

## NMDC resumes mining operation at Bailadila mine

### News

Production of state-run National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Bailadila Mining Complex in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada resumed after six days as tribals agitating against a mine allotted to the company called off their strike

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- The tribals have been protesting against the Bailadila Deposit-13 that was **developed by NMDC**
  - ✓ **Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) had been appointed as the mining contractor.** The mining lease for the deposit was issued to NCL, a joint venture of NMDC and Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation (CMDC).
- Protests against NMDC started as indigenous tribes claimed **environmental damage and damaging religious sentiment** following the company's plan to mine iron ore at Deposit 13 in Bailadila
  - ✓ They claimed that the hill had religious significance for them as it houses their deity, **tribal Goddess Pithor Rani.**
  - ✓ In 2011, a Forest Advisory Committee had stalled clearance to mining there owing to the region's undisturbed forests, rich biodiversity and hilly terrain.
- The tribals were adamant that they would not allow developing the mine at any cost.
- However, the local police authorities claimed that Maoists were involved in instigating the villagers and forced them to reach Bachel-Kirandul from interior areas.
- Also, Workers' unions — the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) — had joined the protest, demanding revocation of contract to the AEL.
- On Thursday, protesters acceded to a 15-day window sought by the State government to inquire into the issues and called off the stir.
- The State government has decided to form a committee to look into the matter. A foolproof inquiry could take more than 15 days.
- Moreover, the government has decided to stop all pre-mining activities at the deposit and will approach the Centre to reconsider its decision to contract the mine to the AEL

### National Mineral Development Corporation

- NMDC Limited, previously known as National Mineral Development Corporation, is an Indian state-controlled mineral producer.
- It is 72.43% owned by the Government of India, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel
- It is involved in the exploration of iron ore, copper, rock phosphate, limestone, dolomite, gypsum, bentonite, magnesite, diamond, tin, tungsten, graphite etc.
- It is India's largest iron ore producer and exporter producing more than 35 million tons of iron ore from 3 fully mechanized mines in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka.

- It also operates the only mechanized diamond mine in the country at Panna in Madhya Pradesh.

### **Bailadila Range**

- They rise in the Deccan Plateau, 200 km west of Eastern Ghats.
- The Mountain range gets its name from the word “Baila Dila” which refers to the hump of an ox in the local language
- It is located near Kirandul town in the Dantewada district of southern Chhattisgarh
- It contains rich deposits of iron ore.

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