
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To assess the compensation for the staff/workers who were deceased during the blast, the joint committee has adopted two methods referring to; (i) The Judgement dated 16th August 2019 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in civil appeal No. 6339 of 2019 in the matter of Sunita Tokas vs New India Insurance Co. Ltd.; (ii) The Employee's Compensation Act, 1923.

The joint committee has considered the lowest among two methods to determine the compensation for Sh Uma Mahesh, Manager as he is also equally responsible for the accident. Whereas, for the other persons, maximum of two methods is considered for determining the compensation.

As per the Employee's Compensation Act, 1923, the amount of compensation shall be an amount equal to fifty percent of the monthly wages of the deceased multiplied by the relevant factor or an amount of one lakh and twenty thousand rupees whichever is more, where death results from the injury.

The joint committee has noted that the employees were liable to draw monthly wages from M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP as they were holding an assigned designation in that stone crusher. However, the employees were asked to dispose off the illegally possessed explosives which were belonging to M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates, quarry. In this regard, it is observed that both the above owners of M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates, quarry and M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP who are partners are equally responsible for the blast and liable to pay the compensation to the deceased persons.

The details of exact date of birth, date of joining, qualification and work experience of the employees are not available with the police department or District Administration.

In order to assess the compensation as per the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923, the joint committee has referred to the notification of Ministry of Labour and Employment vide S.O. 71(E) dated 03.01.2020 in the exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1B) of section 4 of the

Employees' Compensation Act, 1923, wherein the Central Government specified fifteen thousand rupees as the monthly wages.

Therefore, the joint committee has considered INR 15000 as monthly wages for all the deceased persons. The detailed calculation for estimating the compensation in the above cases are given at Table 4 below;

**Table 4. Calculation of Compensation as per the Employee's Compensation Act, 1923**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of the Person</b>	<b>A*</b> Amount of Compensation in INR as per Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement in civil appeal No. 6339 of 2019 and civil appeal no. 3483 of 2008	<b>OR</b> Whichever is more/less as considered by the committee to assess compensation depending on the extent of offense has been committed by the persons also by illegally handling the explosives under the instructions of the owners.	<b>B</b> Amount of Compensation in INR as per Employee's Compensation Act, 1923
1.	Sh Uma Mahesh (34)	6315000/-	OR Whichever is lesser	Compensation = fifty percent of the monthly wages of the deceased x relevant factor = Rs. 7500 x 201.66 = <b>15,12,450</b>
2.	Sh Ramu (27)	1347960/-	OR Whichever is higher	Compensation = fifty percent of the monthly wages of the deceased x relevant factor = Rs. 7500 x 215.28 = <b>16,14,600</b>
3.	Sh Mahesh Singh Bora (31)	1372920/-	OR Whichever is higher	Compensation = fifty percent of the monthly

				wages of the deceased x relevant factor = Rs. 7500 x 207.98 = <b>15,59,850</b>
4.	Sh Gangadhar Babu (36)	<b>3569400/-</b>	OR Whichever is higher	Compensation = fifty percent of the monthly wages of the deceased x relevant factor = Rs. 7500 x 197.06 = 14,77,950
5.	Sh Abhilash @ Abhinayak (25)	<b>2074200/-</b>	OR Whichever is higher	Compensation = fifty percent of the monthly wages of the deceased x relevant factor = Rs. 7500 x 218.47 = 16,38,525
6.	Sh Chikkodi Murali @ Muralikrishna (24)	<b>2217000/-</b>	OR Whichever is higher	Compensation = fifty percent of the monthly wages of the deceased x relevant factor = Rs. 7500 x 219.95 = 16,49,625
I.	Total Compensation to be paid as per Employees Compensation Act, 1923 (to be shared proportionately by the owners and partners of M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP and M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates Quarry)			Rs. 94,53,000/- (Rupees Ninety Four Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Only)

A\* - The detailed calculation of the Compensation as per the Supreme Court Orders in civil appeal No. 6339 of 2019 and civil appeal no. 3483 of 2008 is given as **Table 5**.

*\*\*Relevant factor under Employees' Compensation Act, 1923 - in relation to an employee means the factor specified in the second column of Schedule IV against the entry in the first column of that Schedule specifying the number of years which are the same as the completed years of the age of the employee on his last birthday immediately preceding the date on which the compensation fell due.*



**Table 5. Calculation of compensation as per the Supreme Court Orders in civil appeal No. 6339 of 2019 and civil appeal no. 3483 of 2008**

Name	D O B / Age	Qualif ication & Desig nation	Sala ry per mon th for the emp loye e	Futu re Pros pect s (40 % of the inco me)	Le ss ta x	Sala ry after dedu cting tax	Ded uctio n towa rds pers onal expe nses	Loss of mont hly inco me to the depe ndant s	An nu al inc om e	Loss of futu re inco me	Exp ense for shift ing the mor tal rem ains and loss of esta te and funer al expe nses (app . Cost )	Los s of Lov e and Affe ctio n	Compe nsatio n
-	-	-	A*	B	C	D	E <sup>T</sup> = 50 % of D	F = D-E	G= F*1 2	H#= G*M	I <sup>s</sup>	J <sup>&amp;</sup>	L = (F*G*H ) + I + J
Sh. Uma Mahesh (34)	34	Mana ger	500 00	200 00	50 00	6500 0	3250 0	3250 0	390 000	624 000 0	500 00	250 00	63150 00
Sh Ramu (27)	27	Super visor	120 00	480 0	0	1248 0	6240	6240	748 80	127 296 0	500 00	250 00	13479 60
Sh Mahesh Singh Bora	31	Securi ty Guard	130 00	520 0	0	1352 0	6760	6760	811 20	129 792 0	500 00	250 00	13729 20

(31)													
Sh Ganga dhar Babu (36)	36	Syste m Opera tor	260 00	104 00	0	3640 0	1820 0	1820 0	218 400	349 440 0	500 00	250 00	<b>35694 00</b>
Sh Abhila sh @ Abhinayak (25)	25	Accou ntant	140 00	560 0	0	1960 0	9800	9800	117 600	199 920 0	500 00	250 00	<b>20742 00</b>
Sh Chikko di Murali @ Murali krishna (24)	24	Comp uter Opera tor (Weig hing)	150 00	600 0	0	2100 0	1050 0	1050 0	126 000	214 200 0	500 00	250 00	<b>22170 00</b>
<p>II. Total Compensation to be paid as per Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court in civil appeal No. 6339 of 2019 and civil appeal no. 3483 of 2008 = Rs. 16896480/- (One Crore Sixty Eight Lakh Ninty Six Thousand Four Hundred Eighty)</p> <p><i>(to be shared proportionately by the owners and partners of M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP and M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates Quarry)</i></p>													

*\*Salary per month for the staff and workers of M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP has been furnished by the Police Department.*

*† Deduction towards personal expenses varies @ 50% for age of the deceased 20yrs to 50yrs*

*# Depending on the age, the factor is fixed. 16 for age group 31-35 years and 17 for age group 26 to 30 years.*

*& The committee fixed the amount as Rs.50,000/- for loss of love and affection*

*@ The committee fixed the amount as Rs.25,000/- for loss of estate, funeral expenses and for shifting mortal remains*

The amount of compensation may be paid as whichever is higher of the above two calculated methods to only 05 deceased persons except Sh Uma Mahesh (Manager), as he being at the level of decision making could have prevented the blast.

The joint committee has assessed that the following compensation be paid among the two methods calculated;

1. Sh Uma Mahesh - Rs. **15,12,450/-**
2. Sh Ramu - Rs. **16,14,600/-**
3. Sh Mahesh Singh Bora – Rs. **15,59,850/-**
4. Sh Gangadhar Babu – Rs. **3569400/-**
5. Sh Abhilash @ Abhinayak – Rs. **2074200/-**
6. Sh Chikkodi Murali @ Muralikrishna – Rs. **2217000/-**

Therefore, the committee recommends that the compensation calculated using the above two methods i.e as per the Supreme Court Orders in civil appeal No. 6339 of 2019 and civil appeal no. 3483 of 2008 and Employees Compensation Act, 1923 may be considered and the amount may be levied proportionately from both the units (M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP and M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates Quarry). The collected amount may be disbursed to the dependants of the deceased family through concerned Legal Authority, Government of Karnataka.

## CHAPTER 9

### MEASURES TO AVOID THE OCCURENCES

Provisions have been made in the Explosive Rules, 2008 wherein Rule 128 stipulates the powers of search and seizure —

- 1) Any authority specified in column (1) of the Table below may within the jurisdiction specified in the corresponding entry in column (2) of that Table—
  - (a) enter, inspect and examine any place, aircraft, train, carriage, vessel or any mode of transport in which an explosive is being manufactured, possessed, used, sold, transported, exported or imported under a licence granted under these rules, or in which he has reason to believe that an explosive has been or is being manufactured, possessed, used, sold, transported, exported or imported in contravention of the Act or these rules;
  - (b) search for explosives or ingredients thereof;

Authority	Jurisdiction
The Chief Controller or Controller	All parts of India
All District Magistrates	Their respective jurisdiction
All Executive Magistrates subordinate to the District Magistrate	Their respective jurisdiction
All Commissioners of Police or Police Officers of rank not below that of a Sub-Inspector of Police	Their respective jurisdiction
The Director General of Mines or officers subordinate to him	Their respective jurisdiction

- (c) take samples of any explosive or ingredients found therein on payment of the value thereof, if such payment is demanded at the time of the sample are taken;
- (d) seize, detain and remove any explosive or ingredients thereof found therein together with connected documents thereof in respect of which he has reason to believe that any of the provisions of the Act or these rules have been contravened.
- 2) Whenever any officer other than the Chief Controller seizes, detains or removes any explosive or ingredients thereof or any connected documents thereof under this rule, he shall forth with report the fact by telegram to the Chief Controller and the Controller under whose jurisdiction the place where the explosives were seized falls and whenever any officer not being the District Magistrate seizes, detains or removes any explosives or ingredients thereof or any connected documents thereof under this rule, he shall forthwith report the fact by telegram to the district authority concerned.
- 3) Whenever any explosives are seized they shall be stored up in an isolated place under adequate guard until examination by the Chief Controller or Controller and receipt of instructions from him as to their disposal.
- 4) Notwithstanding the above, the Executive Magistrates or Police Officers authorized in the table shall carry out inspection of the magazines located within their jurisdiction once in six months in order to ascertain if there has been any violation of the Act or the rules thereof. An assessment regarding adequacy of security guards provided by the licensee at the magazines as per Rule 21(2) should also be made during such inspection. A report of such inspection should be submitted to the concerned District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police or Commissioner of Police with a copy to the licensing authority.

Also, Rule 129 of the Explosive Rules, 2008 says power to destroy explosives and ingredients there of

- (1) the chief controller or a controller –
  - (a) shall destroy any explosive other than military ammunition of Indian or foreign origin wherever found - (i) the manufacture possession or import of which has been prohibited absolutely under section 6 of the act; or (ii) if the explosive belongs to the class five (fulminate) and is being manufactured, processed, used, sold, transported, exported or imported illegally without a licence under these rules;
  - (b) may destroy or render harmless any other explosives coming within the purview of these rules, or ingredient thereof in respect of which the chief controller or controller has reasons to believe that any of the provisions of the Act or these rules have been contravened or which in his opinion are no longer fit for storage, transport or use and the matter appears to be urgent to such controller and fraught with serious danger to public.

### **9.1 Measures to be taken to avoid such occurrences**

(i) Necessary guidelines and SOPs regarding proper handling of explosives under provisions of the Explosives Act, 1884 and the Explosive Rules, 2008 may be issued to the magazine holders and stakeholders by Chief Controller of Explosives from Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO).

In addition, the conditions stipulated in the licenses issued to the magazine owners and other stakeholders for safe handling of explosives, by PESO may be verified for compliance by the local authorities like Police Department.

(ii) Whenever explosive materials are impounded by police and revenue departments, the Chief Controller of Explosives may extend technical guidance by deploying qualified person(s) for safe disposal of explosives in the designated place. In case of non-availability of such persons, CCE may authorize competent authority for disposal of the same in a time bound

manner. Police department may also extend necessary cooperation with PESO for necessary procedures.

In this regard, Power to destroy explosives and ingredients, thereof, lies with the Chief Controller or a Controller other than military ammunition of Indian or foreign origin; Officers of organization carry out destruction of seized of explosives after Hon'ble Court permissions obtained by the police authority or any unserviceable explosives from time to time as stipulated under Rule 129 of the Explosives Act, 1884.

(iii) There is need for strengthening of PESO for carrying the duties and responsibilities stipulated under the Explosives Act, 1884 and the Explosive Rules, 2008. At present, the Organisation is currently functioning with 137 officer posted in 26 offices in the country and the Department Testing Station needs to be strengthened, as it is only technically competent authority for Commercial Explosives.

(iv) In the light of provisions, related to punishment for causing explosion likely to endanger life or property and punishment for making or possessing explosives under suspicious circumstances under The Explosives Substances Act, 1908, the joint committee recommends that implementation of the aforesaid provisions need to be strengthened to avoid illegal possession and handling of explosive materials by the authorities designated under the Act including District Administration and local police department.

In addition, suggestions for amendment of the Rules and Regulations, if any, may be recommended by Chief Controller of Explosives, PESO after thorough examination.

(v) With specific reference to the incident, the joint committee recommends that Online Real time monitoring system for filing daily returns of explosives by manufacturers, magazine holders and concerned stakeholders be implemented effectively to maintain accountability.

(vi) The access to the Online monitoring portal may be extended to the Taluk level Monitoring Committee, District Administration and police department under the respective jurisdiction. The same be accessed regularly for monitoring and compliance.

(vii) Barcoding of the packages of explosives is already in place, however, each cartridge item needs barcoding to avoid tampering of the details of the manufacturer and others.

It has been noted that “System on Explosives Tracking and tracing” (SETT) has already been launched by PESO. Phase one has been completed and Phase II i.e. 2d barcode on intermediate packages has been made operational recently.

(viii) Appropriate Training may be imparted to the Taluk level Monitoring Committee by Chief Controller of Explosives or his representative from Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) and Directorate General of Mines and Safety (DGMS) from time to time to address the issues of concern in connection with the technical and legal provisions.

(ix) A Taluk Level Monitoring Committee comprising of Police Department, Revenue Department, Department of Mines & Geology, Road Transport Department may be constituted by District Administration for addressing issues related to illegal usage, possession, storage, handling, transportation, sale and disposal of explosives.

(x) The joint committee also recommends that the concerned local authority of the state government shall ensure that due permission and license from concerned authority as stipulated under the Mines Act, 1952, The Major Mineral Development and Regulation Act, 1957, The Explosives Act, 1884 and the Explosive Rules, 2008 be obtained by the owners, stakeholders, magazine holders etc. Then, the same may also be monitored by the local authority and Department of Mines and Geology of the State Government.



(xi) Besides above, relevant provisions of the Mines Act, 1952, The Major Mineral Development and Regulation Act, 1957, The Explosives Act, 1884, the regulations, rules, by-laws, orders and circulars made there under need to be adhered stringently for safe operations of Mines and handling of explosives.

## **9.2 Restoration Plan**

The blast site is a barren land with dry to scanty vegetation and has not witnessed any damage to the flora, fauna, livestock except loss of lives (06 persons). Therefore, the joint committee is of the view that the particular site do not require any restoration measures.

## **CHAPTER 10**

### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

The joint committee hereby submits that the main cause of the blast / accident is due to illegal possession and inappropriate handling of the explosive material by unauthorized persons who were working in M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP (Stone Crusher), under the verbal instructions of the owners of M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates (Stone Quarry) and and Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP in Hiremagavalli Village, Karnataka.

The joint committee ascertains the fact that the above accident has occurred due to mere negligence and ignorance of the employees of M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP, Hiremagavalli village, Karnataka. This also determines that the owners of both M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates (Stone Quarry) and M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP (Stone Crusher) have not taken due diligence and responsibility in handling the explosives and merely misguided the employees/staff of the Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP crusher by taking risk of their lives.

It was also observed that the owner of the quarry has non-complied with the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952 and The Explosives Act, 1884 which has been mentioned above under section 5.3 of the report, for due cognizance of concerned departments under Government of Karnataka and taking appropriate actions against M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates, Hiremagavalli, Karnataka.

It is submitted that, the blast site at Sy.No.168 of Varlakonda Village having latitude 13°37'08" N and longitude 77°45'50" E is outside the leasehold area of the mine/quarry thus blast site does not come under the purview of the Mines Act, 1952. However, the management of the mine/quarry belonging to M/s Shridi Sai Aggregates has violated the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952 and allied legislation framed thereunder, although they were found operating the mine/quarry in a valid lease.

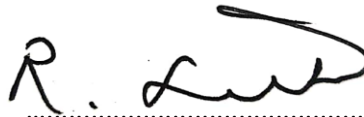
With regard to loss of human lives, the joint committee submits that the compensation has been calculated with the available information of the employees who died in the blast accident. However, as reported by the police department certain information regarding exact date of birth, date of joining, qualifications and work experience of the employees etc. could not be made available, as the same is under investigation.

Further, the joint committee recommends that, the compensation (calculated based on Employees Compensation Act, 1923 & as per the Supreme Court Orders in civil appeal No. 6339 of 2019 and civil appeal no. 3483 of 2008) may be paid proportionately by both the units as the offense of illegally possessing the explosives was committed by M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates and the employees were instructed by the both the units to dispose off the illegally possessed explosives i.e. M/s Shirdi Sai Aggregates and M/s Shree Bhramaravasini M-sanders LLP (located at a distance of about 01 km from the blast site in Hiremagavalli village, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka). As each of the above units are owned by one owner, one co-owner and other partners respectively, the payment has to be made proportionately according to the shares in the unit(s) by the owners, co-owners and other partners (the details are not known to the joint committee and the same may be decided by the local disbursing authority).

The joint committee also submits that there were no major impact on the environment (flora, fauna, water body, atmosphere and livestock etc.) as informed by the team of officials comprised of district administration, Superintendent of Police, District Health Officer, Department of Mines and Geology etc. who visited the blast site immediately after the incident on 23.02.2021. Then, the joint committee also made a visit to survey the blast site and it was observed that the blast site is a barren land with dry to scanty vegetation and has not witnessed any damage to the flora, fauna, livestock except loss of lives (06 persons). Therefore, the joint committee is of the view that the particular site do not require any restoration measures.

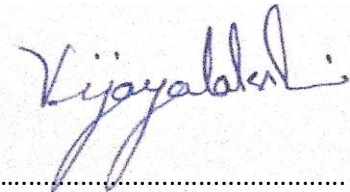
It was also informed that the blast occurred for less than a minute and effects were negligible except huge noise and dust/gases in the atmosphere. Therefore, considering the above facts, the joint committee felt

that the environmental compensation is not required to be calculated. However, the District Administration and concerned department may also provide the composition of the explosives that was involved in the blast / accident (after the complete investigation by the Central Investigation Department) to Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) for assessing the possible impact due to its chemicals on the environment.



**Smt. Latha R**

*Deputy Commissioner,  
Chikkaballapura District*



**Smt Vijayalakshmi**

*Environmental Officer, KSPCB  
District level officer to co-ordinate NGT Team*



**Sh Venugopaldaswamy**

*Dy Director  
DGMS, Bengaluru*



**Sh. Mahantesh**

*Director, Dept of Mines & Geology  
Bengaluru*



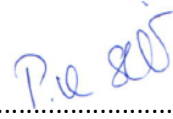
**Dr Sanjana Sharma**

*Dy Controller of Explosives,  
PESO, Chennai*



**Smt Rekha**  
**(Nodal Officer)**

SEO, Bangalore East Zonal Office  
KSPCB, Bangalore



**Smt P K Selvi**  
**(Nodal Officer)**

Sc D, CPCB  
Bangalore

***(Note: The Joint Committee members have given concurrence by email and e-signatures were obtained)***

Item No. 01

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 59/2021

In re: News item published in Times Now News dated 23.02.2021 titled  
“Karnataka: Six killed in quarry blast in Hiremagavalli,  
Chikkaballapur”

Date of hearing: 25.02.2021

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON  
HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEO KUMAR SINGH, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON’BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER**

**ORDER**

1. Proceedings have been initiated in the present matter on the basis of the media report dated 23.02.2021 under the heading **“Karnataka: Six killed in quarry blast in Hiremagavalli, Chikkaballapur”**<sup>1</sup>. It is reported that six people were killed in quarry blast in Hiremagavalli, Chikkaballapur on Monday night (22.2.2021). One was injured when the blast took place at the quarry. The incident happened due to large amount of explosives at the site. District In-charge, who visited the spot said that **the explosives were illegally held**. According to the preliminary information shared by the police, the quarrying work was stopped at the site on February 7 after **local residents complained of rampant use of gelatin sticks. The work continued despite the ban, and another raid was conducted by the police, during which the contractor was warned not to use gelatin. The explosives went off when the men were trying to dispose them off.**

2. Above information gives rise to a substantial question of environment relating to compliance of the Manufacture, Storage and

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/karnataka-5-killed-in-quarry-blast-in-hiremagavalli-chikkaballapur-pm-modi-expresses-grief/723804>

Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 (“the 1989 Rules”) and Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996 (The 1996 Rules), which have been framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EP Act), falling in schedule to the NGT Act, 2010. It is necessary to determine the question and if necessary, award relief under Section 15 of the NGT Act to the victims and for restoration of the environment, after determining the liability of the persons engaged in such activity as well as role of the statutory regulators in failing to prevent the same. Further question of preventive measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future in such activities also needs to be gone into.

3. The 1989 Rules require preparation of onsite and offsite plan and conducting of mock drills. As per law laid down in *M.C Mehta v. UoI & Ors.*<sup>2</sup>, principle of ‘Absolute Liability’ is attracted in such cases to compensate the victims of such accidents as well as to compensate the environment. **It is necessary to ascertain the cause of the incident, the extent of damage caused, the extent of compensation required to be paid for damage to the environment as well as for loss of lives, causing of injuries and steps required to be taken for preventing any such occurrence in future on the same pattern as the Tribunal has dealt with such accidents in the recent past**<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> (1987) 1 SCC 395

<sup>3</sup>

- i. Order dated 01.06.2020, relating to incident of gas leak dated 07.05.2020 in **LG Polymers India Pvt. Limited** at Vishakhapatnam, resulting in death of 11 persons and injuries to more than 100, apart from other damage (OA No. 73/2020, In re: Gas Leak at LG Polymers Chemical Plant in RR Venkatapuram Village Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh);
- ii. Order dated 03.02.2021, relating to incident dated 03.06.2020 in a chemical factory, **Yashyashvi Rasayan Pvt. Ltd.** at Dahej, District Bharuch, Gujarat resulting in deaths and injuries and other damage (OA No. 85/2020) (Earlier OA 22/2020) (WZ), Aryavart Foundation through its President vs. Yashyashvi Rasayan Pvt. Ltd. & Anr.);
- iii. Order dated 06.08.2020, in relation to incident of **oil well blow out on 27.05.2020 at Baghjan in the Tinsukia District of Assam** resulting in deaths, injuries and damage to the environment (OA No. 43/2020(EZ), Bonani Kakkar vs. Oil India Limited & Ors.).

4. While directing **issuance of notice to the CPCB, State PCB, the Director, Mines, Karnataka and the District Magistrate, Chikkaballapur by e-mail**, we constitute a six-member joint committee comprising the CPCB, State PCB, District Magistrate, Chikkaballapur, nominee of Director General, Mines, GoI, Chief Controller of Explosives, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Nagpur, and the Director, Mines, Karnataka to give a report to this Tribunal. The nodal agency for coordination and compliance will be the CPCB and the State PCB. The committee may visit the site preferably within next one week and give its report about the cause of the incident, the extent of damage caused, the extent of compensation required to be paid for damage to the

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- iv. Orders dated 06.07.2020 and 22.12.2020, relating to incident dated 30.06.2020 on account of gas leakage at **Sainor Life Sciences** factory at Parawada in industrial area on the outskirts of Vishakhapatnam (OA No. 106/2020, News item published in the local daily “Economic Times” dated 30.06.2020 titled “Another Gas Leakage at Vizag Factory kills two, critically injures four...”);
  - v. Orders dated 08.07.2020 and 22.12.2020, dealing with the incident dated 01.07.2020 resulting in death of 6 person and injury to 17 due to blast of boiler in **M/s Neyveli Thermal Power Station** (NLCIL), Cuddalore (OA No. 108/2020, News item published in the “Indian Express” dated 01.07.2020 titled “Tamil Nadu Neyveli boiler blast: 6 dead, 17 injured”) and;
  - vi. Orders dated 23.07.2020 and 22.12.2020, in relation to incident of **fire engulfed the chemical plant** of **Visakha Solvents Ltd**, Vizag on 13.07.2020 at Ramky CETP Solvents building in Pharma City resulting in injuries (OA No. 134/2020, News item published on 13.07.2020 in the local daily named “India Today” titled “Massive fire engulf Vizag chemical plant, explosions heard, injuries reported”).
  - vii. Order **dated 18.12.2020**, in relation to incident of **explosion in a plastic recycling factory at Sujapur in Malda on 1.12.2020** resulting in death of six persons, including two minors and serious injuries to four persons (OA No. 272/2020, News item published in the “Times of India” dated 20.11.2020 entitled “Six killed as blast tears through Malda Plastic recycling factory”).
  - viii. Order dated **18.12.2020**, in relation to incident of **methane gas leak in a sugar factory** called Lokenete Bapurao Patil Agro Industries Ltd. in Mohol Taluka of Solapur District, Maharashtra on 21.11.2020 resulting in deaths and injuries and other damage (OA No. 274/2020, News item published in the “Indian Express” dated 23.11.2020 entitled “Maharashtra: Two Killed, eight injured in methane gas leak in sugar factory”).
  - ix. Order dated 08.01.2021, in relation **to Gas Leak in Agro Company** (O.A No. 107/2020, In RE: News item published in the local daily “Indian Express Sunday Express” dated 28.06.2020 titled “Gas Leak in Agro Company Claims life of one”)
  - x. Order dated 18.01.2021, in relation to News item published in Navbharat Times dated 24.12.2020 titled “**Gas leaks in IFFCO Plant, 2 Officers dead**” (O.A No. 04/2020, In re : News item published in Navbharat Times dated 24.12.2020 titled “Gas leaks in IFFCO Plant, 2 Officers dead”)
  - xi. Order dated 11.02.2021, in relation to accident of toxic gas leak in Rourkela Steel Plant in Orissa” (O.A. No. 09/2021, In re: News item published in The Indian Express dated 07.01.2021 titled “Four workers dead due to toxic gas leak in Rourkela Steel Plant”)
  - xii. Order dated 16.02.2021, in relation to accident of Virudhunagar firecracker factory blast (O.A. No. 44/2021, In re: News item published in The News Indian Express dated 12.02.2021 titled “At least 19 dead in Virudhunagar firecracker factory blast, more than 30 injured”)



environment as well as for loss of lives, injuries and steps required to be taken for preventing any such occurrence in future within one month. Except for visit to the site at least once, the Committee will be free to conduct its proceedings online. It will be free to take the assistance from any other expert/organization. The Committee may suitably interact with the stakeholders and, apart from considering the present incident, also consider remedial measures for preventing such incidents in the area or by other establishments even beyond the said area. The Committee may compile information about existence and working of onsite and offsite plans in terms of 1989 Rules and conducting of mock drills and safety SOPs. Since in the recent past, the Tribunal has dealt with similar issues of industrial accidents resulting in deaths and injuries and Expert Committees in some of such accidents have given reports to this Tribunal, such reports may also be taken into account by the Committee to the extent relevant. The reports are available on the website of the CPCB. The report may be filed by email at [judicial-ngt@gov.in](mailto:judicial-ngt@gov.in) preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF. Simultaneously, the report may also be uploaded on the website of the State PCB to enable the concerned stakeholders to access the same and file their response, if any.

List for further consideration on 30.04.2021.

A copy of this order be forwarded to the CPCB, State PCB, District Magistrate, Chikkaballapur, Director General, Mines, GoI, the Chief Controller of Explosives, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Nagpur, and the Director, Mines, Karnataka by email for compliance.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

S.K. Singh, JM

Dr. Nagin Nanda, EM

February 25, 2021  
Original Application No. 59/2021  
AB



केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA

Tech 39/Legal (NGT)/RD-BLR/2020-21/1323

March 16, 2021

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Sub: Constitution of a Joint Committee as per Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi order dated 25.02.2021 regarding "Karnataka: Six killed in quarry blast in Hiremagavalli, Chikkaballapur"**

**Ref.: Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi order dated 25.02.2021**

In the matter of O.A No. 59/2021 regarding "Karnataka: Six killed in quarry blast in Hiremagavalli, Chikkaballapur", Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi vide orders dated 25.02.2021 directed to constitute a Joint Committee comprising of CPCB; State PCB; District Magistrate, Chikkaballapur, nominee of Director General, Mines, GoI; Chief Controller of Explosives, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Nagpur and the Director, Mines, Karnataka to give a report this Tribunal about the cause of the incident, the extent of damage caused, the extent of compensation required to be paid for damage to the environment as well as loss of lives, injuries and steps required to be taken for preventing any such occurrence in future within one month.

In compliance to the aforesaid orders of the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi, a Joint Committee is being constituted herewith based on the nominations received from the concerned departments, which comprises of following members;

**Composition of Joint Committee**

1.	Smt Vijayalakshmi Environmental Officer Karnataka Pollution Control Board Regional Office, Chikkaballapur (for Deputy Commissioner, Chikkaballapur ) (9980074306 (M) / <a href="mailto:chballapur@kspcb.gov.in">chballapur@kspcb.gov.in</a> )	Member
2.	Dr Sanjana Sharma Dy. Chief Controller of Explosives South Circle, Chennai (9115435577 (M) / <a href="mailto:sjtcechennai@explosives.gov.in">sjtcechennai@explosives.gov.in</a> )	Member
3.	Sh Mahantesh T Additional Director (I/C) Department of Mines & Geology(NZ) Ballari, Karnataka (9880451510 (M) / <a href="mailto:jdnorthzone@gmail.com">jdnorthzone@gmail.com</a> )	Member
4.	Sh Venugopala Swamy Kadem Dy. Director of Mines Safety Bengaluru Region, Bengaluru (9434738698 (M) / <a href="mailto:kademvenugopalaswamy@gmail.com">kademvenugopalaswamy@gmail.com</a> )	Member

क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय (दक्षिण) : निसर्ग भवन, ए-ब्लॉक, प्रथम एवं द्वितीय तल, तिममय्या रोड, 7-डी मैन, शिवनगर, बेंगलूरु - 560 079.

**Regional Directorate (South) :** " Nisarga Bhawan ", A-Block, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors, Thimmaiah Road, 7<sup>th</sup> D - Main, Shivanagar, Bengaluru - 560 079.

दूरभाष / Telephone : 080-23233739, 23233827, 23233996, 23233600, 23232559, 23226002, 23222539, Fax : 080-23234059

ई-मेल / E-mail : [cpcbszo@yahoo.com](mailto:cpcbszo@yahoo.com), [zobangalore.cpcb@nic.in](mailto:zobangalore.cpcb@nic.in)

प्रधान कार्यालय : परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली- ११० ०३२.

**Head Office :** Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110 032.

दूरभाष / Telephone : 011-43102030, Fax : 22305793, 22307078, 22307079, 22301932, 22304948

ई-मेल / E-mail : [cpcb@nic.in](mailto:cpcb@nic.in) वेबसाइट / Website : [www.cpcb.nic.in](http://www.cpcb.nic.in)

5.	Smt Rekha R ZSEO, Bengaluru East Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (9886494050 (M) / <a href="mailto:seoe@kspcb.gov.in">seoe@kspcb.gov.in</a> )	Nodal Officer & Member
6.	Smt Selvi P K Scientist D / Senior Environmental Engineer Regional Directorate, Central Pollution Control Board, Bengaluru (9868166753 (M) / <a href="mailto:pkselvi.cpcb@nic.in">pkselvi.cpcb@nic.in</a> ; <a href="mailto:pkselvi.rdb@gmail.com">pkselvi.rdb@gmail.com</a> )	Nodal Officer & Member

**Terms of Reference:**

1. The Committee shall visit the site and give its report about the cause of the incident, the extent of damage caused, the extent of compensation required to be paid for damage to the environment as well as for loss of lives, injuries and steps required to be taken for preventing any such occurrence in future within one month.
2. The Committee shall take the assistance from any other expert/organization, if required.
3. The Committee shall suitably interact with the stakeholders and, apart from considering the present incident, also consider remedial measures for preventing such incidents in the area or by other establishments even beyond the said area.
4. The Committee shall compile information about existence and working of onsite and offsite plans in terms of 1989 Rules and conducting of mock drills and safety SOPs.
5. The Committee shall submit a report to Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi on or before 30.04.2021.
6. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board will be the nodal agencies for co-ordination and compliance.
7. Karnataka SPCB shall pay Sitting fee, local transport, TA/DA etc. to the members of the Joint Committee as per the Hon'ble NGT order dated 20.04.2017 in O.A. 24 of 2011.

*S. Suresh*  
16/3/2021  
(S. Suresh)

**Regional Director**  
**9480672128**  
**[ssuresh.cpcb@nic.in](mailto:ssuresh.cpcb@nic.in)**

To

1. All Members of Joint Committee (as per list enclosed at Annexure I)
2. Divisional Head – Law, CPCB, Delhi
3. Divisional Head – IPC - II, CPCB, Delhi

## List of Members of Joint Committee

S. No.	Name & Designation	Contact Details (Address / Mail ID)
1.	Smt Vijayalakshmi Environmental Officer Karnataka Pollution Control Board Regional Office, Chikkaballapur (for Deputy Commissioner, Chikkaballapur )	Karnataka State Pollution Control Board H.No-708/62, 4th Division, C.V.Anand Layout (Behind Railway Station), Chikkaballapura - 562101  9980074306 (M) / <a href="mailto:chballapur@kspcb.gov.in">chballapur@kspcb.gov.in</a>
2.	Dr Sanjana Sharma Dy. Chief Controller of Explosives South Circle, Chennai	Chief Controller of Explosives A and D Wing, Block 1-8, II Floor, Shastri Bhawan, 26 Haddous Road Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600 006  9115435577 (M) / <a href="mailto:sjtcechennai@explosives.gov.in">sjtcechennai@explosives.gov.in</a>
3.	Sh Mahantesh T Additional Director (I/C) Department of Mines & Geology(NZ) Ballari, Karnataka	Department of Mines & Geology Ground Floor, B.U.D.A Office Building Mothi Circle, Ballari – 583 101  9880451510 (M) / <a href="mailto:jdnorthzone@gmail.com">jdnorthzone@gmail.com</a>
4.	Sh Venugopala Swamy Kadem Dy. Director of Mines Safety Bengaluru Region, Bengaluru	Directorate General of Mines & Safety Southern Zone, Bengaluru Region 7th floor, Sir Vishveshwaraya Kendriya Bhawan, 1st Stage, Near Domlur fly over, Bengaluru – 560 071  9434738698 (M) / <a href="mailto:kademvenugopalaswamy@gmail.com">kademvenugopalaswamy@gmail.com</a>
5.	Smt Rekha R ZSEO, Bengaluru East Karnataka State Pollution Control Board	Karnataka State Pollution Control Board Nisarga Bhawan, A-Block, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floors, Thimmaiah Road, 7 <sup>th</sup> D-Main, Shivanagar, Bengaluru – 560 079.  9886494050 (M) / <a href="mailto:seoe@kspcb.gov.in">seoe@kspcb.gov.in</a>
6.	Smt Selvi P K Scientist D / Senior Environmental Engineer Regional Directorate, Central Pollution Control Board, Bengaluru	Central Pollution Control Board Nisarga Bhawan, A-Block, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floors, Thimmaiah Road, 7 <sup>th</sup> D-Main, Shivanagar, Bengaluru – 560 079.  9868166753 (M) / <a href="mailto:pkselvi.cpcb@nic.in">pkselvi.cpcb@nic.in</a> ; <a href="mailto:pkselvi.rdb@gmail.com">pkselvi.rdb@gmail.com</a>

\*\*\*\*\*

S. Suresh

16/3/2021

## Annexure-01



OFFICE OF THE SENIOR GEOLOGIST, MINES AND GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT, CHIKKABALLAPURA – 562101

E-mail: [sgchikkaballapura@gmail.com](mailto:sgchikkaballapura@gmail.com)

Phone: 08156-277022

No:DMG/SG/CKB/2020-21

DATE:23.02.2021

To,  
The Director,  
Department of Mines and Geology,  
Khanija Bhavan, Bengaluru

Respected Sir,

Sub: Submission of report regarding the blasting incident happened on dated:22.02.2021 at varlakonda village of Gudibande Taluk, Chikkaballapura District-reg

With reference to the above Subject, it was reported that a blasting incident has occurred on dated:22.02.2021 at varlakonda village of Gudibande Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, Where the Blasting material was stocked for blasting in quarry area for removal of building stone. District Commissioner and Superintendent of Police have visited the place where the blasting occurred and inspected the incident place, the report is submitted as below:

**Detail regarding Blasting Incident:**

- As known from the Primary Inspection, the Blasting has occurred accidentally at varlakonda village of Gudibande Taluk, Chikkaballapura District while disposing the Blasting material at a distance around 1 to 1.5 km from M/s.Bhramaravasini M-Sanders LLP crusher
- Form 'C' has been issued for M/s.Bhramaravasini M-Sanders LLP crusher for a period of 20 Years with effect from 28.12.2015 in Conversion Patta Land sy.no.24, 3-10 acres at Janalakunte Village, Chikkaballapura Taluk and District
- The Form 'C' validity is upto dated:31.03.2036. Sri.G.S.Nagaraj, Sri.Raghavendra Reddy, Smt.G.Chandrakala, Sri.Lakshmipati reddy payyala, Sri.payyala Ramalingareddy, Sri.Payyala Venkata Shiva reddy and Sri.Subbayya narappa Srinivasan are having partnership firm in the respective Crusher.

- The Respective Crusher is registered in Integrated Lease Management System (ILMS), the Register No is CKBSC21. Have taken permit for a Quantity of 24441.93 MT in 2019-20 and 30954.97 MT in 2020-21.
- Building Stone Quarry Lease No.100 was transferred from Sri.H.S.Madhusudhana reddy to M/s Sri Shirdi Sai Aggregates on dated :01.03.2014 having the Partners of M/s.Bhramaravasini M-Sanders LLP crusher namely Sri.G.S.Nagaraj, Sri.Raghavendra Reddy along with others Sri.H.S.Madhusudhana Reddy, Sri.Tirumalappa, Sri.Intiyaz, Sri.D.V.Raveendra, Sri.Sunil Kumar G.S. Presently, the Quarry is running under M/s Sri Shirdi Sai Aggregates.
- The respective Lease holder is bearing the Quarry lease over an extent of 3-20 acres in part of Sy.No.11 of Janalakunte Village, chikkaballapura Taluk and District. Submitted Environmental Clearance letter on date:21.05.2019 to this office.
- On dated:28.11.2019, as per rule 8A(2) of Karnataka Minor mineral concession rules 1994, the Respective Quarry lease No:100 has been deemed extended for a period of 20 years with effect from original grant date:21.07.2010 upto 20.07.2030.
- The Lease deed book has been registered on dated:29.11.2019 and submitted to office.
- On dated:08.02.2021, notice has been issued to M/s.Sri Shirdi Sai aggregates. It has been instructed in the respective notice to submit permission obtained from concerned Authority and Director of Mines and Safety (DGMS) as mentioned in additional rules and regulations issued along with Quarry Lease deed book and directed to submit a copy if already permission is obtained within 07 days from the notice received date. Also, mentioned to operate Quarry only after obtaining permission from DGMS.
- The Quarry Lease was stopped since dated:07.02.2021. It was came to notice that case was booked against M/s.Sri Shirdi Sai aggregates for illegally storing Blasting material on dated:07.02.2021
- On dated:22.02.2021, the blasting has occurred accidentally while illegally disposing the Blasting material which caused death of 06 people.
- After hearing regarding the incident, Honourable Health and Family welfare , Medical Education and District Incharge Minister Dr.K.Sudhakar visited the Place and inspected. The families of deceased were given deep condolences from the Minister and asked the Police department to file the case regarding incident against Quarry Lease and Crusher owner.

- Senior police Officials, District Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, Mines and Geology Department Officers and other official visited the Incident occurred place and necessary actions were taken from the District Administration.
- Case has been filed under Blasting rules against Quarry Lease and Crusher owners in Gudibande Police Station.
- The Director, Department of Mines and geology, Bengaluru inspected the incident area, collected the information regarding the incident and instructed all officers of Mines and Geology Department to take all necessary action. Further Discussion was held along with District Commissioner for further necessary actions to be taken.
- After all these incidences taking place, the officers of Mines and geology department had been completely settled at the incident area for information collecting and cooperating with District Administration for detailed enquiry of the Incident.
- State Opposition Leader Sri.Siddaramaih visited the incident place, got the report from officials regarding the incident and instructed to take further necessary actions.
- Honorable Mines and Geology Minister visited the incident place, got the report from officials regarding the incident and instructed to take further necessary actions.

Above all points are provided for your kind information and further needful action.

Your's faithfully,

Sd/  
Senior Geology  
Chikkaballapura District

  
Senior Geologist  
D.M.G. Chikkaballapura



  
सत्यमेव जयते

# State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka

(Constituted by MoEF, Government of India, under section 3(3) of E(P) Act, 1986)

No. SEIAA 115 MIN 2019

Date: 21-05-2019

To,

M/s. Sree Shirdi Sai Aggregates  
#447/90, P.G.Road, Peresandra,  
Chikkaballapura.

Sir,

**Sub:** Quarrying of Building Stone at Sy. No. 11(P), Janalakunte Village, Chikkabalapur Taluk, Chikkabalapur District, Karnataka by M/s. Sree Shirdi Sai Aggregates - Issue of Environmental Clearance - Reg.

\* \* \* \*

This has reference to your online application dated 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 bearing proposal No.SIA/KA/MIN/93180/2019 addressed to SEIAA, Karnataka on the subject mentioned above. It has been noted that the proposal is for grant of Environmental Clearance under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006, for quarrying of Building Stone. The total quarry lease area of the project is 3-20 Acres (1.416 Hectares), which is a Government Land. Out of 1.416 Ha of area, 1.090 Ha area is for quarrying, 0.010 Ha area is for Roads and 0.316 Ha area is for Safety zone. Working will be opencast and semi mechanized method. The water requirement for the project is 12.81 KLD will be met from tankers. During the quarrying operation about 10,525 Tonnes of waste rock will be handled for a period of five years. The Senior Geologist, Department of Mines and Geology, Chikkaballapura has approved quarrying plan on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015. Capital cost of the project is about Rs. 302 Lakhs. It is reported that the lease area do not attract General Conditions specified in the EIA Notification, 2006 and the amendments made there on.

2. The State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) appraised the project in its meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and recommended for issue of environmental clearance as per approved quarry plan. The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Karnataka has considered the application in their meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in accordance with the EIA Notification 2006 and hereby accords environmental clearance under the provisions thereof to the above mentioned M/s Sree Shirdi Sai Aggregates for Quarrying of building stone as recommended by State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) for production capacity of 40,000 Tonnes per Annum for a period of five years by open cast and semi - mechanized method involving

SEIAA 115 MIN 2019

quarry lease area of 3-20 Acres subject to implementation of the following conditions and environmental safeguards.

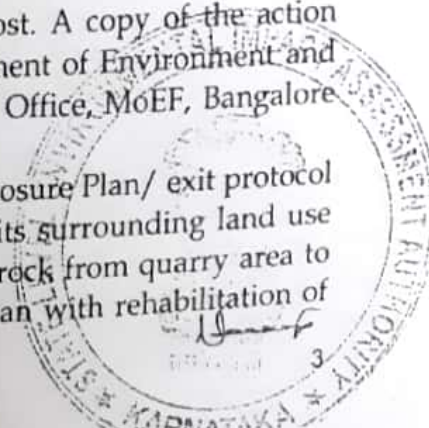
#### A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

1. Validity of this Environmental Clearance is limited to five years from the date of issue of this letter.
2. Quarry plan approved by the Department of Mines and Geology shall be strictly implemented and shall not be operated beyond the validity period of the approved quarry plan.
3. Baseline data on health profile of each of the workers shall be maintained.
4. PAs should get the health checkup done for the quarry workers on quarterly basis and submit report periodically.
5. The SEIAA, Karnataka reserves the right to withdraw the environmental clearance subject to any change in the quarrying policy by the State Government as may be applicable to this project.
6. Quarrying shall be undertaken strictly in accordance with provisions of MM (D&R) Act 1957 / KMMC RULES-1994.
7. All the conditions stipulated in the Consent for establishment issued (If applicable) by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board should be effectively implemented.
8. The quarrying operations shall not intersect ground water table. Prior approval of the SEIAA / Ministry of Environment & Forests and Central Ground Water Authority shall be obtained for quarrying below water table.
9. The topsoil if any should be stacked at earmarked site only and should not be kept unutilized for a period more than 3 years. The topsoil should be used for reclamation and plantation.
10. Waste rock shall be stacked at earmarked site (s) only. The maximum height of the stack should not exceed 10m duly providing suitable terraces. The overall slope of the dump shall not exceed 27°. A retention wall shall be built around the waste rock dump to prevent sliding.
11. Catch drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size should be constructed to arrest silt and sediment flows from quarry working area and rock dumps. The water so collected should be utilized for watering the haulage area, roads, green belt development etc., the drains should be regularly de-silted particularly after monsoon and maintained properly.
12. Dimension of the retaining wall at the toe of dumps within the quarry to check run off and siltation should be based on the rainfall data.
13. The project authority should implement suitable conservation measures to augment ground water resources in the area in consultation with the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, within 3 months and report be submitted to the Authority.

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14. Appropriate mitigation measures should be taken to prevent pollution of nearby water bodies in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
15. The project proponent shall submit commitment from the competent authority for drawl of requisite quantity of water for the project before starting work on the project.
16. Suitable rainwater harvesting measures on long-term shall be planned and implemented in consultation with Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board for complete rain water harvesting by constructing check dams/ converting quarried pits to rain water harvesting ponds.
17. Vehicular emissions should be kept under control and regularly monitored. Measures shall be taken for maintenance of vehicles used in quarrying operations and in transportation of blocks.
18. Digital processing of the entire lease area using remote sensing technique should be done regularly once in three years for monitoring land use pattern and report submitted to SEIAA Karnataka, Department of Environment and Ecology, Govt. of Karnataka and the APCCF, Regional Office, MoEF, Bangalore.
19. This environmental clearance does not confer any right to the proponent on the land proposed for quarrying until and unless quarry lease and all other statutory clearance are obtained from the respective department/agencies.
20. The project authorities should undertake sample survey to generate data on pre-project community health status within a radius of 1 km from proposed quarry.
21. Consent to operate if applicable shall be obtained from State Pollution Control Board prior to start of production from the quarry.
22. Proper sanitary facilities should be installed for the colony/work place. Domestic waste generated should be disposed in a scientific manner. Proper first aid facilities and health care facilities should be provided for the labourers.
23. The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during quarrying operation for conservation and protection of endangered fauna spotted in the study area. Action plan for conservation of flora and fauna shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department. The proponent shall contribute towards the cost of implementation of the plan and / or Regional Wildlife Management Plan for conservation of wild life. The amount so contributed shall be included in the project cost. A copy of the action plan may be submitted to the SEIAA, Department of Environment and Ecology, Govt. of Karnataka, and the Regional Office, MoEF, Bangalore within 3 months.
24. The project proponent shall delineate Quarry Closure Plan/ exit protocol to rehabilitate the quarried out land to match its surrounding land use including removal, storage and reuse of waste rock from quarry area to cover reclaimed area. Post Quarry Land Use Plan with rehabilitation of

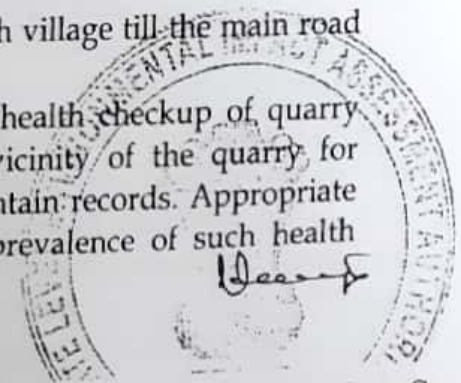


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quarried out area (with Plan and Section) provided and submitted to SEIAA.

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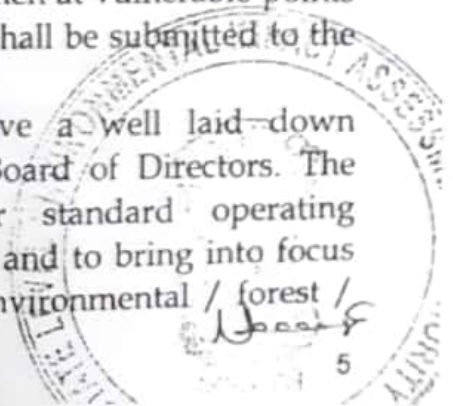
25. Plantation monitoring programme during post project period for ensuring survival and growth rate of plantation in reclaimed area.
26. A Final Quarry Closure Plan along with details of Corpus Fund should be submitted to the SEIAA Karnataka, Department of Environment and Ecology, Govt. of Karnataka and the Regional Office, MoEF, Bangalore 5 years in advance of final quarry closure for approval.
27. Retention walls should be a minimum of 2.5 mtr height with base of 3 mtr.
28. Check dams and gully plugs along the smaller streamlets in the area, should be constructed to arrest the loose soil flow from the quarry area.
29. Particulars of dimensioned block production and dispatch shall be provided by the quarry owner yearly.
30. The infrastructure of transport roads should be improved collectively by the quarry owners of the area.
31. Link road from quarry site to main road shall be maintained and black topped by the project proponent.
32. The quarry lease area to be properly demarcated using the lat-long coordinates and duly erecting 4 feet concrete/granite pillars on the ground.
33. No quarrying shall be undertaken outside the lease area.
34. The project Authorities shall maintain a margin of 7.5 meters along the lease boundary except in case where common boundary working permission is obtained from the competent authority.
35. The project authorities shall also earmark at least 5% of the total turnover of the project towards the corporate social responsibility and item-wise details along with time bound action plan shall be prepared and submitted to the Authority.
36. The project authority shall ensure that the quarry pits are well protected erecting a compound wall of stone masonry of appropriate height conforming to safety norms.
37. The project authority shall avoid stagnation of water in the quarry pits which would turn out to be mosquito breeding centers resulting in spreading of diseases such as malaria, dengue, etc.
38. The project proponent shall prevent damage to adjoining land, from fire due to activities during quarrying operation.
39. Haulage approach road should not be through village till the main road is reached.
40. The project authorities shall get the annual health checkup of quarry workers as well as people in the nearest vicinity of the quarry for respiratory diseases such as silicosis and maintain records. Appropriate care shall be taken for remedy in case of prevalence of such health disorders.



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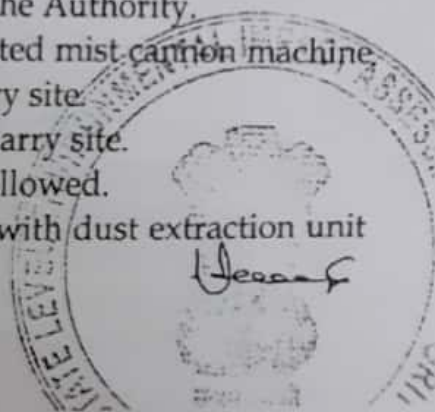
41. Clearance/NOC from the competent authority shall be obtained for transportation of water by tankers in order to avoid hardship to the competitive users
42. This Environmental Clearance is granted subject to obtaining prior clearance from Forestry and Wild Life angle including clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife as applicable. Further this Environmental Clearance does not necessarily implies that Forestry and Wildlife Clearance shall be granted to the project and that the proposal for Forestry and Wildlife Clearance shall be considered by the respective Authorities on their merits and decision taken. The investment made in the project if any based on Environmental Clearance so granted in anticipation from the forestry and wild life angle shall be entirely at the cost and risk of the project proponent and the SEIAA-Karnataka shall not be responsible in this regard in any manner.
43. Solid waste/hazardous waste generated in the mines/quarry needs to addressed in accordance to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 / Hazardous & Other Waste Management Rules, 2016
44. Ambient air quality monitoring stations as prescribed in the statue be established for monitoring of pollutants, namely PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>. Location of the stations shall be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board wherever applicable.
45. Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality shall be carried out in and around the mine/quarry lease area by establishing a network of existing wells and constructing new piezometers during the Quarrying operations. The monitoring of ground water levels shall be carried out four times a year i.e. pre-monsoon, monsoon, post-monsoon and winter. The ground water quality shall be monitored once a year, and the data thus collected shall be sent regularly to MoEF&CC/RO.
46. Monitoring of water quality upstream and downstream of water bodies shall be carried out once in six months and record of monitoring data shall be maintained and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Regional Office
47. Controlled blasting techniques shall be practiced in order to mitigate ground vibrations, fly rocks, noise and air blast etc., as per the guidelines prescribed by the DGMS.
48. The noise level survey shall be carried out as per the prescribed guidelines to assess noise exposure of the workmen at vulnerable points in the mine premises, and report in this regard shall be submitted to the Ministry/RO on six-monthly basis.
49. The company / project proponent shall have a well laid-down environmental policy duly approved by the Board of Directors. The environmental policy should prescribe for standard operating procedures to have proper checks and balances and to bring into focus any infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental / forest /



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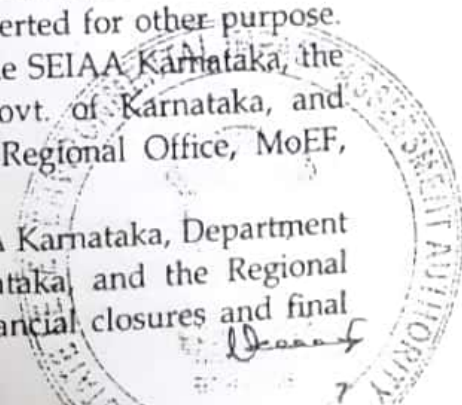
wildlife norms / conditions. The company / Project proponent shall have defined system of reporting infringements / deviation / violation of the environmental / forest / wildlife norms / conditions and / or shareholders / stake holders. The copy of the board resolution in this regard shall be submitted to the MoEF&CC as a part of six-monthly report.

50. Action plan for implementing EMP and environmental conditions along with responsibility matrix of the company shall be prepared and shall be duly approved by competent authority. The year wise funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and not to be diverted for any other purpose. Year wise progress of implementation of action plan shall be reported to the Ministry/Regional Office along with the Six Monthly Compliance Report
51. Self-environmental audit shall be conducted annually. Every three years third party environmental audit shall be carried out.
52. The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environment clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and update the same on half-yearly basis.
53. The project proponent shall submit the environmental statement for each financial year in Form-V to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently and put on the website of the company.
54. The project authorities shall inform to the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC regarding commencement of Quarrying operations.
55. No further expansion or modifications in the project shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)/ SEIAA, Karnataka.
56. The project authorities shall undertake activities under Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) with a total cost of not less than Rs 7,00,000/- for Rejuvenation of existing pond at Jonnalakunte, Solar panels provision, Drinking water & sanitation facility supply, Health camp and Avenue Plantation & plantation in nearby community places within five years in accordance with the O.M. F. No.22-65/2017-IA.III dated 1st May 2018 and report be submitted to the Authority.
57. The project Authorities shall install truck mounted mist cannon machine in order to reduce the dust emission at the quarry site.
58. Safe drinking water has to be provided at the quarry site.
59. Dust suppression measures have to be strictly followed.
60. The drilling machines employed shall be fitted with dust extraction unit while taking up quarrying activity.



**B. GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

1. No change in quarrying technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the SEIAA Karnataka.
2. No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral and waste should be made.
3. It shall be ensured that the Ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the MoEF, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
4. Data on ambient air quality (PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>) should be regularly submitted to the SEIAA Karnataka and the Regional Office, MoEF, Bangalore and the State Pollution Control Board / Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
5. Fugitive dust emission from all the sources should be controlled regularly. Water spray arrangement on haul roads, loading and unloading and at transfer points should be provided and properly maintained.
6. Measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in operations of HEMM, etc should be provided with earplugs / muffs.
7. Waste water from the quarry should be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated 19th May 1993 and 31st December, 1993 or as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap shall be installed before discharge of effluents.
8. Personnel working in dusty areas should wear protective respiratory devices and they should also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.  
Occupational health surveillance program of the workers should be undertaken periodically i.e. once in 3 months to observe any contractions due to exposure to dust and take corrective measures, if needed. Quarterly report in this regard should be submitted to the Department of Environment and Ecology, Govt. of Karnataka and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and the Regional Office, MoEF, Bangalore.
9. A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel shall be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the organization. The Environment management committee should be constituted with one of the member representing nearby village.
10. The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the SEIAA Karnataka, the Department of Environment and Ecology, Govt. of Karnataka, and Ecology, Government of Karnataka, and the Regional Office, MoEF, Bangalore.
11. The project authorities should inform the SEIAA Karnataka, Department of Environment and Ecology, Govt. of Karnataka, and the Regional Office, MoEF, Bangalore regarding date of financial closures and final



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- approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
12. The APCCF, Regional Office of MoEF, Bengaluru; the Department of Environment and Ecology, Govt. of Karnataka and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full co-operation to the Officer (S) of these offices by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
  13. The project proponent shall submit six monthly report on the status of the implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards to the SEIAA Karnataka, Department of Environment and Ecology, Government of Karnataka and the APCCF, Regional Office, MoEF, Bengaluru; the Central Pollution Control Board and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.
  14. A copy of the clearance letter will be marked to the concerned Panchayat. Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestion / representation has been received while processing the proposal.
  15. The project proponent should display the conditions prominently at the entrance of the project on a big panel board for the information of the public.
  16. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industry Centre and Collector's office/ Tehsildar's office for 30 days.
  17. The project authorities should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and also at <http://environmentclearance.nic.in/> website of the MoEF&CC and <http://seiaa.karnataka.gov.in/> website of SEIAA, Karnataka. A copy of the same should be forwarded to the Department of Environment and Ecology, Government of Karnataka and the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bangalore.
  18. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.
  19. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
  20. The SEIAA or any other competent authority may alter / modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
  21. Failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.



State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority- Karnataka  
(Constituted by MoEF, Government of India, under section 3(3) of E (P) Act, 1986)


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22. The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules made there under.



Yours faithfully,

  
(Vijayakumar Gogi)  
Member Secretary  
SEIAA Karnataka

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change  
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110 003.
2. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Khanija Bhavan, Race  
course road, Bangalore - 560 001.
3. The Member Secretary, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board,  
Bangalore.
4. The APCCF, Regional Office, Ministry of Environment & Forests (SZ),  
Kendriya Sadan, IV Floor, E & F Wings, 17th Main Road, Koramangala II  
Block, Bengaluru - 560 034.
5. Guard File.