

Environmental Concerns Spark Opposition to Tungsten Mining Project in Madurai

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A proposed tungsten mining project in Madurai, India, has drawn criticism from activists, environmentalists, and local communities. The project, which would span over 5,000 acres in the Nayakkarapatti area of Melur taluk, has raised concerns about its potential impact on the environment and historical sites.

Opponents of the project worry about the potential for deforestation, water pollution, and air quality degradation. They also express concern about the proximity of the proposed mining site to the Alagar hills, a biodiversity heritage site and a place of cultural significance.

Madurai MP, Su Venkatesan, has voiced his objections to the project, questioning how the central government can clear a project near eco-sensitive and historic areas while being slow to approve archaeological projects. He urged the state government to reject the project, citing potential damage to natural resources and historical evidence.

The project, awarded to Hindustan Zinc Limited, a subsidiary of the Vedanta Group, has yet to receive final approval. The debate surrounding the project highlights the ongoing tension between economic development and environmental protection in India.