



Green Schools Network

ACTIVITY SHEET

September 2012

Why talk about the Sand Mining?



Because it is causing loss of habitat not only to humans but also to marine life. Sand mining has become so rampant over the last few decades, the reason being the acute need of concrete for making buildings. Underground mining which takes place in coastal areas can be a contributing factor for natural calamities like earthquakes and tsunamis. Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd (KMML) at Chavara in Kollam was allegedly accused of sand mining within a 22km distance from the seashore and due to this mining activity, the Chennai tsunami occurred in 2004 which devastated many people. Mining activities near the river Yamuna have nearly wiped off the Gharial specie of crocodile from India. Illegal sand mining or mining in restricted areas by the government has also been a cause of concern. Over 2000 acres of land near the Yamuna river are being mined on. The government has still not made any staunch policy which will be able to regulate mining activities.

Name.....

School Name

Class..... Date

Gobar Gyan

Have you wondered if your state has its own mining policy? Do you think its a matter to be dealt with by the respective State Governments?



So lets unveil a few Sand Mining policies. To begin with, the Andhra Pradesh government has come up with a new policy to regulate the sand quarrying with their state. This policy was based on the Water Land and Trees Act (WALTA). According to an article in the Times of India online, the chief minister said that this new policy was introduced to ban the inter state transport of sand. The policy implemented allotment of sand by a draw of lots.

What could draw of lots mean? Yes, you are right it means drawing out a chit randomly , this eliminates any bias shown by anyone in the governmental authorities.

After this policy was implemented , the government fixed the price of sand at Rs.325 per cubic metre. But after the High Court stay of sand mining, its price shot up from Rs.500 to Rs. 3000 per tonne.

Just like Andhra Pradesh, many of the other Indian states are coming up with their own mining policy. Don't you think there should be a standard policy for the whole country? Does it create inequality between industries across different states in India?



Hi! I am Pandit Gobar Ganesh. You will find me in Gobar Times—a magazine that tells you how your everyday life is linked to the world around you. Hooked, huh? If you want to know more about me and GobarTimes visit us at: www.gobartimes.org

Activity 1: Lets do a research activity on various State Policies regarding sand mining. You can do this activity in groups of four. You can take help from your teacher to complete your activity. Be sure to gather information about when the policy was introduced, who was it introduced by and in which house, how many years the policy is valid for , does it coincide with any other state or national policy, is it able to regulate mining in that area.

Observation table

State	Who introduced the policy?	When was it introduced?	Which house was it introduced in?	Validity of the policy	Does it coincide with any other policy?	Remarks

Gobar Gyan

Wondered how a glass from which we drink water everyday is made ? Do you know what its major component is? Yes, you guess it right- it is sand. Sand is a common fundamental constituent of glass. In nature, vitrification of quartz occurs when lightning strikes sand, forming hollow, branching rootlike structures called fulgurite. This forms the base of glass.

So next time you use a glass fro drinking something or eating your dinner think about how much waste is created in these glass making industries?

Heard of Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh? This small town is famous for its glass work and bangle making. This city is famous worldwide for its exquisite bangles. A drawback to this small scale industry is that in spite of being famous worldwide it suffers from child labour, low literacy and pollution. These bangles are made by families of bangle makers whose children help them to delegate work to help each other. The entire family is engaged in bangle making which is a cause for the above social evils.

Glass is now made using modernised techniques in factories. This has reduced the number of glass makers from suffering from blindness, skin problems and breathing disability which are cause due to the glass dust which is released which making glass.

Activity 2: Lets make this activity as interactive as possible. What we need to do is find out about what components go into making glass, what harm does its waste products cause to the environment and who are making glass, is the workforce paid satisfactory wages, do they have permission from the government to manufacture glass. Go to a nearby glass making industry and ask a representative there the above questions. Also if possible go to a rural glass maker and see how he makes glass. Is there a different in the safety levels and technique used?

Record your observations and send us your report. You can refer to the activity on 'Why talk about Mining' in the December 2010 edition.

Gobar Gyan

Do you remember that boring social studies class when we all studied where different mines were located ? Does that remind you of maps?

Firstly lets go back to the history of mining. Mining all began in ancient India and became a full fledged industry in 1947 after independence. The economic reforms of 1991 and the 1993 National Mining Policy further helped the growth of the mining sector.

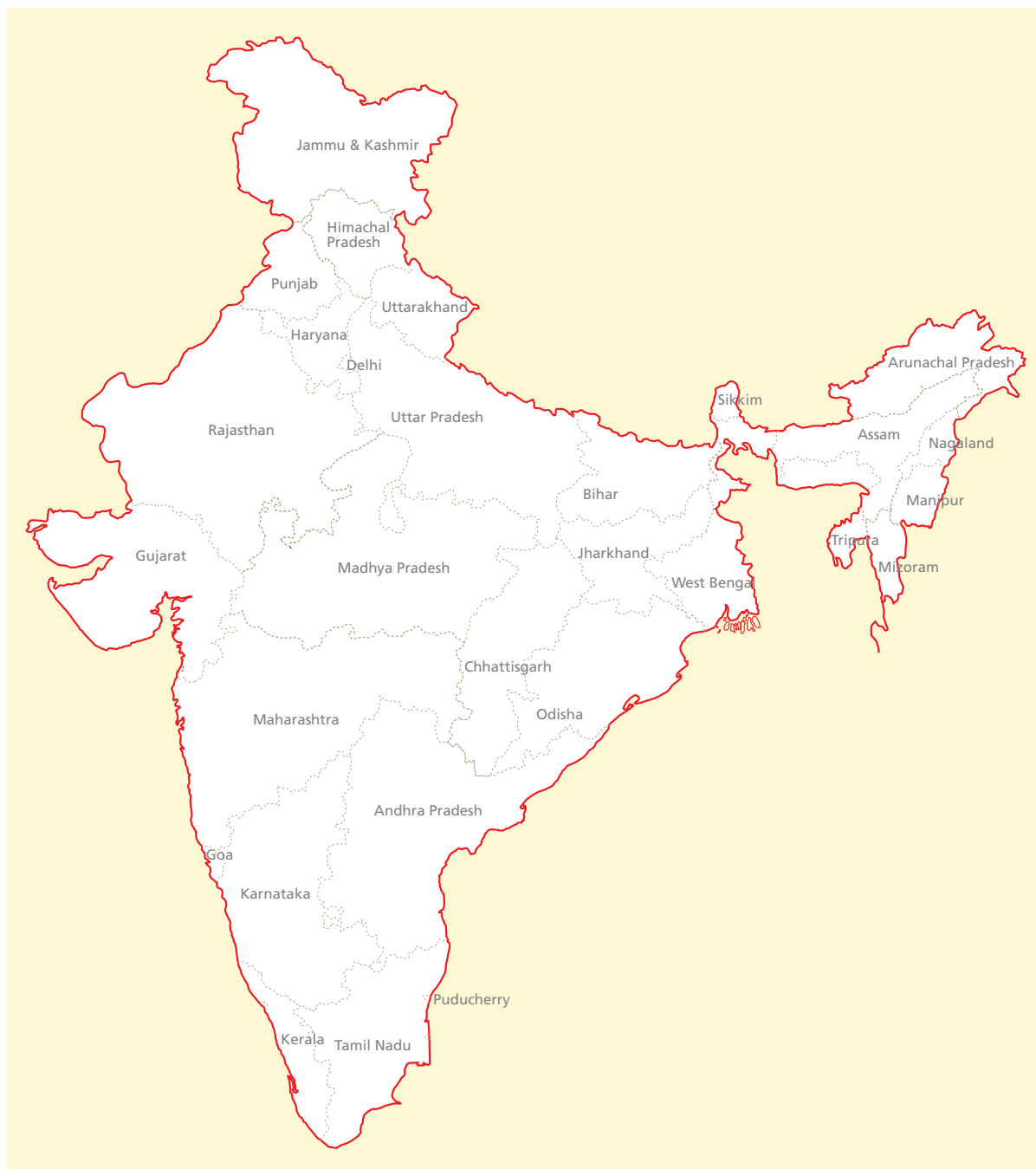
So do you know which states they are located in? Yes, you're right they are mainly located near the coastal areas of India. Sand Mining is done in the state of Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala and Punjab.

Mining of sand not only yields the miner sand but also various other bi-products like rutile, ilmenite and zircon. These bi-products are also sold to various industries . The GDP contribution of the mining industry varies from 2.2 percent to 2.5 percent only but going by the GDP of the total industrial sector it contributes around 10 percent to 11 percent. Even mining done on small scale contributes 6

percent to the entire cost of mineral production. Indian mining industry provides job opportunities to around 700,000 individuals. Doesn't that mean that mining activities are a huge contributor to the economy of India?

Activity 3: Let's learn more about the location of sand mines in particular in India. Firstly find out about where these sand mines are located with the help of your geography books or any other source or you can take the help of your teacher. Now pin the mines on a map of India. Also find out if different kinds of mining are being done in the same location like sand mining, iron ore mining, mica mining etc.

For completing your activity you can refer to our activity sheet on "Mining" (December 2010) .



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