

# Lafarge welcomes SC verdict



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Welcoming the decision of the Supreme Court allowing it to mine limestone in Meghalaya, French cement giant Lafarge said it would resume its operations on the basis of the detail judgement of the apex court which it was yet to receive.

"This decision will not only help us put our mining quarry at Nongtraï in Meghalaya back on track but also secure the livelihood of thousands of people on both sides of the border who are directly or indirectly dependent on this project," Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt Ltd (LUMPL) said in a statement.

"We have always acted in good faith, respecting the law of the land and have complied with all the

## **LIMESTONE MINING**

rules and regulations at all times. This court verdict also recognizes the need for sustainable development. It is acknowledged that the operations will contribute to the growth of the local economy in remote areas," it said.

Expressing its gratitude to the Governments of Bangladesh, India and the State of Meghalaya, LUMPL said the Environment Clearance (EC) is a comprehensive clearance which also reviews the flora and fauna in the area including the vegetations like the trees.

"The area was deemed as a non-forest land by the State Government of Meghalaya and the Khasi Hills

Autonomous District Council in 1997. Later, even the DFO report also classified the area as a waste-land," it said.

The company said a Forest Clearance was not obtained at that stage because the area was not determined as a forest land. "However there was a change in view later on and the area was classified as a forest land in 2006. LUMPL then applied for forest clearance under the Forest Conservation Act. As per the rules at that stage, Forest Clearance given by the Forest Advisory Committee had to be validated by the Supreme Court," it said.

The mining operations were suspended for nearly two years due to the case in the apex court.