BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL EASTERN ZONE AT KOLKATA

MEMORANDUM OF APPEAL

(**Under Sections 16(e) read with 18(1) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010)**

Appeal No. 11 **of 2026**

Munidei Majhi & 3 Ors. …Appellants

-Vs-

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & 3 Ors.
…Respondents

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//Certified to be True Copies of the respective originals//

Dated on this 11th day of May, 2026



Through
A Yogeshwaran
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DATES AND EVENTS

Date	Event
March 2023	Application of the 4th Respondent for ToR for environmental clearance for the mining project under EIA Notification, 2006.
14.08.2023	Terms of Reference issued for the mining project of the 4th Respondent under EIA Notification, 2006.
August 2023	Draft EIA report for the mining project of the 4th respondent under EIA Notification, 2006.
December 2023	Final EIA report for the mining project of the 4th respondent under EIA Notification, 2006.
24.01.2024	Meeting of the Industries Department, Government of Odisha in which it was decided that the 3rd respondent would assist in acquiring land and transfer it to the PWD and issue NOC to Vedanta to construct the road.
25.06.2024	Application for forest clearance for the diversion of 708.204 Ha of forest land submitted by the 4th Respondent for the bauxite mine.
September 2024	DPR for the proposed access road prepared by the 4th Respondent.
10.02.2025	Application for 4.911 Ha of forest lands diversion for the access road submitted by the 3rd Respondent.
16.07.2025	Site Inspection Report.
30.07.2025	7th FAC meeting wherein it was observed that the road and mine should be holistically appraised.
07.08.2025	EDS raised by the 1st Respondent.
December 2025	Revised Final EIA report for the mining project of the 4th Respondent (under EIA Notification,2006).

02.12.2025	12th FAC meeting where the proposal of the 4th respondent for the mining project was recommended for stage I clearance.
12.12.2025	Reply to EDS by the 3rd Respondent enclosing letter dated 12.12.2025 from Vedanta along with the minutes of the 12th FAC.
05.01.2026	Stage I clearance issued by MoEF & CC.
27.02.2026	Working permission issued by the 5th respondent.
26.03.2026	Order permitting felling of trees issued by 5th respondent.
03.04.3026	Prohibitory order issued under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 was issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Rayagada.
05.05.2026	Stage II clearance issued by the 1st respondent, served by the 4th respondent along with its preliminary objection filed on 06.05.2026.
11.05.2026	Appeal filed.

SYNOPSIS

1. The Sijimali (Actual name of the hills: Tijmali, as fondly called by the Adivasis) hills holds immense religious and cultural significance to the people of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers belonging to Kandha, Dombo, Gouda communities living in 44 villages in and around the area sought to be mined. It is the abode of their god "Tijraja". The proposal of the 4th respondent covers 18 villages and 2 villages (Malipadar and Tijmali) are proposed to be evicted in its entirety. The communities depend on these hills for their lives and livelihoods. Their water resources, farmlands, forest produce and sacred groves are all inextricably connected to the Tijmali hills. The affected tribals have been registering their protest and trying to protect their rights guaranteed inter alia under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
2. The present appeal is filed challenging the Stage-II/Final Approval order dated 05.05.2026 as amended by the corrigendum dated 06.05.2026 issued by the 1st respondent, the working permission dated 27.02.2026 and the order permitting removal of trees dated 26.03.2026 issued by the 5th respondent as ultra vires, the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, rules and guidelines issued thereunder, the precautionary principle and principle of sustainable development and Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.
3. It is submitted that the impugned clearance for diversion of forest land for the subject road has been illegally obtained by the 3rd respondent (who is not the project proponent) as though the subject road is a standalone project, though it is admittedly an integral part of the 4th respondent's proposed mining project.

4. The road is not a standalone project and the 3rd respondent IDCO is not the user agency to apply for diversion of forest lands for the 4th respondent's bauxite mine's infrastructure (i.e the access road). The 1st respondent has failed to see that by considering the 3rd respondent's proposal for diversion of the subject forest lands as a stand-alone linear project, mandatory requirement of consent of Tribals under the FRA,2006 have been circumvented and defeated.
5. The 1st respondent has failed to see that even the authorities of the forest department had recommended that the proposal be considered along with the proposal for the mine to prevent a fait accompli and the FAC and the 1st respondent have both failed to apply their mind and granted the impugned clearance.
6. Hence the present appeal.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, EASTERN ZONE AT KOLKATA

MEMORANDUM OF APPEAL

(Under Sections 16(e) read with 18(1) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010)

Appeal No. of 2026

1. Munidei Majhi
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4. Saru Majhi
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....Appellants

Vs.

1. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
   Rep by its Secretary,
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2. The Additional Chief Secretary,
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3. Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO),
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4. M/s Vedanta Limited,
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5. Divisional Forest Officer,
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   Office of the Divisional Forest Officer,
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   Ph: 06856-222056 …Respondents

TO,

THE HON'BLE CHAIRMAN AND HIS COMPANION MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL.

HUMBLE APPEAL SUBMITTED
BY THE APPELLANT ABOVE NAMED

The 1st Appellant Munidei Majhi is 35 years old and one of the leaders of Maa Mati Mali Surakhya Mancha, Rayagada and Kalahandi, which is a community organisation of people in and around Sijimali hills. She belongs to Scheduled Tribe (Kandha) community and is the female priest of her village. She is a farmer and along with her husband grows paddy, millets, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables. She is married and has two children.

The 2nd Appellant Rupasing Majhi is 40 years old and a leader of Maa Mati Mali Surakhya Mancha, Rayagada and Kalahandi. He belongs to Scheduled Tribe (Kandha) community and is the traditional assistant priest of his village. He is a farmer too and grows paddy, millets, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables and sells them at local weekly markets of Sunger and Kerpai. He is married with four children, two daughters and two sons.

The 3rd Appellant Sundurusingh Majhi is 22 years old and a youth leader of Maa Mati Mali Surakhya Mancha, Rayagada and Kalahandi. He belongs to Scheduled Tribe (Kandha) community and is a farmer as well as runs a small grocery store in his village. Along with his father he grows paddy, millets, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables and his father takes these to sell at the local weekly markets of Sunger and Kerpai. He got married a year back and has no children.

The 4th Appellant Saru Majhi is 73 years old and a leader Maa Mati Mali Surakhya Mancha, Rayagada and Kalahandi. He belongs to Scheduled Tribe (Kandha) community and is the traditional healer of his village. Due to his traditional ecological knowledge of medicinal plants in Sijimali hills, people from the locality rely on him during health issues. He also grows paddy, millets, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables and sells them at the local weekly markets of Sunger and Kerpai. He is married with two children, one daughter and a son.

The Appellants are aggrieved by the proposal to mine their sacred hill and their forests. They have actively been trying to protect their lives, livelihood and their ancestral forests from being destroyed. They have been trying to secure rights guaranteed under the forest rights Act to their forests, environment, ecology, culture and religious freedoms. They are interested in protecting and preserving the untouched, undisturbed environment and ecology of the subject area, upon which their entire sustenance and livelihood depends. They are aggrieved by the impugned clearance issued for construction of approach road for the mine and have filed the present appeal before this Hon'ble Tribunal.

The address for service on the Appellants is that of their counsels Yogeshwaran.A,(MS 1421/2011) Poongkhulali B. (MS 1373/2009) ,Santanu Chakraborty (KAR 2308/2012), Atindriya Chakrabarthy (F/1354/2012), Swetha S (MS/4373/2024), Smitha G.S (MS 5596/2025), Advocates, having office at M-1, Vadhula, No:18, Brindavan Street, Mylapore, Chennai- 600 004.

The Respondents are:

1. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
   Rep by its Secretary,
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   Phone: +91-11-23014243.

2. The Additional Chief Secretary,
   Forest, Environment& Climate Change department,
   Government of Odisha,
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3. Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO),
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   Avenue Atul Projects, Chakala,
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5. Divisional Forest Officer,
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   Office of the Divisional Forest Officer,
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The address for service of service of summons, processes and notices on the Respondents is the same as above.

FACTS IN BRIEF:

1. The present appeal is filed challenging the Stage-II/Final Approval order dated 05.05.2026 as amended by the corrigendum dated 06.05.2026 issued by the 1st respondent, the working permission dated 27.02.2026 and the order permitting removal of trees dated 26.03.2026 issued by the 5th respondent as ultra vires, the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, rules and guidelines issued thereunder, the precautionary principle, principle of sustainable development and Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India. The impugned orders are annexed as **Annexure A1, A2 and A3** respectively.

2. The impugned orders have been issued in the context of the construction of an access road from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha.

3. The crux of the present appeal is the illegal segmentation of the subject access road from the proposal seeking diversion of forests for the proposed bauxite mine. The 4th respondent has proposed to establish a bauxite mine and has sought diversion of 708.204 Ha of forest land for the mine. All the applications, EIA reports and other documents clearly state that a road to access the hill top will be constructed by the 4th respondent for transportation of bauxite. However, the 3rd respondent applied illegally

for separate clearance for diversion of 4.911 ha forest land for the access road to the mine and this has been granted by the 1st respondent.

Guidelines issued by the 1st Respondent MoEF&CC

4. It is submitted that the 1st Respondent has issued Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, including the guidelines issued under sub-section (3) of section 1A, clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 and sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. These guidelines clearly prohibit the consideration of approach roads like the subject road that are part of the mining projects as a standalone project.

5. The relevant portion from the guidelines at chapter 7.8 (f) are extracted below:

*"**Approach road**/conveyor belt and other ancillary activities **related to mining shall be considered as part of the mining project and should therefore be processed accordingly."***

6. The guidelines permit standalone consideration of linear projects like roads for a mine *only* when they are "***conceived after the start of the original mining".*** In the instant case, the mining is yet to commence, and clearances are still pending. The road was and admittedly is a part of the project. In fact, without the road, the 4th respondent cannot even establish mining activities and carry on mining. Therefore, the diversion of forest lands for the subject road could have only been sought as part of the proposal

seeking diversion of forests for the mine and processed as one proposal in accordance with the law.

7. The impugned clearance is thus illegal, vitiated and liable to be quashed. Extract from the guidelines is produced as **Annexure A4.**

Appeal No. 4 of 2026

8. Stage I approval was issued by the 1st respondent on 05.01.2026 and an appeal numbered as Appeal No. 4 of 2026 was filed by the appellants challenging the grant of Stage I clearance as though it is a stand-alone project.

9. The Stage-I/in principle approval itself states that it is for the construction of an access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha. The Stage I Clearance is produced as **Annexure A5.**

10. During the pendency of the appeal, on 03.04.2026, persons belonging to the 3rd and 4th respondents came to the site and started clearing shrubs. Noticing this, the people brought it to the knowledge of the authorities on site that the matter was sub-judice.

11. It is submitted that on 03.04.2026, on the same day, at around 4.30 PM, police from Kashipur PS, Andirakanch PS and paramilitary personnel of OSAP and CRPF totaling about 150 personnel, came to the villages and announcements were made that the construction of the approach road will commence immediately. It was further announced that a distance of 100

meters from the road has been announced as a restricted zone, and Section 163, BNSS, 2023 has been imposed. They directed that people should stay away from the area. The copy of the order was not furnished.

12. It is submitted that construction work that commenced on 03.04.2026 and continued on 05.04.2026 on the site, including digging, clearing of undergrowth, and tree-felling near Porlang and Sagabari villages. It is submitted that on 06.04.2026, senior government officials, along with approximately 10 platoons of police force, reached the Porlang Road site to commence work. The villages of Sagabari, Bantej, Bondel, and Kantamal are witnessing a massive presence of armed police, vehicles and drones flying in the area. The area is being patrolled by armed police and private persons associated with Respondent No. 4.

13. It is submitted that on 07.04.2026, at around 3 AM, electricity was cut, and a raid was conducted by the police and the district administrations in Kantamal village. There were more than 200 armed police/paramilitary personnel present, and a number of villagers were injured by lathi-charge, use of tear gas, leaving the village vandalized, with vehicles and thatched houses destroyed. People have not even been able to go to the hospital for fear of being arrested. It is submitted that in some sections of the media, the incident is falsely portrayed as a clash. It is submitted that it was a coordinated attack by armed police at around 3 AM, and the situation remains tense as people are being intimidated for exercising their constitutional and legal rights.

14. It is submitted that a request under RTI was filed on 09.04.2026 seeking a copy of the prohibitory order. On 10.04.2026, a copy of the order was furnished under RTI, and it is seen that on 03.04.2026, a prohibitory order under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 was issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Rayagada, restricting the movement of persons at the road construction site and an area extending to 100 metres from the site, for a period of one month. Copy of the RTI and the prohibitory order is annexed as **Annexure A6.**

15. It is submitted that the order states that the approach road construction has valid sanction of law, without any mention of the pendency of the matter before this Tribunal. The 3rd and 4th Respondents had already dumped blue metal jally and other materials for construction of the road in December, 2024 at the foothills of the revered Sijimali hills, even prior to the issuance of Stage I Clearance. Due to the protests and the objections of the tribal community, work had not proceeded further. The Prohibitory order also omits to mention the fact that the project has not received Environmental clearance till date and work cannot commence until EC is obtained under the EIA Notification, 2006. A copy of screenshot from Parivesh portal showing the pendency of the EC proposal is produced as **Annexure A7.**

16. It is submitted that the prohibitory order also makes a mention of working permission dated 27.02.2026 and tree-felling permission dated 26.03.2026, issued by the 5th Respondent, for the subject road. Though the law mandates that these orders have to be communicated to the public, these orders were not communicated and were not available in public domain. In fact, the respondents did not file these orders even before this

Hon'ble Tribunal. These orders were secured from another person who had filed an RTI and obtained a reply on 16.04.2026. A copy of the RTI along with the enclosures is annexed as **Annexure A8**.

17. It is submitted that there are discrepancies in the whole process of demarcation of forest and non-forest land for the approach road. The tree enumeration list submitted by Respondent No. 3 for the alleged government non-forest land of 6.403 Hectares, shows the number of trees as 0, which is incorrect as can be seen from the project proponent's own KML files submitted, which show tree-cover, as well as the 25.10.1980 revenue land records which shows the area as unsurveyed (land remains unsurveyed since then). Further, there is a mismatch between the khata and plot numbers mentioned as non-forest land in the NOC issued by Respondent No. 3 on 16.09.2025 (**Annexure A23**) and the plot and khata nos. stated in the tree enumeration list. By making incorrect distinction/division of land as forest and non-forest the Respondents illegally commenced construction work with the intention of rendering the matter infructuous and to avoid adjudication by this Hon'ble Tribunal. A copy of the tree enumeration list for the alleged non-forest land and the land schedule submitted by the project proponent showing status as on 25.10.1980 is produced as **Annexure A9**. The copy of maps of the area, including the alleged non-forest area is produced as **Annexure A10**. Copy of news reports are annexed as **Annexure A11**.

18. On 06.05.2026, the 4th respondent filed a reply in Appeal No. 4 of 2026 along with a copy of the stage II order dated 05.05.2026 and corrigendum dated 06.05.2026. In the reply, the 4th respondent has referred to the subject road as "IDCO's road" despite the fact that it is their road.

Copy of the 1st, 2nd and 4th respondent's reply in Appeal No. 4 of 2026 is annexed as **Annexure A12, A13 and A14** respectively.

19. As soon as the stage II clearance was communicated on 06.05.2026 and the working permission and tree felling order was obtained vide RTI, an application to amend the prayer was filed in Appeal No. 4 of 2026, but this Hon'ble Tribunal has adjourned the Appeal to 20.05.2026 and in light of the urgency and since a comprehensive appeal challenging these orders was necessary, the present appeal has been filed. The illegality in issuance of the stage I clearance has yet to be adjudicated, especially since the subsequent orders are subject to the outcome of the appeal.

Orders are subject to Appeal No. 04 of 2026

20. It is submitted that the stage II order dated 05.05.2026 contains a specific condition which states "… the issuance and continued operational validity of this Stage II clearance are inherently subject to the final adjudication of Appeal No. 04/2026/EZ (Munidei Majhi & Ors Vs The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change), presently pending before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkatta."

21. Further, it is submitted that the working permission dated 27.02.2026 issued by the 5th respondent states it is valid for a period of one year or until the grant of stage II approval, whichever is earlier. Thus, this order ceases to have effect as soon as the order dated 05.05.2026 was issued.

22. It is submitted that the tree felling order dated 26.03.2026 has been issued by the 5th respondent only on the strength of the working permission dated 27.02.2026.

OM dated 28.08.2015

23. The OM dated 28.08.2015 issued by the 1st respondent MoEF&CC permits the commencement of activities after issuance of Stage I clearance and working permission and makes these orders amenable to challenge under Section 16 (e) of the NGT Act. The OM further mandates the project proponents to give publicity to these orders and ensure they are available in the public domain.

24. The judgment of this Hon'ble Tribunal in Vimal Bhai Vs Union of India (Appeal No. 07 of 2012, dated 07.11.2012) was prior to this office memorandum and did not concern a clearance that was obtained on the pretext of being a linear project.

25. After the issuance of stage I clearance, working permission and permission for tree felling, project proponents could proceed with felling trees on forest land. There was no need to wait for the stage II clearance or the final diversion order of the state government. It is necessary to note that there is no time limit within which the order has to be passed by the State Government. The 1st respondent has diluted the law for linear projects. In the instant case, the respondents commenced work without stage II and final diversion orders of the state government.

26. Therefore, the present appeal has been filed against the stage II clearance, working permission and the tree felling order, as provided under the OM dated 28.08.2015. It submitted that the Stage I clearance is impugned in appeal No. 4 of 2026 and the Stage II Clearance has been granted subject to the said Appeal. The entire issue will become moot, and trees will be felled before the final order of diversion of the state government is issued. Copy of OM dated 28.08.2015 is annexed as **Annexure A15.**

27. It is submitted that the impugned clearance for diversion of forest land for the subject road has been illegally obtained by the 3rd respondent (who is not the project proponent) as though the subject road is a standalone project, though it is admittedly an integral part of the 4th respondent's proposed mining project.

Two illegal applications / proposals for diversion of forest lands for the subject mining project

28. On 25.06.2024, an application for forest clearance for the diversion of 708.204 Ha of forest land was submitted by the 4th Respondent. This was pending with the 1st respondent. The application of the 4th Respondent is produced as **Annexure A16.**

29. However, it is seen from the records that on 10.02.2025, the 3rd respondent (masquerading as user agency, instead of the 4th Respondent which is the actual user agency) has submitted the application form seeking forest clearance for diversion of 4.911 Ha forests lands (total lands for the project 11.314) for the subject access road, describing the project as under:

"The proposed road is from Sijimali mines top to SH-44 to facilitate the bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Raygada District in the state of Odisha"

The application of the 3rd Respondent dated 10.02.2025 is produced as **Annexure A17.**

30. This access road is an integral part of the mining project and ought to have been considered ONLY as part of the proposal for diversion of forest lands for the mine.

4th respondent Vedanta's mining project

31. The 4th respondent Vedanta was declared preferred bidder of the Sijimali Bauxite Mine (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) and is in the process of obtaining environmental and forest clearance for Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.00 Million TPA, Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste:7.40 Million TPA & Subgrade: 1.42 Million TPA; (Total Excavation: 18.00 Million TPA) along with installation of 2 Crushers (2 x 1200 TPH) at Tehsils: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur in the Districts of Kalahandi & Rayagada in Odisha.

32. The Sijimali (Actual name of the hills: Tijmali, as fondly called by the Adivasis) hills hold immense religious and cultural significance to the people of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers belonging to Kandha, Dombo, Gouda communities living in 44 villages in and around the area sought to be mined. It is the abode of their god "Tijraja". The proposal of the 4th respondent covers 18 villages, and 2 villages (Malipadar and Tijmali) are proposed to be evicted in its entirety. The communities depend on these hills for their lives and livelihoods. Their water resources,

farmlands, forest produce, and sacred groves are all inextricably connected to the Tijmali hills.

33. The affected tribals have been registering their protest and trying to protect their rights guaranteed inter alia under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The significance of the hills to the local tribal communities is not elaborated in the present appeal in the interest of brevity and the appellants reserve their right to elaborate this issue if so advised, at a later stage.

34. The proposed mining area is not connected by roads and the 4th respondent has proposed the construction of a road to connect the hilltop to SH-44. Without this road, the mine cannot be made operational. It is thus a part of the mining project and the mine lease area is only relevant for the purpose of carrying on mining operation. Roads, water pipelines, conveyor systems are invariably outside the mine lease area. Even if the roads are located outside the mine lease area, they have to be considered as part of the mining project.

Approach road is part of the 4th respondent's mining project – 3rd respondent IDCO cannot obtain clearance for the 4th respondent's road

35. The 4th respondent filed an application seeking Terms of Reference (ToR) for EC under the EIA Notification,2006 on 25.03.2023. At 16.14, the 4th respondent had stated that the bauxite will be transported from the mine to the railway siding by haul roads. Relevant extract from the application dated 25.03.2023 is filed as **Annexure A18**.

36. On 14.08.2023, TOR issued by the 1st respondent at 3.1 specifically required the following disclosure / details in the EIA report.

"*The Project Proponent needs to submit the map and details regarding the road transportation and its limitation along with the traffic management plan and an action plan for permanent dust suppression systems*"

37. The draft EIA report dated August 2023, under the head "Compliance of ToR", against compliance of ToR 3.1, has stated, "The proposed road from Mine top to SH-44 will be constructed."

38. Further, at 2.4.1 under the head "Associated activities" states that "New Road shall be developed inside ML area and outside from ML area from smooth man and material dispatch."

39. The 4th respondent Vedanta has also described the project at 1.3.1 as an "*integrated project of opencast bauxite mining along with dispatch of mineral via road & rail network, located at Kalahandi & Rayagada district of Odisha State*".

40. The traffic study report at Annexure-XIII of the draft EIA, at 2.2 describes the proposed road thus,

"*Vedanta will construct a road from NW site of mine area and which will connect to the SH-44. This road will pass through the forest area so FC is required, and land will be acquired by VIL. The total length of the road will be 7.5 km*."

The Extracts from the Draft EIA report are produced as **Annexure A19.**

41. In the Revised final EIA report dated December, 2025, under the head ToR Compliance, at 9.1 pertaining to transport, the 4th respondent has stated,

"As earlier proposed route to connect the mine top to SH-44 is covering a total length of about 7.5 km. To reduce the length for connecting mine top to SH-44, Vedanta limited has adopted another route and the company will construct a road of 3.4 km from NW site of mine area which will connect to SH-44. As per present status of road, the forest diversion proposal is submitted for an area of 4.911 Ha out of total road area of 11.314 Ha vide proposal no: FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025 by IDCO, Govt, land alienation (area of 6.243 Ha) was also completed & NOC was obtained from IDCO to construct the road, for private land (area of 0.160 Ha) the SIA study was completed. Copy of NOC is enclosed with this EIA/EMP report"

Extracts from the Revised EIA report are produced as **Annexure A20.**

42. In fact, a scrutiny of the proceedings related to the proposal shows that the 4th respondent Vedanta is to construct the subject road.

43. On 24.01.2024, a meeting was held by the industries Department of the Government of Odisha on the issue of transport of bauxite from Sijimali mines and the minutes record the following regarding the subject road:

> **"*Mine Top to SH-44***
>
> *i. Vedanta to submit the land schedule from Mine top to SH 44 road.*
>
> *ii. IDCO to facilitate acquisition and transfer of land to PWD and* ***giving NOC to Vedanta for construction of the road****.*

iii. PWD will remain as the owner of the road." (emphasis supplied)

Minutes of the meeting on 24.01.2024 are produced as **Annexure A21.**

44. In fact, the Detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed road was prepared by Vedanta, 4th Respondent in September 2024. This is the report that was submitted by the 3rd respondent IDCO along with its application / proposal for the impugned clearance. Extract from the Detailed Project Report is produced as **Annexure A22.**

45. It is clear from the proceedings of the meeting dated 24.01.2024 that

a. Vedanta was to submit the land schedule from mine top to SH 44.
b. IDCO, the 3rd respondent was only to facilitate acquisition of the land and transfer it on acquisition to PWD.
c. IDCO was to then give NOC to Vedanta for construction of the road.
d. Vedanta will construct the road
e. PWD will remain the owner of the road.

46. On 16.09.2024, the 3rd respondent IDCO had issued NOC in favor of Vedanta, the 4th respondent herein, for 15.426 Acres of leased non-forest land for the road. Even this NOC makes it clear that it was for Vedanta to obtain necessary permissions and construct the road. Copy of the NOC dated 16.09.2024 is produced as **Annexure A23.**

47. It is necessary to note that the DPR filed by the 3rd respondent along with its application is the DPR prepared in September 2024 by the 4th respondent, Vedanta. In fact, the exact extent of forest lands required, and the alignment are as stated in the revised EIA report dated December, 2025

submitted by the 4th respondent. Further, the communications dated 14.11.2024 and 30.10.2024 between the Chief Construction Engineer Raygada and Superintending Engineer specifically approve the DPR 'for development of proposed road connectivity from Sijmali Mines to SH-44 for transportation of Bauxite Ore for M/s Vedanta Ltd.'

48. It is submitted that it was not for the 3rd respondent IDCO to apply and obtain clearance for the 4th respondent by using its credentials as a government company. The 3rd respondent cannot obtain clearance for the 4th respondent's road. It is a fraud on the process.

IDCO cannot obtain forest clearance and/or build road for the 4th respondent under the OIIDC Act, 1980

49. In fact, a reading of the Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Act, 1980, under which the 3rd respondent is established makes it clear that its functions under Section 14 of the Act are to establish and manage industrial estates and develop industrial areas at places notified by the Government. The powers of the 3rd respondent corporation under Section 15 of the Act also do not include obtaining clearance for diversion of forest lands for entities like the 4th respondent. The definition of "industrial area", "industrial estate" and "development" under Sections 2 (h), 2 (i), 2 (f) respectively makes it evident that "mining" is explicitly excluded from the definition of "development" under the Act and that the 3rd respondent does not have any powers and it is beyond its functions to apply for and obtain the impugned clearance and or lay the road for the 4th respondent. The entire exercise is thus void ab initio. Copy of the Orissa

Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Act, 1980 is produced as **Annexure A24.**

Site Inspection Report and Deputy DG, Forests sought holistic consideration of the proposals

50. On 2nd and 4th July, 2025, the Assistant commissioner (F), Sub Office at Kolkatta, Regional office Bhubaneshwar, MoEF&CC conducted site inspection of the proposed diversion and in his report signed on 14.07.2025, has stated as follows:

> "In view of the above, it is submitted that the proposal for diversion of 4.911 ha forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 may be considered with following additional stipulations:
>
> i. Though the proposed access road is an integral ancillary activity linked to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine, it does not fall within the approved Mining Lease area or the sanctioned Mining Plan. The proposal for diversion of forest land related to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine is presently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi, and the 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval is yet to be accorded. *In this context, the current proposal for the access road may be considered holistically along with the Sijimali Bauxite Mine project, to enable integrated appraisal and to avoid any fait accompli situation."* (Emphasis supplied)

51. The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) concurred with the site inspection report and observed in its recommendation as follows:

"*Accordingly, the competent authority may consider the present proposal for the access road in conjunction with the Sijimali Bauxite Mine project, to enable integrated appraisal to avoid any fait accompli situation*."

Copy of the Site inspection report along with the letter of the Deputy Director General of Forests is produced as **Annexure A25**.

52. It is submitted that though the position taken by the officers of the Respondent authorities is erroneous and contrary to law, at least if this was followed, there might have been an integrated appraisal of the subject project's forest diversion. It is reiterated that even this course of action would not have rendered the impugned clearance legal but the failure to even comply with these observations is demonstrative of the manner in which the impugned clearance has been issued in favor of the project proponent.

Non-application of mind by FAC and respondent authorities – impugned proposal not even placed before FAC before clearance was issued

53. It is submitted that the authorities ought not to have considered the subject access road as a stand-alone linear project after clearly recording that the primary objective of the road was 'the transportation of bauxite from the 4th respondent mining project lease area.'

54. The Forest Advisory Committee considered the proposal of the 4th respondent Vedanta for diversion of 708.204 Ha in the mine lease area as

Agenda Item No:24. During the course of deliberation of the agenda item, the Committee noted that

> "…*a separate proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. Diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO has been submitted by the State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD- 0025-2025-10894/FE&CC dated 09.05.2025 to the RO Bhubaneswar (Online proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025). The RO has submitted this proposal to the Ministry for* ***holistic decision***" [emphasis supplied]

55. The proposal for diversion of forest lands for the subject road was considered as agenda item 25 and during this meeting the FAC noticed the primary objective of the construction of the subject road was to access and service the 4th respondent's bauxite mine. The absurd contention that the proposed road will also aid connectivity between villages was brushed aside and it is necessary to note that the 2 villages on the hill, Malipadar and Tijmali are proposed to be completely removed and people relocated. There will be no villages to serve on the hill. The FAC correctly noted that the specifications of the road clearly indicate that it is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles. The committee noted that the associated proposal for the mining project was still pending consideration and referred to the Deputy Director general's proceedings which observed that "In the event that the mining proposal is not favourably considered by the competent authority, positive consideration of the road proposal at this

stage by the Regional Office may lead to a fait accompli situation" and concluded that:

"*The committee further observed that the road proposal has been submitted by the other agency i.e. by IDCO, however the road is primarily proposed keeping in view the requirement of mineral evacuation in the instant mine. The separate proposal for the road construction may be allowed, However, the proposal for road can only be considered for approval once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the mining lease is approved*".

56. It is submitted that the FAC has failed to note the mandate of the 1st respondent's guidelines and had erroneously observed that the separate proposal may be allowed but considered after the forest diversion of the mine is approved. This course of action is illegal and ought not to have been adopted by the FAC. A copy of the minutes of the 7th FAC is produced as **Annexure A26.**

57. Thereafter in the meeting held on 02.12.2025, the FAC recommended the proposal of the 4th respondent for diversion of 708.204 Ha of forest land in the mine lease area. There was NO deliberation in this meeting on the proposal for diversion of forest lands for the access road and the FAC only recommended the grant of in-principle stage-1 approval for the mining project. A copy of the minutes of the 12th FAC meeting is produced as **Annexure A27.** A reading of the minutes shows that the FAC once again repeated the observations in other proceedings about the subject road but did not consider the proposal.

58. A search on the Parivesh portal shows that no further meetings of the FAC has taken place after 02.12.2025 before the issuance of the stage I clearance on 05.01.2026. The Stage I clearance also makes no reference to any FAC meeting where the same was considered. The Stage II clearance has thereafter been granted mechanically. Copy of screenshot from Parivesh portal is produced as **Annexure A28**.

Sequence of events leading to the impugned clearance

59. The following timeline shows that the respondent authorities were waiting for an opportunity to grant permission to the 3rd respondent (i.e. the 4th respondent's project).

a. On 10.02.2025, the 3rd respondent submitted the proposal seeking diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha.

b. On 04.03.2025, the 5th Respondent raised queries (EDS), raised at the state level on 05.03.2025. the 3rd respondent responded vide letter dated 24.03.2025.

c. On 15.04.2025, further EDS was raised. On 17.04.2025, the 3rd respondent submitted a reply with a new unsubstantiated claim that the road will also benefit villages and 1500 people and that it should be considered a normal linear road project.

d. On 19.05.2025, further EDS was raised by the MoEF&CC regional office. A reply was furnished on 28.05.2025 to the Additional PCCF by the 5th Respondent based on the letter of the 3rd respondent dated 22.05.2025. Relevant to note that the reply of the 5th Respondent

contains the exact content as the letter of the 3rd respondent. On 30.07.2025, the FAC considered the proposal for diversion of forest lands for the mine and access road.

e. On 07.08.2025, the MoEF&CC raised an EDS stating that the road is primarily for the Sijimalli bauxite mine and that it can be considered after the in principal approval of the mine is obtained.
f. On 11.08.2025, the authorities once again called upon the 3rd respondent to respond to the EDS raised on 09.08.2025.
g. There was no reply / response for more than 4 months.
h. Suddenly on 12.12.2025, Vedanta wrote a letter to the 3rd respondent stating that the stage I in principal approval for the mine had been granted by MoEF&CC as per minutes of meeting published on 12.12.2025 and that the proposal for the road may be processed.
i. Thereafter, on the same day i.e 12.12.2025, the 3rd respondent addressed a letter to the 5th Respondent enclosing Vedanta's letter dated 12.12.2025 along with the minutes of the FAC meeting (wrongly mentioned as stage I clearance).
j. On 15.12.2025, the 5th Respondent addressed a letter to the PCCF, transmitting the subject proposal of the 3rd respondent.
k. On 17.12.2025, the Additional PCCF forwarded the reply and documents to the MoEF&CC as a compliance to the EDS raised on 07.08.2025. They forwarded the proposal with the recommendations of the FAC dated 02.12.2025 (recommending the diversion of forest lands for the mine)
l. On 05.01.2026, the stage I clearance was issued.
m. On 05.05.2026, the Stage II clearance has been issued.

A copy of all the above-mentioned EDS raised, replies of the Respondents and project documents are collectively produced as **Annexure A29.**

60. Thus, it is evident that the 3rd respondent and the state authorities were waiting for the diversion proposal for the mine to be recommended and immediately issued the impugned clearance in violation of the law, ignoring the unambiguous mandate that forest diversion for the road must be considered as part of the diversion sought for the mine.

Road is not to connect villages as claimed by the 3rd respondent

61. It is submitted that the first time the absurd, incorrect and fictitious justification/explanation that the subject road is to connect 5 villages namely Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda and Malipadar was submitted on 17.04.2025 as a reply to the EDS raised by the office of the PCCF, Odisha citing sub-para (f) of para 7.8 of the consolidated guidelines issued by the 1st respondent. Prior to this, there is no whisper in any of the proposal documents, studies or permissions that the road is meant for the above stated purpose. All documents, proceedings, reports clearly state that the road is to transport bauxite from the 4th respondent's mines. The same explanation was placed before the 7th FAC meeting on 30.07.2025 when the proposal for the road was considered as agenda item 25. The FAC rejected this justification and opined that the subject road is primarily designed to support movement of heavy vehicles for mineral evacuation from Sijimali bauxite mine.

62. The above claim of the respondents are preposterous as the road does not cater to any of the habitations/villages mentioned and in fact Malipadar village is proposed to be entirely consumed for mining and relocated. The route of the proposed road marked on satellite imagery shows that the alignment is nowhere near the villages. Copy of the satellite imagery is annexed as **Annexure 30.**

63. The attempt to contend that the road is the 3rd respondent's independent project is utterly without merit and even in the letter dated 31.01.2026 requesting grant of working permission, the request is from the 4th respondent and even the compensatory levy for the forest land for the road has been paid by the 4th respondent M/s. Vedanta Ltd. Even the request for tree felling is marked to M/s Vedanta Ltd. Therefore, it is evident that the proposed road is for the 4th respondent's mine and the contention that it is a stand-alone project is without merit and contrary to the record.

64. The road from the hilltop to SH 44, without which the mining area cannot be accessed and mined minerals cannot be transported out of the site, has always formed a part of the 4th respondent's project. It is evident even from the impugned clearance itself that the road is for transport of minerals from the Sijimali mine site. There has been no application of mind by the authorities. The impugned clearance is thus illegal and vitiated. The illegality in the stage I clearance is the same in the stage II clearance. The appeal is thus largely the same.

65. By circumventing the law mandating consideration of the access road as part of the proposal for diversion of forest lands for the mine, the 3rd

respondent has managed to obtain the impugned clearance by following a truncated process. Further, the mandatory consent of tribals has not been obtained by relying upon the MoEF&CC's order dated 05.02.2013 carving an exception for standalone road, pipeline and other linear projects from the requirements imposed vide the MoEF&CC's order dated 03.08.2009. Thus, the process established by law has been circumvented and rendered otiose by the fraud played by the respondent authorities and the 4th respondent project proponent. Copy of the Form -I certificate and SDLC, DLC proceedings submitted by the 3rd and 4th Respondents to obtain the Stage I and Stage II clearance as downloaded from the MoEF&CC portal are produced as **Annexure A31**.

66. Copies of the MoEF&CC's orders dated 05.02.2013 and 03.08.2009 are produced as **Annexure A32**.

67. All the annexures pertaining to the proposal have been downloaded from the portal and filed as annexures to the present appeal. None of these documents have been communicated to the public.

68. The appellants have approached this Hon'ble Tribunal on the following among other

GROUNDS

A. The impugned clearance has been granted in violation of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023,including the guidelines issued under sub-section (3) of section 1A, clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 and sub-section (2) of section 2 of

the Adhiniyam for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 which clearly mandates consideration of approach roads etc. as part of the mining project and not as a stand-alone/linear project.

B. The 3rd respondent IDCO ought not to have been permitted to submit the proposal for diversion of forest lands for the access road for the 4th respondent's mining project.

C. The 3rd respondent's powers and functions under the Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Act, 1980 do not empower them to apply for and obtain forest clearances for mining proposals and therefore the proposal is void ab initio.

D. The authorities failed to appreciate the fact that it is an admitted position from the records of the 3rd and 4th respondent that the proposed access road is part of the mining project itself and it ought not to have been appraised independently.

E. The respondent authorities failed to apply their mind while appraising the proposal of the 3rd respondent and the 1st respondent has issued the impugned clearance to the 3rd respondent merely following the recommendation of the proposal for diversion of forest lands for the mining project of the 4th respondent.

F. The 1st respondent has failed in its statutory duty and has erred in issuing the impugned clearance for diversion of forest lands in violation of the law.

G. The 1st respondent has failed to see that by illegally applying separately for the road, the 3rd respondent has circumvented exhaustive appraisal as part of the diversion of forests for the mining project and the mandatory requirement of consent of tribals as per the order of the MoEF&CC dated 03.08.2009.

H. The impugned clearance has been issued without considering the cultural, religious significance of the Tijmali hills and without any application of mind to the lives, livelihood and practices of the Tribal communities whose rights are protected under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

I. The impugned clearance has been issued without regard to the fact that the environmental clearance for the project (including the road) is yet to be issued and a fait accompli will be presented if the area is altered, and the subject road is constructed.

J. The 5th respondent's working permission dated 27.02.2026 and tree felling order 26.03.2026 were issued without application of mind and by

appreciating the illegalities inherent in the proposal of the 3rd respondent and are vitiated.

K. The 5th respondent has failed to see that even the compensatory levies were paid by the 4th respondent Vedanta, and they ought not to have issued permission in a mechanical fashion.

L. The impugned stage II clearance has been granted mechanically without examining the illegality pervading the process despite the pendency of Appeal No. 4 of 2026. The illegality in the stage I clearance also pervade the stage II clearance.

M. The 1st respondent has made a mockery of the law by issuing the impugned clearance without any assessment or consideration of impact on the landscape, the environment and ecology and the lives and livelihood of tribal communities in the area.

LIMITATION

The Appellants state that the impugned clearance dated 05.05.2026 amended by the corrigenda dated 06.05.2026 were received as part of the reply filed by the 4th respondent on 06.05.2026 and the working permission dated 27.02.2026 and tree felling order dated 24.03.2026 were obtained by RTI dated 16.04.2026. None of these orders have been communicated to

the public yet. The present appeal has however been filed within the period of 30 days from the date of the impugned clearance. Hence the present appeal is indisputably within limitation prescribed under Section 16 of the NGT Act.

INTERIM RELIEF:

Pending disposal of the present appeal, the appellant prays that this Hon'ble Tribunal be pleased to:

A. Issue an order of stay of the impugned Stage II clearance dated 05.05.2026 (as amended by corrigenda dated 06.05.2026) under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non- forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land by the 3rd Respondent, Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha pending disposal of the present appeal.

B. Issue an order of stay of the tree felling order of the 5th respondent dated 24.03.2026 pending disposal of the present appeal.

C. Issue such other orders as it deems fit in the interest of the case and render justice.

PRAYER:

It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal be pleased to

A. Quash the Stage II clearance dated 05.05.2026 (as amended by corrigenda dated 06.05.2026) issued by the 1st respondent under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non- forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land by the 3rd Respondent, Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District.

B. Quash the working permission dated 27.02.2026 and the tree felling order dated 24.03.2026 issued by the 5th respondent as it is violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

C. Issue such other orders as it deems fit in the interest of the case and render justice.

Counsel for Appellants

x

Appellants

S K BOHIDAR
NOTARY
GOVT OF ODISHA
Regd No.-83/04
BHAWANIPATNA
D O E- 29.12.2029

NOTARY
S.K BOHIDAR
BHAWANIPATNA
Regd. ON-83/04
D.O.E-29.12.2029
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

VERIFICATION

We, Munidei Majhi, Rupasing Majhi, Sundurusing Majhi and Saru Majhi, the Appellants, do hereby verify that the contents in the above paragraphs have been read over and explained to me in Odia and Kul and are true to the best of my knowledge and based on legal advice and that I have not suppressed any material fact.

Sundurusing Majhi

Date: 11.05.2026

Place: _____

X

APPELLANTS

S K BOHIDAR
NOTARY
GOVT OF ODISHA
Regd No.-83/04
BHAWANIPATNA
D O E- 29.12.2029

The deponent duly identified by
Sri/Ms. S. K. Bohidar Advocate
present before me and swear this
affidavit on 11-5-26 at 1.30 AM/PM

VAKALATNAMA
BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL AT CALCUTTA

State: Odisha

Appeal No. of 2026

Munidei Majhi & 3 Ors. Appellants

-Versus-

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & 4 Ors. Respondents

Vakalatnama on behalf of Munidei Majhi, Rupasing Majhi, Sundurusing Majhi, Saru Majhi Knows all men be these presents that by this Vakalatmama We appoint the Advocates Pleaders noted below or any one of them as our lawful Advocate or Advocates for filing the memorandum of appeal or Petition in the above matter for appearing and conducting and arguing the same for depositing or withdrawing any money in connection therewith for moving the Court in any matter connected therewith for preparing the paper Book in the case and for putting in papers, petition etc. on behalf for filing or taking back any documents for withdrawing suits or appeals or petitions with permission to Institute fresh suits, appeals, petition etc. for signing and filing the petitions of compromise in connection with the said matter and for taking copies for paper from the Record and We further say that any act done by our said Advocate or Advocates or by any one of them accepting this Vakalatnama, shall be considered as our true and lawful act.

And we further hereby agree and undertake to pay the said Advocate or Advocates his or their fees has settled and all others sums that may be necessary to carry out the requisition of the Court and otherwise to enable the said Advocate or Advocates to conduct the case properly, failing which the said Advocate or Advocates after notice to me/us will be at liberty to withdraw from the further conduct of the case.

Sundurusing Majhi

X

IN WITNESS WHEREOF We sign and execute this Vakalatnama on this the 11 h day of May 2026

The contents of the Vakalatnama were read out and explained in Odia and Kui and understood by the signatories.

Atindriya Chakrabarthy

S K BOHIDAR
11-5-2026
S K BOHIDAR
NOTARY
GOVT OF ODISHA
Regd No.-83/04
BHAWANIPATNA
D O E- 29.12.2029

Yogeshwaran A	Atindriya Chakrabarthy
Poongkhulali B	Swetha S
Santanu Chakraborthy	Smitha GS

G.S. Smitha (5596/2025) Poongkhulali (1377/2009) Chakraborty (MS/1421/2022) S. Swetha (4373/2024)

NAME OF THE ADVOCATES

Address: M-1, Vadhula Apartments, No. 18, Brindavan Street, Mylapore, Chennai - 600004

Authorization Letter

We, Rupasing Majhi S/o Dimi Majhi, Sundurusing Majhi S/o Mani Majhi and Saru Majhi S/o Dasu Majhi, being Appellant No. 2 , 3 and 4 respectively, in an Appeal before the National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, concerning the Stage II clearance dated 05.05.2026 and Corrigendum dated 06.05.2026 under Section 2 (1) (i) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, do hereby authorize Munidei Majhi, W/o Gunasingh Majhi, Appellant 1, to represent us. We hereby authorize her to sign petitions, affidavits and applications on behalf of us, in order to pursue the said Appeal.

The contents of the above have been read over and explained in Odia and Kui to the undersigned.

Rupasing Majhi
(Appellant 2)

Sundurusing Majhi
(Appellant 3)

Saru Majhi
(Appellant 4)

S K BOHIDAR
NOTARY
GOVT OF ODISHA
Regd No.-83/04
BHAWANIPATNA
D O E- 29.12.2029

ANNEXURE A1

ANNEXURE R/1 [Colly]

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Regional Office, Bhubaneswar

Online Proposal No.: **FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025**

Dated: **05/05/2026**

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar-751 001

Subject: **Stage-I/In-principle approval of Central Government under Section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land in favour of IDCO for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2025-10894/FE&CC dated 9.05.2025 and Online Proposal No.FP/OR/Others/523366/2025, wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for non-forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land in favour of IDCO for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha, was sought in accordance with Section-2 (1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, the *in-principle* approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter No. FP/OR/Others/523366/2025 dated 5.01.2026, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished the compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha vide their letter No.8119/9F (Others)-343/2025 dated 21.04.2026 and submission of the compliance report by the State Govt. in *Parivesh* web portal on 23.04.2026, ***Stage-II/final*** approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 (1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land in favour of IDCO for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

1. General Conditions

S. No	Conditions
1.1	The State Govt. shall ensure that the legal status of diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
1.2	The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India .
1.3	The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department will raise compensatory afforestation over 6.07 ha of non-forest land identified in village Tingarjhola, Kalnara Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division within two years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department, at the cost of user agency.
1.4	The State Government shall ensure that the identified non-forest shall be notified as Protected Forest under Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or local forest Act. The Nodal Officer, after notification of such non forest land, shall uploaded a copy of said notification on the PARIVESH portal
1.5	The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department will raise Additional compensatory afforestation over 5.00 ha of degraded forest land identified Pedakonda Extn. RF under Rayagada Forest Division within two years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department, at the cost of user agency.
1.6	The State Forest Department shall ensure that the species to be planted in the CA & Additional CA schemes shall be of native species of the area. At least 18 month old seedlings should be planted. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular intervals.
1.7	The State Govt. shall ensure the compliance on FRA, 2006 as per Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules and guidelines issued from time to time before handing over of the diverted forest land to user agency.
1.8	The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of the area to be diverted and CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before handing over of the diverted forest land to the user agency
1.9	The State Government shall immediately repair/reconstruct the damaged boundary pillars and ensure proper demarcation of the diverted forest land on the ground.The State Government shall also take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) for damage/disturbance of forest boundary pillars under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the applicable local Forest Act, if any.

S. No	Conditions
1.10	The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department shall undertake plantation of tall indigenous tree species along both sides of the proposed road, at the cost of the User Agency, to mitigate dust pollution resulting from the movement of heavy vehicles associated with mining activities.
1.11	The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall implement appropriate engineering and safety measures to prevent soil erosion as the proposed area features a medium slope and the road will be used by heavy vehicles.
1.12	The State Govt. shall ensure that overburden shall not be disposed beyond the designated road width. Muck generated from earth cuttings shall be fully utilized for filling works. Any excess muck shall be disposed strictly in accordance with a Muck Disposal Plan. No muck or debris shall be permitted to roll downhill slopes.
1.13	The State Govt. shall ensure that retaining walls, breast walls, and drainage structures shall be constructed at appropriate locations to ensure slope stability and prevent erosion along the alignment.
1.14	The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department shall undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the CA sites, with the cost to be borne by the user agency.
1.15	The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency explore the possibility of successful transplantation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
1.16	The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall explore the possibility of successful transplantation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
1.17	The State Govt. shall ensure that flanks of roads should be filled by transported soil and not with soil dug from the side of the roads.
1.18	The State Govt. shall ensure that the designing of new culverts/bridges and redesigning the existing ones over the natural streams/ rivers/canals should be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise to water-logging, so that it does not hamper movement of wild animals including fishes & amphibians migration.
1.19	The State Govt. shall ensure that speed regulating signage will be erected along the road at regular intervals in the Forest Areas.
1.20	The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall provide adequate under passes in

S. No	Conditions
	wildlife areas/wildlife crossing, if any, for the safe movement of wildlife.
1.21	The State Govt. shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
1.22	The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that while executing works, the user agency shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
1.23	The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during construction be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.
1.24	The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
1.25	The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
1.26	The State Govt. shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
1.27	The State Govt. shall ensure that the DFO concerned will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in surrounding area.
1.28	The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.
1.29	Any order passed by the Hon'ble Courts or Tribunals in respect of the present project shall be complied with immediately, and any additional stipulation(s)/condition(s) imposed therein shall be implemented by the State Government/ User Agency.
1.30	The State Govt. shall ensure that any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, which shall be complied by the user agency.
1.31	The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts,

S. No	Conditions
	Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
1.32	Any other direction issued by the Ministry as a result of Hon'ble Supreme Court order will have bearing on this approval.
1.33	Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in Para 1.16 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 vide Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023.

2. Standard conditions

3. Specific Conditions

S. No	Conditions
3.1	In strict compliance with the statutory mandate under Para 16(7) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, the issuance and continued operational validity of this Stage-II clearance are inherently subject to the final adjudication of Appeal No. 04/2026/EZ (Munidei Majhi & Ors. Vs. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Ors.), presently pending before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata.

Copy To

1. The Chief Executive Officer, National Authority CAMPA, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, 3rd Floor, Supreme Court Metro Station Building, New Delhi-110 001.
2. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division, Rayagada, Odisha.
5. The Chief General Manager (Env.), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janpath, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Signature Not Verified

Yours's faithfully

Digitally Signed by : Shri Vasanta Kiran Babu

(Vasanta Kiran Babu)

Deputy Inspector General of Forest, IRO

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Date: 05/05/2026

-TRUE COPY-

ANNEXURE A2

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Regional office

Online proposal no:
FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025

Date **06/05/2026**

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: **Stage-II/ Final Approval of Central Government under Section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land in favour of IDCO for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to this Regional Office's letter of even number dated 05.05.2026 on the subject cited above, whereby final approval was conveyed for the proposal mentioned therein, and to state that the words "Stage-I/In-principle approval" appearing in the subject line shall be read as "Stage-II/Final Approval".

All other contents, terms and conditions stipulated in the final approval letter shall remain unchanged.

Yours Faithfully,

(Vasanta Kiran Babu)
Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar – 751 001.

Copy To

1. The Chief Executive Officer, National Authority CAMPA, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, 3rd Floor, Supreme Court Metro Station Building, New Delhi-110 001.
2. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.
3. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division, Rayagada, Odisha.
5. The Chief General Manager (Env.), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janpath, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Signature Not Verified

Digitally Signed by : Shri Vasanta Kiran Babu
Deputy Inspector General of Forest, IRO

Date: 06/05/2026

-TRUE COPY-

Information on RTI application dated 04.2026 at Smt. Naringa Dei Mallik

ITEM NO-1

Sarpanch
OP, 4F Section
of the DFO, Rayagada

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION
Email: dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Office Order No 52 4F (Misc.) 1984/2026.
Dated, Rayagada the 27 th February, 2026.

ANNEXURE A3

Subject:- Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 under Rayagada District/Division - **Regarding Working Permission**.

Whereas, Stage-I (In-Principle) approval has been accorded by the Regional Office, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhubaneswar vide Letter dated 05.01.2026 for diversion of 4.911 Ha. of forest land in favour of IDCO for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha. (Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025), subject to fulfillment of 39 No's General conditions (1.1 to 1.39).

Whereas, the User Agency, IDCO, Bhubaneswar, vide letter No.2723 dated 31.01.2026, has applied for Working Permission to commence preliminary project activities over the approved 4.911 Ha. of forest land, as permissible under the Stage-I approval and applicable guidelines pending grant of Stage-II approval.

Whereas, the User Agency has deposited through the online MoEF&CC portal:

i. ₹47,03,658/- (Rupees Forty-Seven Lakhs Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Eight only) towards Net Present Value (NPV) for 4.911 Ha. of forest land, in compliance with Condition 1.2 of the General condition Stage-I approval.

ii. ₹59,06,200/- (Rupees Fifty-Nine Thousand Six Thousand Two Hundred only) towards the cost of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over 06.07 Ha. of non-forest land identified in village Tingarjhola under Kolnara Tahasil of Rayagada District/Division, as duly approved by the Principal CCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act) vide Memo No. 587/9F(Others)-343/2025 dated 09.01.2026, in compliance with General Condition No1.11 of the Stage-I approval; and

iii. ₹54,15,400/- (Rupees Fifty-Four Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred only) towards Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) over 05.00 Ha. of degraded forest land identified in Pedakonda Ext.RF (5.00 Ha.) under Gunupur Range, as duly approved by the Principal CCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act) vide Memo No. 587/9F(Others)-343/2025 dated 09.01.2026, in compliance with General Condition No1.11 of the Stage-I approval.

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Whereas, in compliance with General Condition No.1.4 of the Stage-I approval, the identified non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation has been duly transferred and mutated in favour of the Forest Department, as certified by the Tahasildar, Kolnara vide Letter No. 585/2026 dated 27.02.2026. Further, in compliance with General Condition No.1.13, the User Agency has submitted the certificate of complete compliance under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 issued by the District Collector, Rayagada vide Letter No.157/2024 dated 03.02.2025.

Now, therefore, in pursuance of Specific Condition No. 3 of the Stage-I approval order dated 05.01.2026 and in accordance with Para 11.1, Chapter 11 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as communicated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide letter no.659 dated 08.01.2026, a reasoned order is hereby issued granting Working Permission to the User Agency to mobilize the resources to commence the preliminary project work other than black topping, concretization, laying of railway tracks, charging of transmission lines, etc. over 4.911 ha Forest Land of the above project coming under Rayagada Forest Division.

This Working Permission shall remain valid for a period of one year from the date of issue of this order or until grant of Stage-II approval, whichever is earlier.

It is expressly clarified that no tree felling, removal of vegetation, or execution of any activity involving damage to forest produce shall be undertaken without prior written approval of the competent authority. The User Agency shall strictly adhere to all applicable provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Rules 2023, the Stage-I approval conditions, and all instructions issued by the Government of India and Government of Odisha.

Any violation of the above conditions shall render this Working Permission liable for withdrawal without prejudice to action under the applicable legal framework.

Ohol 27.2.26

(Sri Sachin Annasaheb Ohol, IFS)
Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1096 / Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. Of Odisha for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 662/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026.

Ohol

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

1198

Memo No. 1097 / Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act), O/o. the Pr. CCF, Odisha and the Pr. CCF(WL) & CWLW, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 661/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1098 / Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forest, Koraput Circle, Koraput for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 662/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1099 / Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the Collector, Rayagada for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No 663/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1100 / Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy forwarded to the Range Officer, Kashipur Range for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1101 /4F Date. 27/02/2026.

Copy forwarded to the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janapath, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION

Email: dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Office Order No. 52 4F (Misc.) 1984/2026
Dated, Rayagada the 27th February, 2026

Subject:- Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top SH- 44 under Rayagada District / Division - **Regarding Working Permission.**

Whereas, Stage-I (In-Principle) approval has been accorded by the Regional Office, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhubhaneswar vide Letter dated 05.01.2026 for diversion of 4.911 Ha. of forest land in favour of IDCO for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha (Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025), subject to fulfilment of 39 No's General conditions (1.1 to 1.39).

Whereas, the User Agency, IDCO, Bhubaneswar, vide letter No. 2723 dated 31.01.2026, has applied for Working Permission to commence preliminary project activities over the approved 4.911 Ha. of forest land, as permissible under the Stage-1 approval and applicable guidelines pending grant of Stage-II approval.

Whereas, the User Agency has deposited through the online MoEF&CC portal:

i. ₹47,03,658/- (Rupees Forty-Seven Lakhs Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Eight only) towards Net Present Value (NPV) for 4.911 Ha. of forest land, in compliance with Condition 1.2 of the General condition Stage-I approval.
ii. ₹59,06,200/- (Rupees Fifty-Nine Thousand Six Thousand Two Hundred only) towards the cost of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over 06.07 Ha. of non-forest land identified in village Tingarjhola under Kolnara Tahasil of Rayagada District/Division, as duly approved by Principal CCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act) vide Memo No. 587/9F(Others)-343/2025 dated 09.01.2026, in compliance with General Condition No. 1.11 of the Stage-1 approval; and
iii. ₹54,15,400/- (Rupees Fifty-Four Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred only) towards Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) over 05.00 Ha. of degraded forest land identified in Pedakonda Ext.RF (5.00 Ha.) under Gunupur Range, as duly approved by the Principal CCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act) vide Memo No. 587/9F(Others)-343/2025 dated 09.01.2026, in compliance with General Condition No. 1.11 of the Stage-I.

Whereas, in compliance with General Condition No. 1.4 of the Stage-1 approval, the identified non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation has been duly transferred and mutated in favour of the Forest Department, as certified by the Tahasildar, Kolnara vide Letter No. 585/2026 dated 27.02.2026. Further, in compliance with General Condition No. 1.13, the User Agency has submitted the certificate of complete compliance under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 issued by the District Collector, Rayagada vide Letter No. 157/20244 dated 03.02.2025.

Now therefore, in pursuance of Specific Condition No. 3 of the Stage-I approval order dated 05.01.2026 and in accordance with Para 11.1, Chapter 11 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 & Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as communicated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide letter no. 659 dated 08.01.2026, a reasoned order is hereby issued granting Working Permission to the User Agency to mobilize the resources to commence the preliminary project work other than black topping, concretization, laying of railway tracks, charging of transmission lines, etc, over 4.911 Ha Forest Land of the above project coming under Rayagada Forest Division.

This Working Permission shall remain valid for a period of one year from the date of issue of this order or until the grant of Stage-II approval, whichever is earlier.

It is expressly clarified that no tree felling, removal of vegetation, or execution of any activity involving damage to forest produce shall be undertaken without prior written approval of competent authority. The User Agency shall strictly adhere to all applicable provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Rules 2023, the Stage-I approval conditions, and all instructions issued by the Government of India and Government of Odisha.

Any Violation of the above conditions shall render this Working Permission liable for withdrawal without prejudice to action under the applicable legal framework.

(Sri Sachin Annasaheb Ohol, IFS)
Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1096/ Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 662/FE&CC dated 08.01.2026.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1097/ Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act), O/o. the Pr. CCF, Odisha and the Pr. CCF(WL) & CWLC, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 661/FE&CC dated 08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1098/ Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the Collector, Rayagada for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 663/FE&CC dated 08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1099/ Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy forwarded to Range Officer, Kashipur Range for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1101/ Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy forwarded to the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janapath, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Item No-2
288

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION

Email: dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Letter No 1628 **4F (Misc.) 1984/2026.**
Dated, Rayagada the 26 **th March, 2026.**

To

The Divisional Manager,
OFDC Ltd.
Muniguda (C) Division, Muniguda.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 under Rayagada District/Division **Regarding removal of trees.**

Ref: Letter no.HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024/7400 dt.16.03.2026 of the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janapath, Bhubaneswar.

Sir,

With reference to the above subject, it is hereby informed that Stage-I (In-Principle) approval for the diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 under Rayagada District/Division was accorded by the Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, Bhubaneswar, vide their letter dated 05.01.2026.

Consequently, working permission has been granted in favour of the User Agency to mobilize resources and commence preliminary project activities (excluding blacktopping, concretization, railway track laying, and charging of transmission lines,etc) over 4.911 hectares of forest land falling under the jurisdiction of Rayagada Forest Division. This permission has been accorded for a period of one year vide this office Order No. 52 dated 27.02.2026.

In the interim, the User Agency has requested permission for removal of 91 No's miscellaneous trees standing on the forest land proposed for diversion within the Rayagada Forest Division. Accordingly, the User Agency has been requested vide this office letter no.1227 dt.07.03.2026 to deposit an amount Rs.1,61,489/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Nine) only towards the cost of Royalty of the treesstanding over the forest land proposed to be diverted and the said amount has been remitted by the UA through e-challan under the Head of Account: 8782-00-103-168-91014-027 of the Government Treasury vide e-challan no.8782/1313 dt.12.03.2026.

In view of above the permission is hereby granted for the removal of 91 No's enumerated miscellaneous trees from the said forest land and take delivery of the same at the earliest, strictly adhering to the prescribed Government procedures. The enumeration list of tree growth along with the joint verification report is enclosed herewith for your ready reference and necessary action.

287

It is further submitted that Appeal No. 04/2026/EZ pertaining to the present project is pending before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata. The outcome of the said proceedings, as and when pronounced, shall be binding and complied with.The present permission is being issued in accordance with extant approvals and applicable provisions, no directions affecting the same having been issued as on date.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

26.3.26

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1629 / Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act), O/o. the Pr. CCF, Odisha for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 661/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1630 / Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy submitted to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forest, Koraput Circle, Koraput for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 662/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1631 / Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy forwarded to the Range Officer, Kashipur Range for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1632 / Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy forwarded to the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janapath, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Clean Copy

Letter No. 1628 4F (Misc.) 1984/2026
Dated, Rayagada the 26th March, 2026

To,

The Divisional Manager,
OFDC Ltd
Muniguda (C) Division, Muniguda

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top SH 44 under Rayagada District / Division
Regarding removal of trees.

Ref: Letter no. HO CGM(Env)/394/2024/7400 dt. 16.03.2026 of the Consultant (Env). IDCP Tower, Janapath, Bhubaneswar.

Sir,

With reference to the above subject, it is hereby informed that Stage-I (In-Principal) approval for the diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 under Rayagada District/Division was accorded by the Regional Office Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, Bhubaneswar, vide their letter dated 05.01.2026.

Consequently, working permission has been granted in favour of the User Agency to mobilize resources and commence preliminary project activities excluding blacktopping, concretization, railway track laying, and charging of transmission lines, etc) over 4.911 hectares of forest land falling under the jurisdiction of Rayagda Forest Division. This permission has been accorded for a period of one year vide this office Order No. 52 dated 27.02.2026.

In the interim, the User Agency has requested permission for removal of 91 No's miscellaneous trees standing on the forest land proposed for diversion within the Rayagada Forest Division. Accordingly, the User Agency has been requested vide this office letter no.1227 dt.07.03.2026 to deposit an amount Rs. 1,61,489/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Nine) only towards the cost of Royalty of the treesstanding over the forest land proposed to be diverted and the said amount has been remitted by the UA through e-challan under the Head of Account: 8782-00-103 1683-91014-027 of the Government Treasury vide e-challan no. 8782/1313 dt.12.03.2026.

In view of above the permission is hereby granted for the removal of 91 No's enumerated miscellaneous trees from the said forest land and take delivery of the same at the earliest, strictly adhering to the prescribed Government procedures. The enumeration list of tree growth along with the join verification report is enclosed herewith for your ready reference and necessary action.

It is further submitted that Appeal No. 04/2026/EZ pertaining to the present project is pending before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata. The outcome of the said proceedings, as and when pronounced, shall be binding and compiled with. The present permission is being issued in accordance with extant approvals and applicable provisions, no directions affecting the same having been issued as on date.

Encl. As above.

Yours faithfully,

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1629/ Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act), O/o. the Pr. CCF, Odisha for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 661/FE&CC dated 08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1630/ Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy submitted to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forest Koraput Circle, Koraput favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 662/FE&CC dated 08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1631/ Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy forwarded to Range Officer, Kashipur Range for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1632/ Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy forwarded to the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janapath, Bhbaneswar for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

ANNEXURE A4



सत्यमेव जयते

CONSOLIDATED GUIDELINES AND CLARIFICATIONS

issued under

VAN (SANRAKSHAN EVAM SAMVARDHAN) ADHINIYAM, 1980

and

VAN (SANRAKSHAN EVAM SAMVARDHAN) RULES, 2023





Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 29th December, 2023

ORDER

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 3 C of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the Central Government, in suppression to all previous guidelines, hereby issue a Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, including the guidelines issued under sub-section (3) of section 1A, clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 and sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. All the provisions enshrined in these guidelines will be applicable from 1st December, 2023.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

29.12.23

(Ramesh Kumar Pandey)
Inspector General of Forest

Distribution to:

1. All concerned
2. Director (Technical), NIC with a request to upload the same on the website of the Ministry

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VAN (SANRAKSHAN EVAM SAMVARDHAN) ADHINIYAM, 1980 WITH AMENDMENTS MADE IN 1988 AND 2023

An Act to provide for the conservation of forests and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto.

"WHEREAS, the importance of forests is to be realised to enable achievement of national targets of Net Zero Emission by 2070 and maintain or enhance the forest carbon stocks through ecologically balanced sustainable development;

AND WHEREAS, Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets of the country envisage creating carbon sink of additional 2.5 to 3.0 billion tons of CO_2 equivalent by 2030;

AND WHEREAS, the country envisages an increase in the forest and tree cover to one third of its land area, which has to be given impetus with an enhanced growth trajectory;

AND WHEREAS, India has a rich tradition of preserving forests and their bio-diversity, and therefore enhancing forest based economic, social and environmental benefits, including improvement of livelihoods for forest dependent communities is envisaged;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to provide for provisions relating to conservation management and restoration of forests, maintaining ecological security, sustaining cultural and traditional values of forests and facilitating economic needs, carbon neutrality .".

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.— (1) This Act may be called the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam*, 1980.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of December, 2023.

***1A. Act to cover certain land.*— (1)** The following land shall be covered under the provisions of this Act, namely:-

(a) that has been declared or notified as a forest in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under any other law for the time being in force;

(b) that is not covered under clause (a), but has been recorded in Government record as forest, as on or after the 25th October, 1980:

Provided that the provisions of this clause shall not apply to such land, which has been changed from forest use to use for non-forest purpose on or before the 12th December, 1996 in pursuance of an order, issued by any authority authorised by a State Government or an Union territory Administration in that behalf.

***Explanation*.-** (i) For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression 'Government record' means record held by Revenue Department or Forest Department of the State Government or Union territory Administration or any authority, local body, community or council recognised by the State Government or Union territory Administration;

(2) The following categories of land shall not be covered under the provisions of this Act, namely:–

(a) such forest land situated alongside a rail line or a public road maintained by government, which provides access to a habitation, or to such rail, and roadside amenity up to a maximum size of 0.10 hectare in each case;

(b) such tree, tree plantation or reafforestation raised on lands that are not specified in clause (a) or clause (b) of sub-section (1); and

(c) such forest land, —

(i) as is situated within a distance of hundred kilometres along international borders or Line of Control or Line of Actual Control, as the case may be, proposed to be used for construction of strategic linear project of national importance and concerning national security; or

(ii) up to ten hectares, proposed to be used for construction of security related infrastructure; or

(iii) as is proposed to be used for construction of defence related project or a camp for paramilitary forces or public utility projects, as may be specified by the Central Government, the extent of which does not exceed five hectares in a Left Wing Extremism affected area as may be notified by the Central Government.

(3) The exemption provided under sub-section (2) shall be subject to such terms and conditions, including the conditions of planting trees to compensate felling of tress undertaken on the lands, as the Central Government may, by guidelines, specify.

2. Restriction on the de-reservation of forests or use of forest land for non-forest purpose– – (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force in a State, no State Government or other authority shall make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, any order directing -

(i) that any reserved forest (within the meaning of the expression "reserved forest" in any law for the time being in force in that State) or any portion thereof, shall cease to be reserved;

(ii) that any forest land or any portion thereof may be used for any non-forest purpose;

(iii) that any forest land or any portion thereof may be assigned by way of lease or otherwise to any private person or to any authority, corporation, agency or any other organisation subject to such terms and conditions, as the Central Government may, by order, specify;

(iv) that any forest land or any portion thereof may be cleared of trees which have grown naturally in that land or portion, for the purpose of using it for reafforestation:

'*Explanation*— For the purposes of this sub-section, "non-forest purpose" includes breaking up or clearing of any forest land or a portion thereof for—

(a) cultivation of tea, coffee, spices, rubber, palms, oil-bearing plants, horticultural crops or medicinal plants;

(b) any purpose other than reafforestation,

but does not include any work relating to or ancillary to conservation, development and management of forests and wildlife, such as—

(i) *silvicultural operations including regeneration operations;*

(ii) *establishment of check-posts and infrastructure for the front line forest staff;*

(iii) *establishment and maintenance of fire lines;*

(iv) *wireless communications;*

(v) *construction of fencing, boundary marks or pillars, bridges and culverts, dams, waterholes, trenches and pipelines;*

(vi) *establishment of zoo and safaris, referred to in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, owned by the Government or an Authority, in forest areas other than Protected Areas;*

(vii) *eco-tourism facilities included in the Forest Working Plan or Wildlife Management Plan or Tiger Conservation Plan or Working Scheme of that area; and*

(viii) *any other like purposes, which the Central Government may, by order, specify.';*

(2) The Central Government may, by order, specify the terms and conditions subject to which any survey, such as, reconnaissance, prospecting, investigation or exploration including seismic survey, shall not be treated as non-forest purpose.

3. Constitution of Advisory Committee — The Central Government may constitute a Committee consisting of such number of persons as it may deem fit to advise that Government with regard to

(i) the grant of approval under section 2; and

(ii) any other matter connected with the conservation of forests which may be referred to it by the Central Government.

3A. Penalty for contravention -

Whoever contravenes or abets the contravention of any of the provisions of section 2, shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a period, which may extend to fifteen days.

3B. Offences by the Authorities and Government Departments— (1) Where any offence under this Act has been committed -

(a) by any department of Government, the head of the department; or

(b) by any authority, every person who, at the time the offence was committed, was directly in charge of, and was responsible to, the authority for the conduct of the business of the authority as well as the authority;

shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render the head of the department or any person referred to in clause (b), liable to any punishment if he proves that the offence was

committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence punishable under the Act has been committed by a department of Government or any authority referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of any officer, other than the head of the department, or in the case of an authority, any person other than the persons referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1), such officer or persons shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

3C. Power of Central Government to issue directions— The Central Government may, from time to time, issue such directions, to any authority under the Central Government, State Government or Union territory or any organization, entity or body recognized by the Central Government, State Government or Union territory Administration, as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act.

4. Power to make rules — (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

5. Repeal and saving -

(1) The Forest (Conservation) Ordinance, 1980 is hereby replaced.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the provisions of the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

***

VAN (SANRAKSHAN EVAM SAMVARDHAN) RULES, 2023

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 29th November, 2023

G.S.R. 869 (E). - In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 (69 of 1980) and in supersession of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:-
-

1. Short title, extent and commencement. - (1) These rules may be called the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

(2) They shall come into force on the 1st Day of December 2023.

2. Definitions. - (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, -

(a) "accredited compensatory afforestation" means a system of proactive afforestation to be used for obtaining prior approval under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam.

(b) "Adhiniyam" means the Van (Sankashan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 (69 of 1980);

(c) "Advisory Committee" means the Advisory Committee constituted under section 3 of the Adhiniyam;

(d) "compensatory afforestation" means afforestation done in lieu of the diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Adhiniyam;

(e) "compensatory levies" includes all money and funds specified in clauses (iii) and (iv) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (38 of 2016);

(f) "Conservator of Forests" means Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests, the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests or an officer equivalent to Conservator of Forests appointed by the State Government or Union territory Administration to hold the charge of a forest circle having jurisdiction over the forest land for which the prior approval of the Central Government is required;

(g) "Deputy Director General of Forests (Central)" means head of the Regional Office appointed by the Central Government;

(h) "dereservation" means an order issued by the State Government or Union territory Administration or any authority thereof, for change in the legal status of a land statutorily or otherwise recognised as forest to any other category of land;

(i) "diversion" means an order issued by the State Government or Union territory Administration or any authority thereof for the use of any forest land for non-forest purpose or assignment of a lease of any forest land for non-forest purpose;

(j) "District Collector" includes Deputy Commissioner, to hold the charge of the Administration of the revenue district having jurisdiction over the forest land for which the prior approval of the Central Government under the Adhiniyam is required;

(k) “Divisional Forest Officer” means Divisional Forest Officer, Deputy Conservator of Forests or an officer equivalent to the Divisional Forest Officer or Deputy Conservator of Forests appointed by the State Government or Union territory Administration to hold the charge of a Forest Division having jurisdiction over the forest land for which the prior approval of the Central Government under the Adhiniyam is required;

(l) “land bank” means the lands identified or earmarked, as the case may be, by the State Government and Union territory Administration for raising compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land proposed for diversion or diverted under the Adhiniyam;

(m) “linear project” means project involving linear diversion of forest land for the purposes such as roads, pipelines, railways, transmission lines, slurry pipeline, conveyor belt etc.;

(n) “National Working Plan Code” means a code prepared by the Central Government for the preparation of Working Plans;

(o) “Nodal Officer” means any officer not below the rank of Chief Conservator of Forests, authorised by the State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be, or the senior most officer in the Forest Department of the concerned Union territory, if there is no post of Chief Conservator of Forests or above in the Department, for the purpose of implementation of the Adhiniyam and rules thereof and to deal with and to make correspondence with the Central Government, in the matter of forest conservation;

(p) “Project Screening Committee” means the Project Screening Committee constituted under rule 8;

(q) “Regional Empowered Committee” means the Regional Empowered Committee constituted under sub-rule (1) of rule 6;

(r) “Regional Office” means a Regional Office established by, and controlled by the Central Government for the purpose of these rules;

(s) “survey” means any activity to be taken up prior to initiating commissioning of a project or any activity undertaken for the purpose of exploring, locating or proving mineral deposits including coal, petroleum and natural gas before carrying out actual mining in the forest land, that includes survey, investigation, prospecting, exploration, including drilling therefor, etc.;

(t) “technological tool” means Geographical Information System based digital tools such as Decision Support System facilitating the decision making process of proposal seeking prior approval under the Adhiniyam;

(u) “user agency” means any person, organisation or legal entity or company or Department of the Central Government or State Government or Union territory Administration submitting a proposal under section 1 of the Adhiniyam;

(v) “working permission” means permission granted to linear projects before final approval to mobilise the resources to commence the preliminary project work other than black topping, concretisation, laying of railway tracks, charging of transmission lines, etc. or as specified in the in-principle approval;

(w) “Working Plan” means the document prepared as per the provisions of the National Working Plan Code published by the Central Government from time to time and having

prescriptions for scientific management of the forests of a particular Forest Division for a specified period;

(2) Words and expressions used herein and not defined in these rules but defined in the Adhiniyam shall have the same meaning as respectively assigned to them in the Adhiniyam.

3. Constitution of Advisory Committee - (1) The Central Government may, by an order, constitute an Advisory Committee to advise the Central Government with regards to the grant of approval under sub-section (1) of section 2 in respect of proposals referred under sub-rule (2) of rule 10; and any matter connected with the conservation of forests referred to the Advisory Committee by the Central Government.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall consist of the following persons, namely: -

(a) Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – Chairperson;
(b) Additional Director General of Forests, dealing with the forest conservation in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – Member;
(c) Additional Director General of Forests, dealing with wildlife in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – Member;
(d) Additional Commissioner (Soil Conservation), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare – Member;
(e) Three non-official experts to be nominated by the Central Government representing one each from the fields of ecology, engineering and development economics – members;
(f) Inspector General of Forests dealing with forest conservation and Adhiniyam thereof – Member-Secretary

(3) The Chairperson may co-opt the domain experts as special invitees to a meeting of the Advisory Committee.

(4) The Chairperson shall preside over the meeting of the Advisory Committee and in his absence, the Additional Director General of Forests, dealing with forest conservation, in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall preside over the meeting.

4. Terms and conditions of non-official Members of Advisory Committee. –

(1) A non-official Member shall hold his office for a period of up to two years from the date of his nomination or as specified by the Central Government.

(2) A non-official Member shall cease to hold office if he becomes of unsound mind, or insolvent or is convicted for an offence which involves moral turpitude.

(3) A non-official Member may be removed from his office if he fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Advisory Committee without any sufficient cause or reason.

(4) Any vacancy caused by any reason mentioned in clauses (b) and (c) shall be filled by the Central Government for the remaining term of two years.

(5) The non-official Members of the Advisory Committee shall be entitled to a travelling allowance and daily allowance as are admissible to an officer of the Government of India holding Group 'A' post.

(6) Provided that where a Member of the Parliament or a Member of a State Legislature has been appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee, he shall be entitled to the travelling allowance and daily allowances in accordance with the Salary, Allowances and

Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 (30 of 1954) or the respective provisions of law pertaining to the member of the concerned State Legislature, as the case may be.

5. Conduct of business of the Advisory Committee.- (1) The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee shall call the meeting of the Committee at least once a month, whenever considered necessary;

(2) the meeting of the Advisory Committee shall ordinarily be held at New Delhi except when the Chairperson considers it necessary to inspect the proposed land, then the Chairperson may direct the meeting to be held at a place from where the proposal can be inspected.

(3) the quorum of the meeting of the Advisory Committee shall be five including the Chairperson.

(4) The Member-Secretary shall prepare an agenda of the meeting and present the proposals and matters referred to the Advisory Committee by the Central Government.

(5) The Advisory Committee shall examine in its meeting the proposal or the matter and, in urgent cases, the Chairperson may direct the proposal or the matter to be sent to the members for the their opinion, which shall be furnished to the Committee within the stipulated time.

(6) the user agency may be allowed to attend the meeting of the Advisory Committee for such duration as may be necessary to furnish such information or clarify any issue which may pertain to it.

(7) After the examination of the proposal or the matter, the Advisory Committee shall make its recommendation/advise to the Central Government.

6. Constitution of Regional Empowered Committee. - (1) The Central Government may, by an order, constitute a Regional Empowered Committee at each of the Regional Offices to examine proposals referred to it under sub-rule (3) of rule 10 and grant approval or rejection of proposals under sub-section (1) of section 2.

(2) The Regional Empowered Committee at each of the Regional Offices shall consist of the following persons, namely: -

(a) Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) or an officer nominated by the Central Government – chairperson;

(b) Three non-official members from amongst eminent persons who are experts in the field of forestry and allied disciplines – members;

(c) The senior-most officer amongst officers of the rank of Conservator of Forests and Deputy Conservator of Forests in the Regional Office – member-secretary.

(3) The chairperson of the Regional Empowered Committee may co-opt the domain experts as special invitees to the meeting.

(4) One representative each from the Forest Department and Revenue Department of the State or the Union territory Administration, not below the rank of Director to the Government of India, shall be invited by the Regional Empowered Committee to attend the meeting as a special invitee, in the examination of the proposals.

(5) Terms and conditions of non-official members of Regional Empowered Committee.-

(1) A non-official member shall hold his office for a period of up to two years from the date of his nomination.

(**2**) A non-official member shall cease to hold office if he becomes of unsound mind, insolvent, or is convicted for an offence involving moral turpitude.

(3) A non-official member may be removed from his office if he fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee without any sufficient cause or reason.

(4) Any vacancy of a member in the Regional Empowered Committee caused by any reason mentioned in sub-rules (2) and (3) shall be filled by the Central Government for the remaining term of the member in whose place vacancy has arisen.

(5) The non-official members of the Regional Empowered Committee shall be entitled to a travelling allowance and daily allowance as are admissible to an officer of the Government of India holding Group 'A' post carrying the same scale of pay.

(6) Provided that where a Member of the Parliament or a Member of a State Legislature has been appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee, he shall be entitled to the travelling allowance and daily allowances in accordance with the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 (30 of 1954) or the respective provisions of law pertaining to the member of the concerned State Legislature, as the case may be.

7. Conduct of business of Regional Empowered Committee. - The Regional Empowered Committee shall conduct its business as follows, namely:-

(1) The chairperson of the Regional Empowered Committee shall hold the meeting whenever considered necessary, but not less than once a month.

(2) The meetings of the Regional Empowered Committee shall be held at the headquarters of the Regional Office:

Provided that where the chairperson of the Regional Empowered Committee is satisfied that inspection of site of forest land proposed to be used for non-forest purposes shall be necessary or expedient in connection with the consideration of the proposal referred, he may direct that the meetings of the Regional Empowered Committee be held at a place other than headquarters of the Regional Office for such inspection of site;

(3) The chairperson of the Regional Empowered Committee shall preside over the meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee and in his absence, Deputy Director General of Forests holding the charge of other Regional Office or Inspector General of Forests dealing with the matter related to the Adhiniyam, as may be authorised by the Central Government, may chair the meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee.

(4) Every proposal referred to the Regional Empowered Committee for advice or decision shall be considered in the meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee:

Provided that in urgent case, the chairperson of the Regional Empowered Committee may direct that documents may be circulated and sent to the members of the Regional Empowered Committee for their opinion within the stipulated time.

(5) The quorum of the meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee shall be three.

(6) The user agency may be allowed to remain present for such duration during a meeting as may be necessary to furnish such information or clarify any issue which may pertain to it.

(7) The member-secretary shall prepare agenda of the meeting and present the proposals and matters connected with the Adhiniyam before the committee for making appropriate recommendations and decisions thereafter.

8. Constitution of Project Screening Committee. - (1) The State Government and Union territory Administration may, by an order, constitute a Project Screening Committee to examine the completeness of the proposal submitted under clauses (i), (ii) or (iii) of sub-section **(1)** of section 2 of the Adhiniyam.

(2) The Project Screening Committee shall consist of the following persons, namely:-

a. Nodal Officer – chairperson;
b. Concerned Chief Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests – member;
c. Concerned Divisional Forest Officer- member;
d. Concerned District Collector or his representative (Not below the rank of Deputy Collector) –member;
e. Divisional Forest Officer in the office of Nodal Officer- member-secretary

(3) The Project Screening Committee shall meet at least twice every month and the quorum of the meeting of the Project Screening Committee shall be three.

(4) The Project Screening Committee shall, after examination of the proposals, make recommendation to the State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be.

9. Proposals for prior approval of Central Government - (1) The approval shall be accorded by the Central Government in two stages, namely, (i) 'In- Principle' approval; and (ii) 'Final' approval.

(2) The user agency shall submit an application to the State Government or Union territory Administration for approval of the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam for dereservation of forest land, use of forest land for non-forest purposes or for assignment of lease online, through the web portal of the Central Government.

(3) A proposal identity number shall be generated online for the proposal submitted by the user agency and the said identity number shall be used for all future references;

(4) The copy of the proposal shall be simultaneously forwarded to the concerned Divisional Forest Officers, District Collectors, Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests and the Nodal Officer of the State Government or Union territory Administration each of whom shall independently undertake preliminary examination of the completeness of documentation of the proposal.

(5) The Project Screening Committee shall examine the proposal received from the State Government or Union territory Administration, except proposals involving forest land of five hectares or less, that the proposal is complete in all respects and the proposed activity is not in any restricted area or category.

(6) The Project Screening Committee, for the purpose of screening, may call the user agency for clarification or additional documents, if any.

(7) The Project Screening Committee shall examine the proposal for its completeness and correctness and ensure that deficiencies in the proposal, if any, are identified and the member-secretary shall inform in this regard to the user agency.

(8) The proposals returned to the user agency shall be re-submitted after addressing the deficiency, as identified under sub-rule (7) above, within a period of ninety days, failing which the proposal shall stand de-listed.

(9) In case the user agency submits the information within the given time the proposal will be re-examined by the Project Screening Committee and in case the proposal is not complete in all respect then the same will be de-listed for the reasons to be recorded in writing:

Provided that the after de-listing of the proposal by the Project Screening Committee, the user agency, after addressing the deficiencies, can re-list the proposal only once using the same proposal identity number, as generated under sub-rule (2) above, which will again be examined by the PSC as per procedure given in sub-rule (5) to (7) above and in case the proposal is found still incomplete, it will be rejected and deleted permanently from the portal.

(10) The complete proposal with the proposal identity number shall be forwarded to concerned Divisional Forest Officer concerned, District Collectors, Conservator of Forests or Chief Conservator of Forests for field verification.

(11) Where the forest land or part thereof included in the proposal is not under the management control of the Forest Department, the District Collector shall get the land schedule and map of the forest land included in the proposal authenticated online through joint verification by officers of the Revenue Department and Forest Department.

(12) In addition to every proposal verified in the field by the Divisional Forest Officer concerned, field inspection shall be simultaneously undertaken for every proposal that involves more than forty hectares of forest land by the Conservator of Forests concerned and for every proposal that involves more than hundred hectares of forest land by the Nodal Officer.

(13) The proposal, except involving forest land of five hectares or less, shall come up for consideration of the Project Screening Committee within the period specified in Schedule I, annexed to these rules, from submission of the completed proposal under sub-rule (8), or (9) or (11), as the case may be, and the Project Screening Committee shall examine the feasibility of the proposal for the purpose of recommending it to the State Government or Union territory Administration along with mitigation measures to be adopted by the user agency:

Provided that the Project Screening Committee may seek from the user agency any clarification, additional detail or modification of the proposal in terms of change in forest land proposed for diversion on account of reasons such as minimising the requirement of forest land or minimising adverse impact on forest and wildlife, change in compensatory afforestation land proposed or change in measures proposed to be adopted by the user agency to mitigate the adverse impact of the project, and for this purpose it may ask the user agency to make a presentation:

Provided further that the proposal shall be reconsidered by the Project Steering Committee in case of timely submission of complete information and clarification and additional detail by the user agency online and in case the user agency modifies the original proposal substantially and makes major changes such as change in the forest land or land use plan, the Project Steering Committee may return the proposal to complete the steps given

in sub-rule (7) to (11) and therefore the steps in this sub-rule shall also be repeated in such cases.

(14) Where the user agency fails to submit correct information, additional detail or a modified proposal within the period as specified, the proposal shall stand rejected*:*

Provided that if the user agency satisfies the Project Screening Committee that the reason for the delay was beyond its control, the Project Screening Committee may reconsider the proposal, after the reasons to be recorded in writing and recommend it to the State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be;

(15) The proposal involving forest land of up to five hectares, shall after their examination at the level of Divisional Forest Officer be forwarded by him directly to the Nodal Officer and the Nodal Officer shall forward such proposals to the State Government or Union territory Administration along with his recommendations:

Provided that Division Forest Officer, after receiving the proposals from the user agency, shall assess their completeness and incomplete proposal shall be returned to the user agency for re-submitting it with complete information.

(16) The proposal involving forest land of more than five hectares, shall be forwarded by the Nodal Officer, with the approval of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, to the State Government or Union territory Administration, along with the Project Screening Committee's recommendation and the same shall also be forwarded to the Regional Office.

(17) Where the State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be, decides not to dereserve, divert for non-forest purposes or assign on lease the forest land as indicated in the proposal, the same shall be intimated to the user agency by the Nodal Officer.

(18) Where the State Government or Union territory Administration agrees 'In-Principle' to dereserve the forest land, divert for non-forest purposes or assign on lease the forest land as indicated in the proposal shall forward its recommendation to the Central Government.

10. In-Principle approval of the proposal.-

(1) Except the proposals referred to in sub-rule (2), all proposals related to.-

(i) linear projects;

(ii) hydro electric power projects of upto 25 MW capacity proposed in the river basin where cumulative impact assessment to assess the carrying capacity of the river basing has been done

(ii) forest land up to forty hectares; and

(iii) use of forest land having canopy density up to 0.7 irrespective of their extent for the purpose of survey which are not covered under the exemptions provided under clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam and Guidelines issued thereunder;

shall be examined in the Regional Office and disposed off in the manner specified in sub-rule (3).

(2) All proposals, other than those referred to in sub-rule (1) and following proposals, namely:-

(i) dereservation;

(ii) mining;

(iii) hydro electric power projects of more than 25 MW and those falling in a river basin where cumulative impact assessment study to assess the carrying capacity of river basin has not been done or policy decision on allowing the projects in a river basin has not been taken by the Central Government;

(iv) regularisation of encroachment;

(v) ex-post facto approval involving violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam;

shall be examined and disposed of by the Central Government in the manner specified under these rules.

Provided that, no approval is required for assignment of petroleum exploration licence or petroleum mining lease where the physical possession or breaking of forest land is not involved:

(3) The proposals received under sub-rule (1) shall be examined by the Regional Office in the following manner, namely:-

(i) all proposals involving forest land up to five hectares, shall be examined by the Regional Office for its completeness and after further enquiry or site inspection, as deemed necessary and giving due regard to the aspects listed under clause (ii) of sub-rule (5), 'In-Principle' approval or rejection may be granted by the Regional Office by recording the reasons.

(ii) all linear proposals involving forest land of more than five hectares, all proposals for use of forest land having canopy density upto 0.7 for the purpose of survey irrespective of their extent and all other proposals involving the use of more than five hectares and up to forty hectares forest land, shall be referred, after examination of its completeness, by the Regional Office to the Regional Empowered Committee.

(iii) the Regional Empowered Committee shall examine all proposals referred to it under clause (ii) and after further enquiry or site inspection as deemed necessary and giving due regard to the aspects listed under clause (ii) of sub-rule (5), may grant 'In-Principle' approval or reject the same by recording reasons.

(iv) The decisions taken by the Regional Empowered Committee or the Deputy Director General of Forests to grant 'In-principle' approval or to reject a proposal, in accordance with the power delegated under this rule, as and when necessary or required, may be reviewed by Central Government and decision taken by the Central Government in such matters shall be the final.

(4) Site inspection report shall be prepared for proposals specified in sub-rule (2) by the Regional Office and the same shall be submitted to the Central Government for consideration by the Advisory Committee.

(5) The proposals received by the Central Government shall be examined in the following manner, namely:-

(i) all proposals under sub-rule (2) along with the site inspection report as required under sub-rule (4) or as asked by the Central Government, shall be referred, after examination of its completeness, to the Advisory Committee.

(ii) the Advisory Committee shall examine all proposals referred to it in clause (i), giving due regards, but not limited to, the following, and after further enquiry, as deemed necessary, shall make recommendation to the Central Government for consideration for approval:-

(a) the proposed use of the forest land is not for any non-site specific purpose such as agricultural purpose, office or residential purpose or for the rehabilitation of persons displaced for any reason;

(b) the State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, has certified that it has considered all alternatives and that no other alternative in the circumstances is feasible and that the required area is the minimum needed;

(c) the State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, before making his recommendation, has considered all issues having direct and indirect impacts on the diversion of forest land on the forest, wildlife and the environment;

(d) concerned mandates under the National Forest Policy;

(e) whether adequate justification has been given and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed by the State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, if the forest land proposed to be used for non-forest purposes forms part of a national park, wildlife sanctuary, tiger reserve, designated or identified tiger or wildlife corridor, or habitat of any endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna or of an area lying in the severely eroded catchment; and

(f) the State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, undertakes to provide at its cost or at the cost of the user agency the requisite extent of appropriate land, as per rule 13, for the purpose of carrying out compensatory afforestation.

(6) While making recommendations under sub-rule (5), the Committee may also impose conditions or restrictions and such mitigation measures, which in its opinion would offset the adverse environmental impact of diversion of forest land under the proposal.

(7) The Central Government shall, after considering the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, grant 'In-Principle' approval subject to fulfilment of stipulated conditions or reject and communicate the same to the State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, and to the user agency.

(8) In case the proposal is found incomplete or information provided is found to be incorrect after its examination, the Central Government shall inform the State Government or Union territory Administration and user agency for furnishing the required information within a specified period.

(9) The State Government or Union territory Administration on receipt of communication under sub-rule (8), may furnish the complete information, after which the proposal shall be considered for 'In-Principle' approval under these rules:

Provided, if the information sought pertains to the user agency, the user agency may directly furnish the requisite information to the Central Government with a copy to the State Government or Union territory Administration, and upon receipt of such information from the user agency, the Central Government, if it considers necessary,

may seek comments of the concerned State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be, on the information furnished by the user agency or consider granting 'In-Principle' approval.

(10) The State Government or the Union territory Administration, if so desire, after obtaining the 'In-principle' approval of linear proposal and deposition of compensatory levies such as compensatory afforestation and Net Present Value and cost of mitigation plans such as of the Wildlife Management Plan and Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, as applicable, notification of the land identified for raising compensatory afforestation as Protected Forest under Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927) or local forest Act and compliance of other statutes including the Schedule Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), may grant 'working permission' for the commencement of project work before grant of 'Final' approval.

11. Final approval of the proposal.-

(1) The Nodal Officer may, after receipt of the 'In-Principle' approval from the Central Government, communicate the same to the Divisional Forest Officers, District Collectors and Conservator of Forests.

(2) On receipt of a copy of the 'In-Principle' approval, the Divisional Forest Officer shall prepare a demand note containing the item-wise amount of compensatory levies , as applicable, to be paid by the user agency and communicate the same to the user agency, along with a list of documents, certificates and undertakings required to be submitted by them in compliance with the conditions stipulated in 'In-Principle' approval.

(3) The user agency shall, after receipt of the communication, make payment of compensatory levies and hand over the land identified for compensatory afforestation, a compliance report along with copies of documentary evidence including undertaking and certificate in respect of the payment of compensatory levies and handing over of compensatory afforestation land to the Divisional Forest Officer.

(**4**) The Divisional Forest Officer, after having received the compliance report as referred to in sub-rule (3), shall examine its completeness and make his recommendations on the compliance report and forward the same to the Nodal Officer.

(5) the Nodal Officer, after having received the compliance report, ensuring its completeness and obtaining approval of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the State Government or head of the Department in case of Union territory Administration, shall forward such report with his recommendations to the State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be.

(6) The Central Government after having received the compliance report and ensuring its completeness may accord 'Final' approval under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam and communicate such decision to the State Government or Union territory Administration and the user agency.

(7) The State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be, after receiving the 'Final' approval of the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam, and after fulfilment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest

Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion, assignment of lease or dereservation, as the case may be.

(8) The final order of dereservation under clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam, wherever accorded, shall be published in the official Gazette by the State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be, informing dereservation of the forest land;

(9) The whole process of obtaining approval shall be carried out in the online portal developed for this purpose.

(10) Where compliance of condition imposed in the 'In-principle' approval is awaited from the State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be, for more than two years, the 'In-Principle' approval shall be deemed to be null and void:

Provided the Central Government may, for the reasons to be recorded in writing, in respect of proposals involving forest land of more than thousand hectares, where 'In-Principle' approval has been obtained, may consider grant of phase-wise 'Final' approval by the competent authority subject to compliance in respect of-

(a) payment of compensatory levies and notification of land identified and accepted for raising Compensatory Afforestation, proportional to the part area for which compliance is submitted; and

(b) any other specific condition that the Central Government may deem fit to have been complied with.

(11) After issue of final approval under sub- rule (7) and Gazette notification under sub-rule (8) the forest land concerned may be handed over or assigned, as the case may be, to the user agency by the State Government or Union territory Administration.

(12) The Regional Office shall monitor the compliance of all conditions imposed at the time of granting 'In-Principle' approval and the State Government or Union territory Administration and the user agency shall also monitor, at least once every year, the compliance of conditions imposed during 'In-Principle' approval and upload the monitoring report in the online portal.

(13) The entire process for processing the proposals by the various authorities in the State shall be completed within the time limit specified in **Schedule-I** appended to these rules.

12. Proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government for working plan.-

(1) The Nodal Officer of the State Government or Union territory Administration shall submit the draft Working Plan of a Forest Division, duly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the National Working Plan Code, along with the recommendation of the State Consultative Committee, in the online portal for prior approval of the Central Government.

(2) The draft Working Plan shall include, *inter alia*, details of forest land diverted, corresponding Compensatory Afforestation lands and status of afforestation thereon.

(3) the draft Working Plan submitted to the Central Government shall be examined by the Regional Office concerned for its conformity with National Working Plan Code, the National Forest Policy and with preamble of Adiniyam for conservation and augmentation of forests and the Regional Office may accord prior approval to the draft Working Plan along with conditions or without conditions or accord approval along with modification

of the provision contained in the draft Working Plan and for a period as it deems fit, or reject the same by recording the reasons therefor.

(4) The State Government or Union territory Administration or its designated officer shall carry out the prescriptions of the Working Plan to which the approval has been accorded by the Regional Office with respect to all or specific provision of the Working Plan and for the period for which the Working Plan has been approved.

(5) The State Government or Union territory Administration shall undertake a mid-term review of the approved Working Plan and submit the review report along with its recommendation to the Regional Office and the Regional Office may, after examination, modify the condition of approval or issue a fresh prior approval by modifying the provision of the previously approved Working Plan for the remaining period or reject the recommendations of mid-term review by recording reasons therefor.

(6) The Regional Office may also consider and approve eligible Annual Working Schemes, in case submitted by the State Government or Union territory Administration.

(7) All proposals under clause (iv) of sub-section (1) of section 2, irrespective of the size of forest land involved, shall be submitted online by the State Government or Union territory Administration to the concerned Regional Office.

(8) The proposals received under sub-rule (1) shall be examined by the Regional Office and after enquiry, the Regional Office may grant approval or reject the same by recording the reasons thereof;

(9) The proposals involving whole or part of forest land bearing a canopy density of 0.4 or more or proposals involving clear-felling of forest land of size more than twenty hectares in plains and ten hectares in hills irrespective of canopy density, shall be forwarded to the Regional Empowered Committee and the Regional Empowered Committee shall deal in the manner specified under these rules and while examining the proposal, the Regional Office shall ensure that the final decision is in conformity with the National Working Plan Code, the National Forest Policy and with preamble of Adiniyam for conservation and augmentation of forests.

(10) For the purpose of these rules "clear-felling of forest land" means removal of all natural vegetation in whatever form occurring, by felling, uprooting or burning them and removing them from the forest land over one hectare in size or more, but other types of felling of trees of specified size or species, including their selection felling or coppice felling shall not be considered as clear felling.

13. Creation of Compensatory Afforestation.- (1) An user agency shall provide land which is neither notified as forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927) or any other law nor managed as forest by the Forest Department and it shall also bear the cost of raising compensatory afforestation over such land and the requirement of Compensatory Afforestation land shall be as per the **Schedule-II** annexed to these rules:

Provided that in case the non-forest land or portion thereof provided by the user agency is not fit for raising compensatory afforestation of a specified density, then additional compensatory afforestation shall be raised on a degraded notified or unclassed forest land under the management control of the Forest Department which is twice in size of such shortfall in the given compensatory afforestation land and the user agency shall also bear the additional cost on such account:

Provided further that if the non-forest land being made available for compensatory afforestation already bears vegetation of 0.4 canopy density or more, there shall not be an additional requirement of planting of trees on such land but a programme for improvement of the forest crop shall be implemented by the Forest Department in a time-bound manner:

Provided also in exceptional circumstances when the suitable land required for compensatory afforestation under this clause is not available and the certificate to this effect is given by the State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be, the compensatory afforestation may be considered on degraded forest land which is twice in extent to the area proposed to be diverted in case of the Central Government agencies or Central Public Sector Undertakings on case to case basis:

Provided also in exceptional circumstances when the suitable land required for compensatory afforestation under this clause is not available, and the certificate to this effect is given by the State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be, the compensatory afforestation may be considered on degraded forest land which is twice in extent to the area proposed to be diverted in case of State Public Sector Undertakings for captive coal blocks on case to case basis:

Provided also in case the user agency acquires any non-forest land for the execution of the project, the exceptions in case of Central Government agencies, Central Public Sector Undertakings and State Public Sector Undertakings as above shall not be applicable.

(2) The specified density for raising compensatory afforestation under this sub-rule shall be such as to develop, a forest of a minimum canopy density of 0.4 or more in the fifth year of start of compensatory afforestation operation, and the area has sufficient vegetation stock to enable it to mature into land with canopy density of minimum 0.7.

(3) In case of non-availability of the non-forest land, the compensatory afforestation can also be raised over the following lands, which will be provided minimum double in extent of the area being diverted or difference between the forest land being diverted and the available non-forest land, as the case may be, is made available and they are notified as Protected Forests under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927) or local Acts prior to 'Final' approval:

(a) revenue forest lands i.e. land recorded as forest in the Government records but not notified as forest under any law and not managed by the Forest Department viz. revenue lands or zudpi jungle or chhote-bade jhar ka jungle or jungle-jhari land or civil-soyam or orange forest lands and all other such categories of forest lands, provided they are transferred and mutated in the name of State Forest Department;

(b) the degraded Unclassed State Forests in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, shall be considered for compensatory afforestation provided they are transferred and mutated in the name of State Forest Department;

(c) the waste lands in the State of Himachal Pradesh, falling under the category of Protected Forests but have neither been demarcated on the ground nor transferred and mutated in the name of forest department in the revenue records, provided they are transferred and mutated in the name of State Forest Department;

(d) lands falling under section 4 and 5 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900, gair mumkin Pahads, gair mumkin darkhtan, in the States of Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, which are not under the management and administrative control of the State Forest Department, provided that such lands will be transferred and mutated in the name of State Forest Department, unless as specified and agreed to by the Central Government

to notify them under Indian Forest Act 1927 (16 of 1927), without transferring them to the State Forest Department, on case to case basis;

(4) Special dispensation for raising compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land, minimum double in extent, may be considered in respect of following proposals, namely.-

(a) in the States or Union territory Administrations, having forest area more than 33% of their total geographical area and a certificate on non-availability of suitable non-forest land for raising compensatory afforestation has been furnished by the State Government /Union territory Administration in the format specified under **Schedule-III,** appended to these rules;

(b) transmission line projects;

(c) laying of telephone or optical fibre lines;

(d) mulberry plantation undertaken for silkworm rearing;

(e) extraction of minor materials from the river beds;

(f) construction of link roads, small water works, minor irrigation works, school building, dispensaries, hospital, tiny rural industrial sheds of the Government or any other similar work excluding mining and encroachment cases, which directly benefit the people of the area in hill districts and in other districts having forest area exceeding 50% of the total geographical area, provided diversion of forest area does not exceed 5 hectares;

(g) actual impact zone of the field firing range considered for diversion under the Adhiniyam or 10% of the total forest area diverted in case entire area of the field firing range is proposed for diversion;

(h) any degraded forest land for the purpose of compensatory afforestation, selected by the State Government or the Union territory Administration, under this sub-rule, may be accepted by the Central Government when the crown density of such degraded forest is below 40 percent and such areas is not a natural or managed grassland being used for the management and conservation of wildlife; and

(5) In the following categories of proposals, cost of plantation of ten times the number of trees likely to be felled or specified number of trees as may be specified in the order for diversion of forest land (subject to a minimum no. of 100 plants), shall be levied from the user agency towards compensatory afforestation-

(a) clearing of naturally grown trees in forest land or in portion thereof for the purpose of using it for reforestation;

(b) diversion of forest land up to one hectare; and

(c) Underground mining in forest land without surface rights.

(6) No compensatory afforestation shall be charged in respect of renewal of mining lease for the forest area for which land for compensatory afforestation and cost of plantation has already been paid.

(7) In respect of diversion of forest land earmarked for the maintenance of safety zone along the inner boundary of a mine, the provisions of the raising compensatory afforestation, as applicable in the entire forest area proposed for diversion, shall be applicable in lieu of forest land located in the safety zone.

(8) Non-forest land identified for raising compensatory, contiguous to forest land, located in the wildlife corridors and protected areas shall be incentivised as per the provisions provided in the **Schedule-II** appended to these rules;

14. Management of compensatory afforestation.- (1) The land specified under sub-rule (1) of rule 13, shall be demarcated by concrete pillars of suitable size and handed over, free from all encumbrances to the State Forest Department or Union territory Forest Department and the same shall be notified as protected forest under section 29 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927) or under any other law for the time being in force before the Final approval is granted under the Adhiniyam.

(2) The land identified and earmarked for compensatory afforestation shall be treated and afforested by the State Government or Union territory Administration or user agency as per the compensatory afforestation plan approved as part of the said forest diversion proposal and the work of compensatory afforestation shall start within two years of issue of order of diversion of the corresponding forest land and the Central Government may issue guidelines on the modalities of compensatory afforestation, including agencies that may undertake compensatory afforestation.

(3) Subject to the consent of the State Governments or Union territory Administrations, in case the forest land to be diverted is in a hilly or mountainous State or Union territory having forest cover of more than two-third of its geographical area or situated in any other State or Union territory having forest cover of more than one-third of its geographical area, creation of compensatory afforestation, accredited compensatory afforestation and land banks may be taken up in another State or Union territory Administration:

Provided that, the money towards compensatory afforestation in such cases shall be transferred to the State Compensatory Afforestation Fund of the State or Union territory in which the compensatory afforestation land has been identified and the remaining money of the compensatory levies shall be deposited in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority Fund of the State Government or Union territory Administration in which the forest land has been proposed to be diverted:

Provided further that in cases, where due to unfulfilment of the conditions specified in this sub-rule such as percentage of forest land of the geographical area, it is not possible to raise compensatory afforestation in the same State or Union territory Administration where diversion of forest land is proposed or in other States or Union territory Administration, the Central Government, in public interest, may allow, on case to case basis, compensatory afforestation in other State or Union territory Administration.

(4) (a) A State Government or Union territory Administration as the case may be, for the purpose of compensatory afforestation, may create a land bank under the administrative control of the Department of Forest;

(b) The minimum size of the land bank shall be a single block of twenty five hectares:

Provided that in case a land bank is in continuity of a land declared or notified as forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927) or under any other law for time being in force, protected area, tiger reserve or within a designated or identified tiger or wildlife corridor, there shall be no restriction on size of the land; and

(c) The lands covered under accredited compensatory afforestation earned under sub-rule (5) may be included in the land bank.

(5) (a) The Central Government may formulate an accredited compensatory afforestation mechanism to be used for obtaining prior approval under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam.

(b) the accredited compensatory afforestation may be earned by a person if he has established afforestation over land on which the Ahiniyam is not applicable and is free from all encumbrances;

(c) an afforestation shall be counted towards accredited compensatory afforestation if such land has vegetation composed predominantly of trees having canopy density of 0.4 or more and the trees are at least five years old;

(d) the accredited compensatory afforestation shall be earned by developing afforestation of one-hectare area with 0.4 or more canopy density, but there shall be no accredited compensatory afforestation for developing an area below 0.4 canopy density or below one-hectare land;

(e) the accredited compensatory afforestation may be swapped for compensatory afforestation proposed under rule (13):

Provided the accredited compensatory afforestation cover a block of minimum of ten hectares and has been fenced as per norms specified for compensatory afforestation in that area:

Provided further that accredited compensatory afforestation over land of any size situated in the continuity of land declared or notified as forest under any law, protected area, tiger reserve or within a designated or identified tiger or wildlife corridor, may be swapped for compensatory afforestation;

(f) the accredited compensatory afforestation earned out of vacation of non-forest lands on account of voluntary relocation of a village from a national park, wildlife sanctuary or tiger reserve and designated or identified tiger or wildlife corridors shall qualify for compensatory afforestation as per **Schedule –II** annexed to these rules, and may be used by a user agency in lieu of compensatory afforestation under rule (13);

(g) the accredited compensatory afforestation identified under this rule shall be demarcated with concrete pillars of suitable size and handed over, free from all encumbrances to Forest Department of the State Government or Union territory Administration and the same shall be notified as protected forest under section 29 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927) or under the provision of any other law for the time being in force before the Final approval is granted under the Adhiniyam;

(h) The Central Government, from time to time, may issue detailed guidelines on creation of accredited compensatory afforestation, its stock registry and management for the purpose of its swap for compensatory afforestation land and cost of maintenance thereof up to a period specified by the Central Government.

(i) All entities registered for accredited compensatory afforestation shall register with the Green Credit Registry under the Green Credit Policy Implementation Rules, 2023 and besides their eligibility for compensatory afforestation in lieu of diversion of forest land, the accredited compensatory afforestation will also be eligible for allocation of green credits under the Green Credit Policy Implementation Rules, 2023.

15. Proceedings against persons guilty of offences under the Adhiniyam.-

(1) The Central Government may, by notification in official gazette, authorise an officer of the rank of Divisional Forest Officer or Deputy Conservator of Forests and above of the State Government or Union territory Administration concerned, having jurisdiction over the forest land in respect of which any offense under the Adhiniyam is committed or violation of the provisions of the said Adhiniyam has been made, to file complaints against such person or authority or organization, prima-facie found guilty of offence under the Adhiniyam or the violation of the rules made thereunder, in the court having jurisdiction in the matter.

(2) The Central Government, after receiving the information with respect to offence committed or violations made either through State Government or Union territory Administration or authorities or any other source or *suo moto,* shall, after examination, communicate the same to the State Government or Union territory and the authorities concerned under whose jurisdiction the offence under the Adhiniyam has been committed or any provision of the said Adhiniyam has been violated, for filing the complaint against the offenders before the court having jurisdiction and it shall act as a prerequisite for the authorised officer before such complaints are filed within a period of forty five days from the receipt of such communication.The State Government and authorities concerned shall submit a periodic report to Regional Office, from time to time, regarding filing of the complaints.

(3) An Officer of the rank of Assistant Inspector General and above, may be authorized by the Central Government, by notification, to initiate legal proceedings and file complaints, against the offences committed under the Adhiniyam.

(4) The officer authorized by the Central Government in sub-rule (1) and (3) may require any officer or any person or any other authority of the State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, to furnish to it within a specified period any reports, documents, and any other information related to contravention of the Adhiniyam or the rules made thereunder, considered necessary for making a complaint in any court of jurisdiction and every such State Government or officer or person or authority shall be bound to do so.

16. Miscellaneous.- (1) For the purpose of explanation of government records provided under subsection (1) of section 1A of the Adhiniyam, the State Governments and Union territory Administrations, within a period of one year, shall prepare a consolidated record of such lands, including the forest like areas identified by the Expert Committee constituted for this purpose, unclassed forest lands or community forest lands on which the provisions of the Adhiniyam shall be applicable.

(2) The felling of trees on forest lands approved for use for the non-forest purpose under these rules shall be restricted to a bare minimum and to an unavoidable number and shall be done under the supervision of the local Forest Department and the forest produce obtained therefrom shall be handed over to the local Forest Department for disposal in the manner specified by the State Government or Union territory Administration which shall give preference to distribution to local villagers for meeting their domestic bonafide requirement.

(3) The forest land diverted for non-forest purpose under these rules shall be appropriately surveyed jointly by the user agency and the Forest Department or the land-owning Department,

demarcated on the ground by way of appropriate permanent boundary marks at the cost of the user agency and handed over by the Forest Department or land-owning Department to the user agency prior to starting of any non-forest use.

(4) For the purpose of forest cover under these rules, the figures and description used in the latest India State of Forest Report published by Forest Survey of India shall be referred.

(5) The Central Government may cancel approval accorded in respect of a proposal, with or without the request of the State Government or Union territory Administration and may decide to refund the compensatory levies deposited, on case to case basis.

(6) The conditions imposed by Central Government for diversion of forest land for the non-forest purpose shall not be changed or modified after a period of two years from the date of grant of final approval unless some exceptional circumstances arise or the Central Government considers it necessary to impose any additional clause of compliance.

(7) The proposals on forest land under litigation or *sub-judice* on account of an issue pertaining to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927), local forest Act or Adhiniyam will be dealt as per the orders of the Courts or Tribunals passed in such cases and the date of applicability of the Adhiniyam in such lands shall be in accordance with the direction, if any, passed by the Courts or Tribunals.

(8) Any proposal which has already been submitted under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 or Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 and are currently under consideration of the various authorities in the State Government or Union territory Administration or the Central Government for grant of 'In-principle' or 'Final' approval shall be dealt in the following manner, namely:-

(i) Any proposals granted 'In-principle' approval shall be dealt under the provisions of the extant rules and be processed and considered for grant of 'Final' approval without amending the conditions stipulated in the 'In-principle' approval; and

(ii) Any provision of the extant rules will be applicable on the proposals which are yet to be granted 'In-principle approval under the Adhiniyam.

CHAPTER 7

MINING PROJECTS

7.1 Extraction of minerals from/beneath the Earth's surface is an important site-specific activity regulated under various acts viz. Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act through grant of mining leases, or allocation of areas acquired under Coal Bearing Area Act, Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules under the Oil Field (Regulation and Development) Act 1954. Mining, including open cast and underground mining as also for removal of boulders, bajri, stones, sand etc. from/in the river beds, is a non-forestry activity and if any mining lease/project involves forest land as defined by the Apex court in its order of 12.12.1996, prior approval of the Central Government is required under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and rules made there under.

7.2 Order specifying the terms and conditions for assignment of forest land on lease:

S.O. 5076 (E). In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 read with section 3C of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), Adhiniyam, 1980 (69 of 1980) (hereinafter referred to as the said Adhiniyam), the Central Government hereby issues an order specifying the terms and conditions, to be abided by the State Government or Union territory Administration while considering the proposals pertaining to assignment of forest land on lease to Government as well as the private entities under the aforementioned provisions of the said Adhiniyam, namely:-

1. The user agency shall make an online application in the prescribed Form on PARIVESH portal for the prior approval of the Central Government under the said Adhiniyam.
2. No forest land shall be assigned on lease without the prior approval of the Central Government under clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the said Adhiniyam.
3. In case of assignment of forest land on lease for mining, no breaking of forest land shall be allowed, however, breaking of forest land to a limited extent such as plantation of trees, and temporary or non-permanent construction may be allowed in case of assignment of forest land on lease for a purpose other than mining;
4. Mining operations in the forest land located within the mining lease can be undertaken only after obtaining the approval for diversion of the forest area under clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the said Adhiniyam following the procedure prescribed under the rules made thereunder.
5. The user agency seeking assignment of forest land for mining shall submit Mining Plan, approved by the competent authority, indicating the detailed pre-mining and post mining land use plan, mine Closure Plan and for activities other than mining a Detailed Project Report or Plan indicating the activities proposed on the forest land shall be submitted by the user agency along with the proposal.
6. Grant of approval under clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the said Adhiniyam does not, in any manner, create any right or equity in favour of the user agency for grant of approval under clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the said Adhiniayam and decision on the proposals under clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 shall be taken on the merit or the facts reported in the site inspection reports on case to case basis.

7. In case of existing mining leases having forest land in part or in full, for which mining lease has already been executed at least once before 1st April, 2015 without prior approval of the Central Government under the said Adhiniyam, no mining shall be allowed till approval under clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the said Adhiniyam for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained, Net Present Value of forest land falling in such mining leases as stipulated in such approval is realised from the user agency and provisions of other applicable statutes are complied with by the user agency.
8. Compensatory levies realised from the user agency shall be deposited into the account of the State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority of the State or Union territory Administration, managed by the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority.
9. The validity of approval granted for the assignment of forest land on lease shall be valid for a period co-terminus with the period of mining lease granted under the relevant statute or for the period as may be specified by the Central Government.
10. The approval granted for the assignment of forest land on lease for mining shall become null and void in case no proposal seeking approval under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 2 of the said Adhiniyam is submitted by the user agency within a period of two years from the date of issue of order of assignment of corresponding forest land on lease.
11. In case of assignment of forest land on lease for a purpose other than mining, a draft Memorandum of Understanding or draft lease deed to be signed between the user agency and the State Government shall be prepared and submitted along with the details of lease rent, if applicable.
12. The activities proposed to be undertaken by the Forest Department as per the prescriptions made in the working plan shall be continue to be implemented in the area to be considered for the assignment of lease.
13. Raising of plantations by the Government Department on the land recorded as forest in the Government records shall be considered as forestry activity and accordingly, provisions of the compensatory afforestation and Net Present Value shall not be applicable for such plantation activities.
14. Raising of commercial plantations of low rotation, including plantation of medicinal plants in the forest land shall be considered as non-forestry activities and in such cases prior approval of the Central Government under clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 shall be obtained and decision on such proposals will be undertaken by the Central Government on the merits of each case. Provisions of compensatory afforestation and Net Present Value shall be applicable in such cases.
15. Approval granted under clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the said Adhiniyam does not in any manner exonerate the authorities in the State Government or any other authority from the proceedings under section 3A and 3B of the said Adhiniyam liable to be initiated for violation, if any, committed by them by assigning such forest land for mining lease without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the said Adhiniyam.
16. The proposals on forest land under litigation or *sub-judice* on account of an issue pertaining to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927), Local Forest Act, or said

Adhiniyam shall be dealt as per the orders, Judgements passed by the Courts or Tribunals in such cases and the date of applicability of the Adhiniyam in various types of lands shall be in accordance with the direction, if so, passed by the Courts/Tribunals.

17. The State Government or Union territory Administration and the user agency shall monitor, at least once in every year, the compliance of conditions imposed while allowing the non-forestry use of forest land and a copy of such monitoring report shall be uploaded on PARIVESH portal for future references. Non-compliances, if any, observed during such monitoring, should be brought to the notice of the concerned authorities for undertaking remedial measures as per the relevant guidelines issued by the Central Government in this regard.
18. The Regional Office of the Ministry, based on the available information in Ministry or on PARIVESH portal, can carry out the monitoring of approvals accorded under clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the said Adhiniayam and action taken thereunder.
19. The provisions of the all other Acts, including the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007) shall be complied with before the assignment of forest area on lease by the State Government or Union territory Administration.
20. The legal status of the forest land to assigned on such lease shall remain unchanged.
21. The Central Government under section 3C of the said Adhiniyam may further clarify or issue directions to the State Government or Union territory Administration or to any organisation, as may be necessary with respect to these guidelines, for the implementation of the said Adhiniyam.

7.3 The Supreme Court of India in its order of 6th July 2011 issued guidelines so as to not create *fait accompli* situation in the matter of diversion of forest land under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Therefore, in the case of new mining leases/projects having forest land in part or in full, approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of entire forest land located within the mining lease/project is to be obtained before execution/renewal of mining lease/project.

7.4 Mining in respect of minerals (other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals) regulated under MMDR Act**:**

(i) **Validity of approval granted under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980:-** In case of existing mining leases, where approval under section 2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam for the entire forest land in the mining lease has been obtained before 1.4.2015, the validity of approval granted under the Adhiniyam is deemed to have been extended for a period co-terminus with the validity of mining lease granted in accordance of the provision of the MMDR Act. The State Governments concerned may extend the validity of approvals granted under the Adhiniyam to the Government companies for mining under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 to make it co-terminus with validity of the lease granted under the MMDR Act, 1957. But, in case the user agency changes during the on-going term of validity of the lease, the State Government concerned shall obtain prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

(ii) In case of mining leases having forest land in part or in full, the concerned user agency may execute a single mining lease in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed there under, for the entire area falling in the mining lease after obtaining the 'Final' approval under clause (ii) of subsection (1) of section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained. However, the State Government, if so desires, may execute a separate mining lease for a whole or part of non-forest land falling in such mining lease, once "in-principle' approval under subsection (1) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained. The Government, in such cases, shall take all measures to ensure that no violations of the Adhinyam occurs on the forest land.

(iii)The existing period of validity of forest clearance granted for diversion of forest land under clause (ii) of subsection (1) of section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for mining of minor mineral in the State regulated under Rules made under section 15 of MM (DR) Act, 1957 shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of mining lease as deemed extended under the Rules made under section15 of MMDR Act, 1957 subject to the following conditions:

(a) The State Government shall, realize from the user agency the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land so diverted, if not realized so far, within two years w.e.f 1.04.2015 in two equal instalments from the date such Rules became enforceable.

(b) In case of NPV of forest land for which a period of approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 has been extended has not been realized and the State Government fails to realize the same within the period of two years as per the clause (a) above, approval under the Adhiniyam for such forest land shall be deemed to have been kept in abeyance, till such time, the NPV of such forest land is realized by the State Government and all mining operations shall be suspended during the period for which approval granted under the Adhiniyam has been kept in abeyance.

(c) In case where diversion of forest land has been accorded in single proposal to a State agency for cluster of mines assigned to more than one lease holder, the entire NPV as applicable shall be deposited within two years in two equal instalments by the State agency in whose favour the FC has been granted.

(d) The Regional Office of the Ministry shall regularly monitor status of compliance to conditions stipulated in approvals accorded under the Adhiniyam for diversion of forest land falling in mining leases so as to ensure that the user agencies comply with all the conditions before the land falling in such leases is surrendered to the concerned State Government/Union Territories on expiry of the mining lease.

(e) 'Provisions' provided hereinabove, notwithstanding anything contained therein, shall not apply to forest land falling in a mining lease for which renewal has been rejected, or which has been determined or lapsed before 30.11.2017.

(iv)In light of the provisions provided under Section 8B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021, related to the validity of the approvals granted under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and with a view to align the provisions under the two Acts, transfer of approval under the Adhiniyam granted to erstwhile lessee in respect of mining leases, which have been

allotted to successful bidder through auction after expiry of their validity under the MMDR Act, may be considered subject to the following conditions:

(a) Complete compliance of such terms and conditions as stipulated in the approval granted previously under the Adhiniyam, and rules and guidelines framed thereunder in respect of the concerned mining lease has been made.

(b) The non-compliance of conditions, if any, stipulated in the approval granted to the erstwhile agency under the Adhiniyam, which were required to be complied before handing over the forest land to such agency, shall be transferred as liabilities to the new allocattee, and in such case, complete compliance of such conditions shall be made prior to handing over of forest land to the new allocattee. For the remaining conditions, the new allocattee will make an undertaking to comply with, before handing over of the forest land. It is clarified that in case of violation of any of the conditions which was done during the period of previous allocattee and which constitutes an offence under the Adhiniyam, the penal clauses will be invoked against the previous allocattee only and not against the new allocattee.

(c) Approval under the Adhiniyam was valid on the date of expiry of previous lease.

(d) Mining operations will be restricted to the forest area for which approval under clause (ii) of subsection (1) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam has been obtained by the erstwhile user agency. No non-forest use of such forest lands falling within the lease shall be allowed, for which approval under aforementioned clause of the Adhiniyam has not been obtained by the State Government. Mining in such areas may be allowed only after obtaining prior approval of the Central Government under the aforementioned clause of the Adhiniyam.

(e) The State Government shall ensure that the amount of Net Present Value, Safety Zone Plantation and Compensatory Afforestation (CA), if not deposited earlier, has been deposited prior to handing over of the forest land to the new allocattee. Also, in case the CA land has not been made available previously, the forest land shall be handed over to the new allocattee only after the corresponding CA land has been accepted by the competent authority as per the extant procedures for acceptance of CA lands for a new proposal.

(f) Mining operations and other activities shall be carried out as per the land-use allowed in the approval under the Adhiniyam. Any change in the land use on account of any valid reason shall be effected with the prior approval of the Central Government.

(g) Reclamation of the mined out forest area in the whole lease area as per the approved Mining Plan shall be an obligatory condition for the new allocattee.

(h) Transfer fee, as prescribed in the relevant guidelines incorporated in the Handbook of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be realized from the new allocattee and deposited into the account of CAMPA of the State concerned.

(i) Transfer of approvals to new agency may be accorded by the concerned State Government/UT Administration subject to fulfilment of conditions/provisions stipulated in the relevant guidelines of the Ministry.

(v) Provision of above guidelines will be applicable in the case of a Category ‘A’ and ‘B’ mining leases of Karnataka provided such leases have valid approval granted under the Adhiniyam on the date of expiry of the lease.

(vi) The mining operations in Category C mines were stopped by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and subsequently after their auction to successful bidders, the Hon'ble Supreme Court issued directions containing procedures to resume mining operations in these leases. After a holistic review of the situation, the Central Government hereby issues the following guidelines:

a) Approval granted under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 to erstwhile user agency may be transferred by the Ministry in favour of the successful bidder in MoEF&CC, New Delhi on case to case basis in accordance with the provisions of the MoEF&CC's guidelines dated 7.07.2021. The State Government while submitting such proposals for transfer of approval to the Ministry shall submit the updated status and detail of compensatory afforestation, status of payment of NPV, implementation of Reclamation and Rehabilitation Plan, funds utilization by the Special Purpose Vehicle for the conservation and protection of forests, action taken report on the violations of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 committed by the erstwhile agency and status of approval of the forest land located in the safety zone.

b) In respect of mining leases where application of transfer of approval was made in time and the Ministry considered the transfer request but the validity of FC approval was assessed from the date of original period of grant of lease while the successful bidder has been issued fresh LoI for a period of 50 years. In such cases, the ex-post facto approval will be granted by the MoEF&CC for extending the validity of approval granted under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 to make it co-terminus with the validity of lease granted under the MMDR Act, 1957 provided compliance of all conditions stipulated in the FC approval granted to erstwhile agency including raising of CA and payment of NPV are complied with by the State and the user agency. In case of non-compliances, if any, the working permission with conditions for a period not exceeding one year will be granted by the Central Government to enable the State/user agency to comply with the conditions of approval granted under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as per the extant guidelines issued by the Ministry.

c) In case the State Government/user agency fails to submit the complete compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted to erstwhile agency within a period of one year, the approval of the Central Government granted under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam shall be deemed to be cancelled.

7.5 Mining in respect of atomic minerals regulated under MM(DR) Act, 1957: In case of existing mining leases in respect of Atomic Minerals specified in Part B of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, period of validity of approvals, Mineral Concessions Rules 2016 accorded under the Section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam shall be extended and shall be deemed to have been extended up to a period co-terminus with the period of mining lease or a period of 50 years, whichever is earlier from the date of notification of the Atomic Mineral Concessions Rules, 2016 i.e. 11th July 2016, subject to the following conditions:

(i) Realization of NPV by the State Government, if not already realized, within the period specified by the MoEF&CC i.e., on/before 25.02.2018.
(ii) In case NPV has not been already realized and the State Government fails to realize NPV as mentioned in (i) above, approval accorded under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam shall be kept in abeyance till such time NPV is realized.
(iii) These provisions not withstanding anything contained therein, shall not apply to forest land falling in a mining lease for which renewal has been rejected, or which has been determined or lapsed.
(iv) In the cases, where the forest Clearance has expired and has not been renewed, fresh forest clearance under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam would be mandatory required before renewal of the mining lease.

7.6 Mining of minor minerals

(i) Extraction of minor minerals like boulders, bajri, stone, shell, etc. from the riverbeds shall not be permitted if the river bed is in a national park or a wildlife sanctuary unless such extraction is for the benefit of the forest or wildlife. Extraction of minor minerals when permitted shall be from the middle of the riverbed after leaving one fourth of the river bed on each bank untouched.

(ii) There shall be no labour camp in the forest area for the labour involved in the extraction work.

(iii) The State Government and Union territory Administration shall ensure that besides procedures prescribed in the extant Handbook, proposals for mining of minor minerals are formulated in accordance with the Sustainable Sand Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand mining, 2020 issued by the MoEF&CC.

7.7 Coal mining

(i) User Agency shall apply for diversion of forest land for coal mining under the relevant provisions of the Adhiniyam, in respect of entire forest land within a coal mine project in the case of coal mines in/over an area vested in a Government Company under the Coal Bearing Area (Acquisition and Development) Act 1957, or a coal mine vested in a Government under the Coal Nationalization Act 1973, or a coal block allotted under the Coal Blocks Allocation Rules, 2017 notified under the MMDR Act 1957, including at the time of renewal of mining leases.
(ii) The validity of clearance granted under the Adhiniyam shall be coterminous with the life of the mine as per the approved mine plan subject to a maximum of 30 years as provided in the MMDR Act, 1957 as amended up to Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015.
(iii) In case of existing coal mining leases, period of validity of approvals accorded under clause (ii) of subsection (1) of section-2 of the Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be extended and shall be deemed to have been extended up to a period co-terminus with the period of mining lease granted under the provisions Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2021:
    a) Realization of NPV by the State Government, if not already realized, within the period specified by the MoEF&CC.
    b) In case NPV has not been already realized and the State Government fails to realize NPV as mentioned in (i) above, approval accorded under The Van

(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam shall be kept in abeyance till such time NPV is realized.

c) These provisions not withstanding anything contained therein, shall not apply to forest land falling in a mining lease for which renewal has been rejected, or which has been determined or lapsed.

d) In the cases, where the forest Clearance has expired and has not been renewed, fresh forest clearance under The Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam would be mandatory required before renewal of the mining lease.

(iv) **Commencement of mining operations in non-forest land after 'in-principle' approval :** In case of coal mining leases involving forest as well as non-forest land, the mining operations in non-forest land can be commenced by the User agency subject to compliance of conditions, as mentioned in para 1.9 of Chapter-1 of the Handbook.

7.8 General guidelines for mining proposals:

(i) It has been observed by the Central Government that a large number of proposals relating to mining are submitted which are located deep inside the forest areas. Locating such proposals inside makes entire forest area vulnerable due to ancillary activities like construction of approach road, movement of vehicles and coming up of colonies for the workers. Therefore, Ministry has decided that whenever a proposal for fresh mining is submitted, a brief profile of the lessee/company should be submitted giving details of their existing mining leases in the State with their capacity of production, the present level of average annual production, location of these pits and the status of reclamation of forest land that are exhausted minerals. Along with this, the State Government should also submit details of all other mining leases for that particular mineral with their capacity and average annual production and projected future requirements. They should fully justify the necessity of opening new mining leases for that particular mineral. Mining proposals in forest areas in respect of coal and other major minerals should be accompanied with the following documents: -

a) **In respect of underground mining in stratified deposits in forest areas :** The mining plan in stratified deposits in forest areas should include the predicted subsidence, slope and strain values and their impact on forests and surface and their mitigation. The maximum tensile strain of 20 mm per meter and thereby the surface cracks of width of about 200-300 mm is to be permitted in forest areas. Accordingly, the mining plans should be made to restrict the subsidence movement within these limits along with mitigation measures. All mining plans in respect of coal and other major minerals should be accompanied with numerical modelling in 3-Dimension for subsidence prediction through an expert mining engineer/organization to assess long term damage on surface vegetation due to underground mining preferably from Banaras Hindu University, or Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, or any of the IITs or M/s CMRI along with the mitigation measures suggested by them should be submitted along with the proposal. The surface layout of mining area should be designed so as to use minimum possible land; and wherever feasible, the surface facilities should be planned over non-forest areas.

b) In case of proposals pertaining to the underground mining, the user agency shall submit an undertaking along with proposal for the diversion forest land that under no circumstances the underground mining operations will be converted to opencast mining operations on the said forest land at a later date.

c) **Open cast mining in forest areas:** In respect of open cast mining in forest areas, a comprehensive study of solid waste management and land reclamation with post mining land use plan and decommissioning should be made and the plan should envisage the minimum possible overburden dumping outside the mine. In place where the non-forest land is available, the external dumping of the overburden should be planned on non-forest land. Special attention should be given to top-soil and sub –soil handling and management.

d) Installation of temporary Crushing and screening Plants in mining lease area already approved by the Central Government shall be subject to following guidelines:

    1. To suppress the fugitive dust at the crushing screen mobile plant, special water jets with mist spray should be provided at dumper platform crusher, screens, transfer points and unloading points. At all transfer points sprinkling of water with the help of spray nozzles will be done to suppress fugitive dust.
    2. In sensitive areas, mobile crusher screening unit(s) should adopt wet dust suppression measures augmented by foam injection to control dust from the material handling and processing operations, if found necessary.
    3. As an administrative control, any movement of these mobile plants should be informed to the State Pollution Control Board or the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC to keep a track of their location and monitor/check pollution control measures taken by the operator.
    4. As far as possible, no such unit should be located within 02 kilometers from the Forest/Colony/NH or SH without effective wet suppressing measures at the crusher, screening, transfer and uploading points.
    5. There should be sufficient safeguards against noise pollution and safe noise level should be maintained.
    6. If found necessary for better control in such location, prior permission to operate, shall be taken from the State Forest Department and the State Pollution Control Board.
    7. Since all these are mobile operations, the local administration and forest official should be kept posted with the change of location and possible time period of its operations within leasehold.

e) Any proposal for diversion of forest for mining involving any forest land in respect of which diversion has been approved earlier will invariably be submitted along with the present status of compliance of the conditions of all previous FCs duly certified by the concerned Regional Officer of the MoEF&CC.

f) Approach road/conveyor belt and other ancillary activities related to mining shall be considered as part of the mining project and should therefore be processed accordingly. However, supplementary linear projects linked to mining that are conceived after the start of the original mining, should be considered as a standalone linear project and decisions on according approval for those shall be made at the REC/IRO concerned as per provisions provided in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. However, to ensure that the sanctity of such delegation is maintained, the following may be complied with by the all concerned:

    1. All forthcoming forest clearance proposals (both for green field mining as well as brown field expansion) shall have an additional column for the project proponent to certify that they have critically examined the mineral extraction pathways and have found them to be adequate, and that no new extraction path outside mining area shall be proposed in the next five years.

2. As far as possible, existing roads/ rails/ belts should be strengthened to minimise forest / tree cover loss.
3. In case of later-stage supplementary proposal for extraction path (linear projects such as road/ rail/ **conveyer** belt project **including the loading/unloading point**), the concerned Regional Officer shall ensure that cogent and convincing reasons/justifications of not including such linear infrastructure at the inception stage are provided by the State Government/UT Administration.
4. The State Government/User agency shall ensure that dispensation considered by the Ministry is not misused in any way and likely tendencies to detach linear projects from main proposal of mining should not be encouraged. To the extent possible, linear infrastructure such as roads/railways/conveyor belts, etc. ancillary to mining should be included in the main proposal and under inevitable circumstance only, such proposals submitted by the user agency should be considered as standalone project.

(iii) Guidelines for preparation of Cluster Mining Proposals:

a) Cluster proposal may be prepared for such leases, which have all contiguous boundaries.
b) All the existing mining proposals/fresh proposals in pipeline be included in that forest lands, if within.
c) States will take individual proposals from different lessees in the proforma with relevant documents.
d) However, with covering letter, a comparative statement of all mines with area and other details be given and all leases with boundaries be shown on one map.
e) Even existing approved leases be included in the proposal so that they can be brought to the same time frame in term of their validity.
f) The condition of compensatory afforestation will apply on the basis of each individual lease rather than on pro-rata basis.
g) The safety zone shall be at the outer boundary of the cluster and condition of safety zone will apply on pro-rata basis.

7.9 Management of Safety Zone of mining lease:

(i) All mining projects, including cluster-mines, except underground mining leases, are required to have a 7.5-meter-wide peripheral safety zone **(along the inner boundary)** within the Mining Lease area, properly demarcated with boundary pillars with DGPS coordinates inscribed on them and to be maintained as effective green belt.

(ii) The minimum width of 10m and 50 m strip on either side of public road and natural stream respectively located inside the mining lease shall be protected but will not be considered as a part of safety zone. Actual width of the strip to be maintained will be decided by the AC subject to the minimum width as mentioned above.

(iii) Unlike conventional mining leases granted under the MMDR Act, 1957 the petroleum mining leases involve large areas which runs in hundred of square kilometres. Therefore, it may not be prudent to maintain a safety zone around the entire PML. In such leases, the safety zone of 7.5 meter wide strip along the inner boundary of impact areas of a drilling bore hole(s) or oil well pad shall be maintained by the user agency as green belt by undertaking plantations or allowing the natural regeneration to come up.

In addition, the hazardous zone around the bore well, oil pads or pipelines or other ancillary infrastructure should be maintained by the various user agencies engaged in the mining or transportation of mineral oil as per the norms stipulated in the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, and rules framed thereunder.

(iv) All mining projects for which diversion of forest land have been approved before 27th May 2015, the UA should have obtained approval of forest land in the safety zone. However, to enable various user agencies to obtain approval of safety zone, an opportunity was given by the Ministry for the user agencies to deposit NPV (for forest area located in the safety zone) by 31.03.2023 along with simple interest of 12% w.e.f. 1.04.2018 onwards till the deposit is made and to obtain approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of forest area located in the safety zone by 30.09.2023.

(v) Such cases where the proposal for the diversion of forest areas within the safety zone has been submitted by 30.09.2023, the time period for obtaining approval under Adhiniyam has been extended further till 30.09.2024. In cases where the proposal for the diversion of forest land within the safety zone has not been submitted by 30.09.2023, the User agency shall deposit one-time penal NPV + Normal NPV (with interest if applicable w.e.f. 31.03.2023) and obtain the approval under the Adhiniyam for the forest areas within the safety zone latest by 30.09.2024. Further, in case the required compliance is not done even till 30.09.2024, approval under the Adhiniyam in such case shall be considered deemed to be in abeyance and possession of forest land located in the safety zone would be considered as violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and appropriate penalties to be imposed on defaulting user agencies as per the relevant penal provisions provided in Chapter-1 of the extant Handbook. The IROs concerned will monitor the compliance in the matter and submit six monthly report to the Ministry.

(vi) Provisions of the raising compensatory afforestation, as applicable in the entire forest area proposed for diversion, will be applicable in lieu of forest land located in the safety zone as well.

(vii) Any forest land within the safety zone if proposed for any other non-forest use shall require prior approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 along with other forest land in the ML for execution of ML under MMDR Act, 1957 as amended from time to time.

7.10 Extended Reach Drilling Technology

Based on the report on Extended Reach Drilling (ERD) technology submitted by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbon on the assessment of ERD on the surrounding flora and fauna and general Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) suggested by the Wildlife Institute of India containing the precautionary measures to be followed while carrying out drilling beneath the forest area using the ERD technology, the Central Government, hereby, accept the report submitted by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbon recommending to exempt the Extended Reach Drilling Technology from the purview of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan)

Adhiniyam, 1980 to undertake drilling in the forest areas, located outside the Protected Areas and Eco-sensitive Zones, subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

(i) The station for ERD will be setup outside the forest area at a minimum distance of 500 meters and which should be atleast 1 Km from the Protected Areas /corridors/wildlife sensitive areas.

(ii) The State Government shall ensure that the recommendations made in the General Standard Operating Procedures, annexed as **Annexure-III**, submitted by the Wildlife Institute of India will be complied with strictly by the User Agency.

(iii) The DGH will facilitate the formulation of detailed regional-specific guidelines by the Wildlife Institute of India. The necessary financial support, as will be required by the WII, will be arranged by the DGH.

(iv) The Region-Specific guidelines, as may be prescribed by the WII, will be complied with by the User Agency and DGH. An undertaking in this regard, wherever applicable, will be obtained by the State Government while allowing drilling through ERD technology.

(v) The exemption considered for the ERD technology will not be applicable if the drilling area falls inside the Protected Areas notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and Eco-Sensitive zone of Protected Areas.

7.11 Miscellaneous:

(i) Forest Conservation issues emanating from the inclusion of new mineral to be mined out from the already approved area without changing land use of forest land:

(a) Since there is no change in the land use and forest area involved in the proposal, revised Stage-I approval need not be obtained in such cases.

(b) Addition of minerals may have incremental but substantial impact on the surrounding vegetation, by way of increased pollution loads; therefore, such a proposal needs to be examined on case-to-case basis for modification of terms and conditions stipulated in the Stage-II approval by the Ministry.

(c) The user agency should accordingly approach the Ministry for modification in Stage-II approval in such cases subject to Environmental Clearance, in case required.

(ii) Guidelines related to re-grassing of mining leases after ceasing mining activities:

Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 8.01.2020 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114/2014 - Common Cause Vs. Union of India wherein Hon'ble Supreme Court, taking cognizance of the deleterious effect of mining on vegetation, has observed that *mined out areas results in complete elimination of grass which in tum denies fodder for the herbivores.* In compliances of the order from Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding imposing a suitable condition in this regard in addition to existing conditions already imposed in the relevant statutory approvals, following condition is hereby stipulated, in addition to standard conditions imposed in the approvals accorded by the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980:

The mining lease holder shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area, and any other areas which may have been disturbed due their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc.

(iii)**Law Department advice /Court orders about mining leases.**

In respect of the mining operations being carried out on forest lands leases before the commencement of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 during the continuance of the lease period, the approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the said Act is not required.

A renewal of a lease is really the grant of a fresh lease. (See Delhi Development Authority Vs. Durga Chand Kausish, AIR 1973 SC 2609). The prior approval of the Central Government in terms of Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 would be required when a mining lease granted before the commencement of the said Act is renewed after its coming into force.
As held by the Supreme Court in State of Bihar Vs. Banshi Ram Modi (supra), prior approval of the Central Government in terms of Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 would not be required for mining and winning any new mineral from a forest land leased for mining before the commencement of the said Act during the leased period originally granted, if the said land is already broken up or cleared before the commencement of the Act. Otherwise, the prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the said Act would be required.

Further clarified that the provisions of CA will be applicable in respect of broken up forest area before the commencement of Act, 1980 or which came under the ambit of Adhiniyam post 12.12.1996 and which are continued to be under the possession of the user agency, in case the CA has not been raised earlier. However, in such cases temporary working permission may be granted for a maximum period of one year after deposit of all statutory dues, in order to enable complying with other conditions. It is clarified that final approval will be granted by State Government only after compliance of all conditions is submitted.

(iv) In such cases wherein in 2 or more than 2 mining leases are been amalgamated and made into single mine, the State Govt. shall submit an amalgamated Mining Plan.

(v) Further in such cases wherein a single mine have been segregated into different smaller mines and vice-versa, the State Government shall submit a revised Mining Plan corresponding to newly carved or consolidated mining lease. Such Mining Plan may also include the impact and progress of the Mine Closure Plan envisaged in the earlier Mining Plan(s).

ANNEXURE A5

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Regional Office, Bhubaneswar

Online Proposal No.: **FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025**

Dated: **05/01/2026**

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar-751 001

Subject: **Stage-I/In-principle approval of Central Government under Section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land in favour of IDCO for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2025-10894/FE&CC dated 09.05.2025, PCCF&HoFF, Odisha's letter No.11767/9F (Others)-343/2025 dated 29.05.2025, letter No.25316/9F(Others)-343/2025 dated 17.12.2025 and Online Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change under Section 2 (1)(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change hereby conveys ***'Stage-I/in-principle'*** approval under Section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. General Conditions

S. No	Conditions
1.1	Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion shall remain unchanged.
1.2	The user agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of 4.911 ha forest

S. No	Conditions
	land being diverted under this proposal, as per the Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No.5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022 and 22.03.2022. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal in CAMPA account of the State concerned.
1.3	At the time of payment of Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
1.4	The Govt. non forest land of 6.07 ha identified in village Tingarjhola, Kalnara Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in the name of Forest Department before handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Government. The identified non-forest shall be notified as Protected Forest under Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or local forest Act. The Nodal Officer, after notification of such non forest land, shall uploaded a copy of said notification on the PARIVESH portal.
1.5	The user agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation and additional compensatory afforestation at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The Schemes may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
1.6	The User Agency shall ensure that the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are cleared of all encroachments prior to handing them over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall, ensure that the CA sites are free from encroachments, properly fenced and duly planted at the cost of the User Agency.
1.7	Compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 6.07 ha of non forest land identified in village Tingarjhola under Kalnara Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division within two years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, at the cost of user agency.
1.8	Additional Compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 5.00 ha of degraded forest land identified in Pedakonda Extn. RF under Rayagada Forest Division within two years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, at the cost of user agency.
1.9	The species to be planted in the CA/Addl. CA schemes shall be of native species of the area. At least 18 month old seedlings should be planted. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular

S. No	Conditions
	intervals.
1.10	The KML files of the area to be diverted and the CA/Addl. CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before issuing working permission towards linear projects or submitting compliance report for seeking Stage-II approval, as the case may be.
1.11	All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
1.12	The compliance report of the Stage-I approval shall be uploaded on e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/).
1.13	The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
1.14	The boundary of the proposed forest land for diversion, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.
1.15	The user agency shall obtain Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
1.16	The Forest Department shall undertake plantation of tall indigenous tree species along both sides of the proposed road, at the cost of the User Agency, to mitigate dust pollution resulting from the movement of heavy vehicles associated with mining activities.
1.17	Considering that the proposed area features a medium slope and the road will be used by heavy vehicles, the User Agency shall implement appropriate engineering and safety measures to prevent soil erosion.
1.18	Overburden shall not be disposed beyond the designated road width. Muck generated from earth cuttings shall be fully utilized for filling works. Any excess muck shall be disposed strictly in accordance with a Muck Disposal Plan. No muck or debris shall be permitted to roll down hill slopes. The user agency shall submit an undertaking to this effect along with the compliance for final approval.
1.19	Retaining walls, breast walls, and drainage structures shall be constructed at appropriate locations to ensure slope stability and prevent erosion along the alignment.
1.20	The State Forest Department shall undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the CA sites, with the cost to be borne by the user agency.

S. No	Conditions
1.21	The user agency shall use fly ash for the road construction and for filling up of void created due to soil borrows which will be followed by compaction and spreading of top soil over it as per Fly Ash Notification No. S.O. 254 (E) dated 25.01.2016.
1.22	The user agency shall explore the possibility of successful transplantation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
1.23	The user agency shall submit an undertaking to ensure that flanks of roads should be filled by transported soil and not with soil dug from the side of the roads.
1.24	The designing of new culverts/bridges and redesigning the existing ones over the natural streams/ rivers/canals should be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise to water-logging, so that it does not hamper movement of wild animals including fishes & amphibians migration.
1.25	Speed regulating signage will be erected along the road at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/Forest Areas.
1.26	The user agency shall provide adequate under passes in wildlife areas/wildlife crossing, if any, for the safe movement of wildlife.
1.27	No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
1.28	No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.
1.29	The user agency while executing works, shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
1.30	The layout plan of the proposed forest land shall not be changed without the prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
1.31	The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
1.32	The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without the prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
1.33	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.

S. No	Conditions
1.34	The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.
1.35	The user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and concerned Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year.
1.36	Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency.
1.37	The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
1.38	Any other direction issued by the Ministry as a result of Hon'ble Supreme Court order will have bearing on this approval.
1.39	Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in Para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 vide Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023.

2. Standard conditions

3. Specific Conditions

After receipt of the report on compliance to the conditions stipulated above, from the State Government of Odisha, final/Stage-II approval for diversion of the said forest land under Section 2 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 will be issued by this Ministry. Transfer of forest land to user agency should not be effected by the State Government of Odisha till final/Stage-II approval for its diversion is issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

"The State Govt. or a Senior Office not below the Rank of a Divisional Forest Officer, having jurisdiction over the forest land proposed to be diverted, duly authorized in this behalf by the State Govt. can pass an order for tree cutting and commencement of work of a linear project in forest land for a period of one year ("**working permission**" means permission granted to linear project before final approval to mobilize the resources to commence the preliminary project work other than black topping). Such order shall be passed only after full realization of funds for compensatory afforestation, Net Present Value (NPV), Wildlife conservation Plan, plantation of dwarf species of medicinal plants, and all other compensatory levies, specified in the Stage-I (in-principle) approval from the User Agency, and where ever applicable, transfer and mutation of non-forest/revenue forest land in favour of State Forest Department, declaration of PF/RF and compliance of other statues including ST&OTFD (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" as stipulated in Para 11.1 of Chapter-11 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan)

Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 vide Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023.

Copy To

1. The Chief Executive Officer, National Authority CAMPA, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, 3rd Floor, Supreme Court Metro Station Building, New Delhi-110 001.
2. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division, Rayagada, Odisha.
5. The Chief General Manager (Env.), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janpath, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Your's faithfully

(Sujoy Dutta)
Assistant Commissioner (Forestry)

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VAN
DSS
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e-Payments
e-Processing
CPC GREEN
Nature Protects if She is Protected

ANNEXURE A6

By Mail

Odisha Police,
District Headquarters, Rayagada

No. 197 /RTI Date. 10 .04.2026

To

The SDPO, Rayagada.

Sub:- Supply of information under RTI Act, 2005 sought for by Sri Naringa Dei Majhi.

Enclosed find herewith the RTI application of Sri Naringa Dei Majhi dtd 09.04.2026 received in this office on 10.04.2026 seeking information under RTI Act.

Since the subject matter of the information sought for by the applicant is closely connected with the functioning of your office, the application is transferred under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 for appropriate action at your end as per the provision of the said Act. The required information of relevant points may be provided to the applicant directly under intimation to this office with in the stipulated period of 48 hours as per Section 7(1) of RTI Act, 2005 under the Life and Liberty Clause.

Shri Amulya Kumar Dhar, OPS(S),
Superintendent of Police,
I/C Addl. SP-cum-PIO,
DPO, Rayagada.

Memo No 198 /RTI Dated 10 .04.2026

Copy forwarded to Naringa Dei Majhi, S/O- Sanu Majhi, At- Sagabari Village, Sunger GP, PS- Kashipur, Rayagada, Odisha (Mail-maamatimalisurakhyamancha@gmail.com) for information & necessary action w.r.t to his RTI application dated 09.04.2026. He is requested to contact the above mentioned authorities for obtaining the required information.

Shri Amulya Kumar Dhar, OPS(S),
Superintendent of Police,
I/C Addl. SP-cum-PIO,
DPO, Rayagada.

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Letter No 886/SDPO(R) 105 Date. 10 .04.2026

To

Naringa Dei Majhi
W/O- Sanu Majhi
At- Sagabari Village,
Sunger GP,
PS- Kashipur,
Rayagada, Odisha
Mail- maamatimalisurakhyamancha@gmail.com

Ref.: Your RTI Application dated 09.04.2026

Sub.: Supply of information under the Right to Information Act, 2005

With reference to the RTI application cited above, the point-wise information sought is furnished hereunder:

1. **Copy of Prohibitory Order:**

   A true copy of the order issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Rayagada under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 is enclosed herewith.

2. **Communication of Order:**

   The aforesaid Prohibitory order was communicated by the SDM, Rayagada to the Office of the Superintendent of Police, Rayagada vide Letter No. 2268 dated 03.04.2026; to the SDPO, Rayagada vide Memo No. 2269 dated 03.04.2026; and to the IIC, Kashipur Police Station vide Memo No. 2270 dated 03.04.2026. The relevant dispatch details are recorded on the back page of the said order and are self-explanatory.

3. **Material Relied Upon:**

   The information relating to certified copies of reports of the competent authority or other materials relied upon for formation of opinion leading to imposition of restrictions under Section 163 of the BNSS in the villages under Sunger Gram Panchayat may be obtained from the Office of the SDM, Rayagada, being the competent authority.

4. **Receipt of Proposals/Requests:**

   No application, complaint, request, requisition, proposal, administrative input or any such communication was received by the Police Authority from any State Authority, Department, Agency, private entity or company seeking imposition of Prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS in the concerned villages of Sunger GP/Sijimali area. Information, if any, regarding receipt of such correspondence by the Executive Magistrate may be obtained from the Office of the SDM, Rayagada.

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5. **Initiation of Proceedings:**

No requisition or request was submitted by the Police to the SDM, Rayagada for initiation of proceedings under Section 163 of the BNSS in respect of the affected Sijimali region.

6. **Area of Applicability:**

The details of the exact geographical area, villages and hamlets where Prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS have been imposed are clearly specified in the order of the SDM, Rayagada. The enclosed copy of the order (referred at Sl. No. 1) is self-explanatory in this regard.

10.4.2026

SDPO, Rayagada

SDPO, Rayagada

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Sub Divisional Police Office No 92/SDPO Date 3/4/26 Dist-RAYAGADA

OFFICE OF THE SUB-COLLECTOR & SUB-DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE, RAYAGADA

(Confidential Section)

(Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar)

No. 2267 Date. 02-04-2026

PROHIBITORY ORDER UNDER SECTION 163 OF THE BHARATIYA NAGARIK SURAKSHA SANHITA, 2023

In the interest of maintenance of public order and tranquillity.

Whereas, this office is in receipt of confidential intelligence inputs from law enforcement agencies, including material evidence furnished by the office of the Superintendent of Police, Rayagada, corroborated by local field reports and audiovisual evidences, indicating that a group of individuals have been actively planning to organize congregation of people, mass mobilizations in the Sijimali hill region, processions, particularly within the sensitive location of Sunger Gram Panchayat, appears to oppose the proposed mining operations at Sijimali hill top.

Whereas, on perusal of the details of the proposed mining activity, it is seen that the bauxite mine at Sijimali was auctioned and awarded on 01.03.2023 by the Government of Odisha. The Environment Impact Assessment hearing took place on 16.10.2023. The Gram Sabha gave permission to divert CFR rights for mining activities in the region on 08.12.2023. A single village of Malipadara required private land acquisition for which Gram Sabha permission was accorded on 30.01.2024. The Declaration under Section 19(1) of RFCTLA,R&R Act, 2013 was published on 03.02.2026 and the final gazette notification was published on 05.02.2026 . Moving further, the Government of India accorded Stage 1 Forest Clearance required for starting of mining operations on 31.12.2025. Moreover, for a separate approach road to the mine which passes through forest land, the Government of India accorded Stage 1 Forest Clearance on 05.01.2026 and the office of DFO, Rayagada accorded working permission on 27.02.2026 and tree felling permission on 26.03.2026.

Whereas on the basis of the above accorded permissions and lawful processes, I am convinced that the Sijimali mines is a legitimate mine, is meant for public purpose and further for mining activities in the Sijimali Mines all due

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processes has been followed and the approach road construction has a valid sanction of law.

Whereas, since the start of the processes for according permission to this mine, there has been undue opposition from neighbouring villages of **Banteji, Bundel,Sagabari,Kantamal,Dumerpadar,Aliguna,Malipadar & Katibhata** located in the Sunger Gram Panchayat. On perusal of the actual area proposed for mines, none of these villages are losing any land or a housing site. They are neither displaced nor affected by the mining activity. These villages merely are located in the vicinity of the mine. This very fact raises a question of lack of locus standi of the villagers of these neighbouring villages for the opposition to the mines when the opposing individuals themselves are persona non grata with respect to the mines.

Whereas, since 2023, these unrelated opposing individuals have created law and order problems. There has been a gherao and attack on Kashipur police station with vandalizing activities in 2024 **in the month of September .** As per the various GD entries of Kasipur Police Station, it is revealed that the movement of administration and police in these villages has been opposed by these individuals.

Whereas, multiple groups have complained to the administration that **these individuals and organizations are threatening them to join the anti-mining protests**, failing which they will face the consequences.

Whereas, attempts were made to block the access to the mines. GD entries reveal that these individuals have erected a temporary 'protest' site along the kachha road that leads to the mines top, symbolically blocking the access to the mines. Everyday, 30-40 individuals gather at the spot to stop any attempts to access the mines. It is again stated that these individuals are neither displaced nor affected by the proposed mining activity.

Whereas it is revealed that certain individuals involved in the protests are accused in multiple offences under serious sections like rioting, attempt to murder, instigation, threatening, etc. It is also revealed that the main individuals/**Culprits** have Non-Bailable Warrants issued by the courts and yet, these individuals/ **culprits** are hiding in the different villages of Sunger Gram Panchayat, evading the arrests and obstructing the judicial process.

Whereas, in the last few weeks, the threat to public peace and tranquility is apparent. As per a GD entry in February of 2026, of Kasipur Police

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Station ,the opposing individuals met with certain naxal militia elements to strengthen their opposition to Sijimali mines. It was also revealed that external activists deliberately visited the mining site on 5th March 2026.

Records reveal provocative speeches that pushed the locals to 'protect' their land and forests and oppose the government in its attempt to start the mining activity. As per audio-visual evidence, one of the activist instigated the villagers saying that if the police attempts to arrest any accused, the entire village should obstruct the police vehicle and resist the administration.

Whereas, on 8th March 2026, it was reported that a sizeable congregation of women walked up to the mining top with traditional weapons like axes, spears, bows, arrows and swords and with slogans like **'police julam chaliba nahi, jadi chaliba akraman haba'** (we won't tolerate police atrocities, if they do it, we will attack) and **'amar loka giraf kale chhadibu nahi'** (we won't spare you if our people are arrested). On 16th March 2026, GD entry **of Kasipur Police Station** revealed that two accused activists were discussing strategy to oppose the mining activity by a purposeful Jail Bharo to overwhelm the administration and about blocking strategic entry and exit points to the villages in order to stop the movement of Police and Administration.

Whereas, it has come to my notice that multiple FIRs have been lodged against these opposing individuals by the local villagers themselves. In the FIRs filed at Kashipur PS on 19.02.2026, 04.03.2026 and 08.03.2026, complaints have been lodged against more than a hundred individuals for **threatening** the complainants not to support mining activity, **these opposing individuals** physically assaulted **the complainants** and attacked their houses with axes. This shows the serious breach of peace and public order that may happen if these activities go unchecked.

Whereas it became urgent to re-establish the rule of law in this area. The police began moving in these villages in the month of **March 2026** in order to secure the area and reassure the innocent villagers. On the movement of police, the GD entries **of Kasipur Police Station** reveal that multiple accused individuals who have NBW against them were evading arrests. They absconded into forests and escaped to the nearby villages of neighbouring Kalahandi district. It is clear that these accused individuals are planning to instigate the villagers to oppose the mining activity while they themselves evade the police.

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Whereas attempts were made by the district administration to reason with the locals **in the month of March 2026.** A team consisting of senior officials **like Chief Development Officer, Zilla Parishad, Rayagada, Sub-Collector, Rayagada along with Block and Tahsil Officials and Officials of other line Departments like RWSS/TPSODL etc** visited these villages to discuss their development requirements and understand their point of view.

Whereas in the Superintendent, Central Prison vs Dr Ram Manohar Lohia case, with regards to imposing restrictions on organizations and individuals, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India stated that there should be a proximate nexus between the speech/act and public disorder. After going through the above-mentioned facts, I am convinced that the act of threatening, obstructing the police and attempts to oppose the legitimate mining activity is an act that has a close nexus with inciting public disorder and disturbing tranquility.

Whereas, the test of **"Clear and Present Danger" is also fulfilled** based on the above facts that villagers are being threatened, activists are pushing innocent villagers to oppose the mines, the accused are evading arrests and that the mining activity has to be started in the near future.

Whereas, it is clear from the above points that in case the road construction to the mines begins, the accused and their accomplices will clearly attempt to oppose it violently and whereas, I am satisfied upon due examination of all available intelligence, field reports and past patterns of behavior, that there exists a credible and imminent threat to public peace and order posed by the activities of these individuals.

And whereas, the Principle of Proportionality as enshrined in the Justice K.S Puttaswamy vs Union of India case, the restrictions should be proportionate to the threat caused. Therefore, it is reasonable to restrict movement of individuals only at the road construction site where the obstruction is likely to arise. Moreover, since the new road is approximately 3 kms and involves hilly terrain and construction of culverts and drains, it may take two months for its completion. Therefore, it is reasonable to impose restrictions for one month. Moreover, the road construction site passes through forests and vacant government lands that does not obstruct any easement right of anyone. Therefore, restriction of any individual to this site shall not cause any disruption of normal life.

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Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, I,Sri Rmesh Kumar Jena,OAS(S), in my capacity as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate , Rayagada hereby issue the following order in the interest of maintenance of peace, public order and tranquility.

ORDER

1. An area extending up to **100 (one hundred) meters from the boundary of the ongoing road construction site in the Sijimali** under Kashipur Tahasil, Rayagada District, shall remain a restricted zone.
2. This order shall come into force with effect **from 03.04.2026 at 06:00 PM** and shall remain in force for a **period of one (01) month**, unless withdrawn earlier upon review of the prevailing situation. The restriction imposed herein is preventive and regulatory in nature and is limited strictly to the specified area in the interest of maintenance of public order and safety of persons engaged in the work.
3. During the period of operation of this order, no person shall enter, assemble, or remain within the said restricted zone except personnel of the executing agency, its authorized contractors, labourers engaged in the work, and Government officials on duty.
4. During the aforesaid period, no assembly, gathering, or activity of any nature shall be permitted within the restricted zone, except as specifically allowed under this order.
5. The Superintendent of Police, Rayagada, is requested to take necessary measures for effective enforcement of this order, including appropriate deployment of forces and preventive action, as per law, to maintain public order and ensure in the area.

This order is issued in the interest of maintenance of public order, safety, and prevention of any untoward incident in the notified area. Any violation of this order shall be dealt in accordance with the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and other applicable laws.

In the event of deterioration of the law and order situation or continued threat to public peace, the period of this order may be extended beyond one month by a separate speaking order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

It shall come into force immediately and remain operative until further orders or until the expiry of the stated period, whichever is earlier.

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This order shall be reviewed on the basis of turn of events on the ground based on field inputs, law and order situation, and the status of compliance by the organizations/ individuals. If conditions permit, it may be withdrawn earlier.

Issued under my hand and seal on this Third day of April, 2026.

COURT OF THE SUB DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE ★RAYAGADA★

Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Sub-Collector
Rayagada

Memo No 2268 **Date** 03-04-26

Copy forwarded to the Superintendent of Police, Rayagada for information and necessary action.

Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Sub-Collector
Rayagada

Memo No 2269 **Date** 03-04-26

Copy forwarded to the SDPO, Rayagada for information and necessary action.

Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Sub-Collector
Rayagada

Memo No 2270 **Date** 03-04-26

Copy forwarded to Tahasildar, Kashipur/ IIC Kashipur for information and necessary action.

Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Sub-Collector
Rayagada

Memo No 2271 **Date** 03-04-26

Copy submitted to Additional District Magistrate,Rayagada for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Sub-Collector
Rayagada

Memo No 2272 **Date** 03-04-26

Copy PA to Collector & DM,Rayagada for information of the Collector & DM,Rayagada for necessary action.

Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Sub-Collector
Rayagada

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ANNEXURE A7

Welcome to PARIVESH | New tab

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परिवेश PARIVESH (CPC GREEN)

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

LiFE Lifestyle for Environment | आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

List of Proposals

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S. No.	Proposal No.	Clearance Details	Project Name	Location	User Agency	Other Details	Proposal Status
1	IA/OR/MIN/453451/2025	**Clearance Type:** Application for EC (Category A, B1, and B2 Violation)-Form 1 **S/W No.:** SW/123618/2023	Sijimali Bauxite Mine (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) with Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.00 Million TPA, Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste: 7.40 Million TPA & Subgrade: 1.42 Million TPA; (Total Excavation: 18.00 Million TPA) along with Installation of 2 Crushers (2 x 1200 TPH) located at Tehsils: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur, Districts: Kalahandi & Rayagada, State: Odisha.	ODISHA	SHUVRENDU ROYCHOUDHURY	**Category: A** **Sector: Non-Coal Mining** **Date of Submission:** 29/12/2025	Under Examination

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https://parivesh.nic.in/newupgrade/#/trackYourProposal/proposal-details?proposalId=IA%2FOR%2FMIN%2F453451%2F2025&proposal=27320460

भारत सरकार | Government of India

English

परिवेश PARIVESH (CPC GREEN)

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

LiFE

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Proposal Details

Proposal No.:	**IA/OR/MIN/453451/2025**
Single Window No.:	**SW/123618/2023**
CAF No.:	**CAF/240710/2025**
Project Name:	Sijimali Bauxite Mine (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) with Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.00 Million TPA, Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste: 7.40 Million TPA & Subgrade: 1.42 Million TPA; (Total Excavation: 18.00 Million TPA) along with Installation of 2 Crushers (2 x 1200 TPH) located at Tehsils: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur, Districts: Kalahandi & Rayagada, State: Odisha.
State:	ODISHA
Proposal For:	Fresh EC
Activity:	1(a) Mining of minerals
Sector:	MIN
Date of Submission:	29/12/2025
MoEFCC File No.:	J-11015/6/2023-IA-II(NCM)

Proposal History/Timeline

Preview

Activity	Start Date - End Date
ADS Raised	12/03/2026-N/A
Proposal Accepted and Referred to EAC	13/02/2026-12/03/2026
Under Examination	29/12/2025-13/02/2026
EDS Raised & Replied	26/12/2025-29/12/2025
Under Examination	13/12/2025-26/12/2025
EDS Raised & Replied - Relisted by Project Proponent	11/12/2025-13/12/2025
Delisted by System (EDS Raised)	01/09/2025-11/12/2025
EDS Raised	01/08/2025-01/09/2025
Under Examination	10/07/2025-01/08/2025
EDS Raised & Replied	08/07/2025-10/07/2025
EDS Raised & Replied	08/07/2025-08/07/2025
EDS Raised & Replied - Relisted by Project Proponent	08/07/2025-08/07/2025
Delisted by System (EDS Raised)	30/10/2024-08/07/2025
EDS Raised	25/01/2024-30/10/2024
Under Examination	29/12/2023-25/01/2024
Submitted on 29/12/2023	27/11/2023-29/12/2023

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पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

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Proposal Details

Proposal No.:	**IA/OR/MIN/453451/2025**
Single Window No.:	**SW/123618/2023**
CAF No.:	**CAF/240710/2025**
Project Name:	Sijimali Bauxite Mine (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) with Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.00 Million TPA, Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste: 7.40 Million TPA & Subgrade: 1.42 Million TPA; (Total Excavation: 18.00 Million TPA) along with Installation of 2 Crushers (2 x 1200 TPH) located at Tehsils: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur, Districts: Kalahandi & Rayagada, State: Odisha.
State:	ODISHA
Proposal For:	Fresh EC
Activity:	1(a) Mining of minerals
Sector:	MIN
Date of Submission:	29/12/2025
MoEFCC File No.:	J-11015/6/2023-IA-II(NCM)

Proposal History/Timeline

Preview

Activity	Start Date - End Date
Referred to EAC	30/04/2026-N/A
Proposal Accepted and Referred to EAC	29/04/2026-30/04/2026
ADS Raised & Replied	12/03/2026-29/04/2026
Proposal Accepted and Referred to EAC	13/02/2026-12/03/2026
Under Examination	29/12/2025-13/02/2026
EDS Raised & Replied	26/12/2025-29/12/2025
Under Examination	13/12/2025-26/12/2025
EDS Raised & Replied - Relisted by Project Proponent	11/12/2025-13/12/2025
Delisted by System (EDS Raised)	01/09/2025-11/12/2025
EDS Raised	01/08/2025-01/09/2025
Under Examination	10/07/2025-01/08/2025
EDS Raised & Replied	08/07/2025-10/07/2025

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Proposal Timeline

Proposal No: **IA/OR/MIN/453451/2025**

Project Name: **Sijimali Bauxite Mine (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) with Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.00 Million TPA, Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste: 7.40 Million TPA & Subgrade: 1.42 Million TPA; (Total Excavation: 18.00 Million TPA) along with Installation of 2 Crushers (2 x 1200 TPH) located at Tehsils: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur, Districts: Kalahandi & Rayagada, State: Odisha.**

State: **ODISHA**

Proposal Submission Date: **29/12/2025**

Area(in Ha): **N/A**

S. No.	Activity	Activity Start date	Activity End date
1	Under Examination	13/12/2025	26/12/2025
2	EDS Replied	26/12/2025	29/12/2025
3	Under Examination	29/12/2025	N/A

ANNEXURE A8

BY REGD.POST

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: RAYAGADA DIVISION

ଖଣ୍ଡୀୟ ବନାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ: ରାୟଗଡା ବନଖଣ୍ଡ, ରାୟଗଡା

(E-mail: dforgda17@gmail.com & dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in)

Letter No. 1937 /Rayagada/RTI/2026
Dated,Rayagada 16 th April,2026

To

Smt.Naringa Dei Majhi
At – Sagabari GP- Sunger
Kashipur , Rayagada.

Sub:- Submission of information on your RTI application dtd.11.4.2026 received in this office on dtd. 13.4.2026

Ref :- Your RTI application dtd. 11.4.2026

Madam,

With reference to your RTI application dtd.11.4.2026 under section 4(1) of the RTI Act, 2005, I enclose herewith the reply on information as sought for in your aforesaid application for your information and necessary action.

Encl:- As above

Yours faithfully,

Ashok 16.04.26

Public Information Officer,
O/o the Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division.

First Appellate Authority
Designation: Sri Ohol Sachin Annasaheb,IFS,
Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Division.

Information on RTI application dated 11.04.2026 at Smt. Naringa Dei Mallik

ITEM NO-1

Sarulchargeman
OP, 4F Section
of the DFO, Rayagada

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION

Email: dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Office Order No 52 **4F (Misc.) 1984/2026.**
Dated, Rayagada the 27 **th February, 2026.**

Subject:- Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 under Rayagada District/Division - **Regarding Working Permission**.

Whereas, Stage-I (In-Principle) approval has been accorded by the Regional Office, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhubaneswar vide Letter dated 05.01.2026 for diversion of 4.911 Ha. of forest land in favour of IDCO for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha. (Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025), subject to fulfillment of 39 No's General conditions (1.1 to 1.39).

Whereas, the User Agency, IDCO, Bhubaneswar, vide letter No.2723 dated 31.01.2026, has applied for Working Permission to commence preliminary project activities over the approved 4.911 Ha. of forest land, as permissible under the Stage-I approval and applicable guidelines pending grant of Stage-II approval.

Whereas, the User Agency has deposited through the online MoEF&CC portal:

i. ₹47,03,658/- (Rupees Forty-Seven Lakhs Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Eight only) towards Net Present Value (NPV) for 4.911 Ha. of forest land, in compliance with Condition 1.2 of the General condition Stage-I approval.

ii. ₹59,06,200/- (Rupees Fifty-Nine Thousand Six Thousand Two Hundred only) towards the cost of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over 06.07 Ha. of non-forest land identified in village Tingarjhola under Kolnara Tahasil of Rayagada District/Division, as duly approved by the Principal CCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act) vide Memo No. 587/9F(Others)-343/2025 dated 09.01.2026, in compliance with General Condition No1.11 of the Stage-I approval; and

iii. ₹54,15,400/- (Rupees Fifty-Four Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred only) towards Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) over 05.00 Ha. of degraded forest land identified in Pedakonda Ext.RF (5.00 Ha.) under Gunupur Range, as duly approved by the Principal CCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act) vide Memo No. 587/9F(Others)-343/2025 dated 09.01.2026, in compliance with General Condition No1.11 of the Stage-I approval.

Whereas, in compliance with General Condition No.1.4 of the Stage-I approval, the identified non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation has been duly transferred and mutated in favour of the Forest Department, as certified by the Tahasildar, Kolnara vide Letter No. 585/2026 dated 27.02.2026. Further, in compliance with General Condition No.1.13, the User Agency has submitted the certificate of complete compliance under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 issued by the District Collector, Rayagada vide Letter No.157/2024 dated 03.02.2025.

Now, therefore, in pursuance of Specific Condition No. 3 of the Stage-I approval order dated 05.01.2026 and in accordance with Para 11.1, Chapter 11 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as communicated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide letter no.659 dated 08.01.2026, a reasoned order is hereby issued granting Working Permission to the User Agency to mobilize the resources to commence the preliminary project work other than black topping, concretization, laying of railway tracks, charging of transmission lines, etc. over 4.911 ha Forest Land of the above project coming under Rayagada Forest Division.

This Working Permission shall remain valid for a period of one year from the date of issue of this order or until grant of Stage-II approval, whichever is earlier.

It is expressly clarified that no tree felling, removal of vegetation, or execution of any activity involving damage to forest produce shall be undertaken without prior written approval of the competent authority. The User Agency shall strictly adhere to all applicable provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Rules 2023, the Stage-I approval conditions, and all instructions issued by the Government of India and Government of Odisha.

Any violation of the above conditions shall render this Working Permission liable for withdrawal without prejudice to action under the applicable legal framework.

27.2.26

(Sri Sachin Annasaheb Ohol, IFS)
Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1096 / Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. Of Odisha for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 662/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

1198

Memo No. 1097 / Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act), O/o. the Pr. CCF, Odisha and the Pr. CCF(WL) & CWLW, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 661/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1098 / Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forest, Koraput Circle, Koraput for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 662/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1099 / Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the Collector, Rayagada for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No 663/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1100 / Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy forwarded to the Range Officer, Kashipur Range for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1101 /4F Date. 27/02/2026.

Copy forwarded to the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janapath, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION

Email: dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Office Order No. 52 4F (Misc.) 1984/2026
Dated, Rayagada the 27th February, 2026

Subject:- Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top SH- 44 under Rayagada District / Division - **Regarding Working Permission.**

Whereas, Stage-I (In-Principle) approval has been accorded by the Regional Office, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhubhaneswar vide Letter dated 05.01.2026 for diversion of 4.911 Ha. of forest land in favour of IDCO for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha (Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025), subject to fulfilment of 39 No's General conditions (1.1 to 1.39).

Whereas, the User Agency, IDCO, Bhubaneswar, vide letter No. 2723 dated 31.01.2026, has applied for Working Permission to commence preliminary project activities over the approved 4.911 Ha. of forest land, as permissible under the Stage-1 approval and applicable guidelines pending grant of Stage-II approval.

Whereas, the User Agency has deposited through the online MoEF&CC portal:

i. ₹47,03,658/- (Rupees Forty-Seven Lakhs Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Eight only) towards Net Present Value (NPV) for 4.911 Ha. of forest land, in compliance with Condition 1.2 of the General condition Stage-I approval.
ii. ₹59,06,200/- (Rupees Fifty-Nine Thousand Six Thousand Two Hundred only) towards the cost of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over 06.07 Ha. of non-forest land identified in village Tingarjhola under Kolnara Tahasil of Rayagada District/Division, as duly approved by Principal CCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act) vide Memo No. 587/9F(Others)-343/2025 dated 09.01.2026, in compliance with General Condition No. 1.11 of the Stage-1 approval; and
iii. ₹54,15,400/- (Rupees Fifty-Four Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred only) towards Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) over 05.00 Ha. of degraded forest land identified in Pedakonda Ext.RF (5.00 Ha.) under Gunupur Range, as duly approved by the Principal CCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act) vide Memo No. 587/9F(Others)-343/2025 dated 09.01.2026, in compliance with General Condition No. 1.11 of the Stage-I.

Whereas, in compliance with General Condition No. 1.4 of the Stage-1 approval, the identified non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation has been duly transferred and mutated in favour of the Forest Department, as certified by the Tahasildar, Kolnara vide Letter No. 585/2026 dated 27.02.2026. Further, in compliance with General Condition No. 1.13, the User Agency has submitted the certificate of complete compliance under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 issued by the District Collector, Rayagada vide Letter No. 157/20244 dated 03.02.2025.

Now therefore, in pursuance of Specific Condition No. 3 of the Stage-I approval order dated 05.01.2026 and in accordance with Para 11.1, Chapter 11 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 & Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as communicated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide letter no. 659 dated 08.01.2026, a reasoned order is hereby issued granting Working Permission to the User Agency to mobilize the resources to commence the preliminary project work other than black topping, concretization, laying of railway tracks, charging of transmission lines, etc, over 4.911 Ha Forest Land of the above project coming under Rayagada Forest Division.

This Working Permission shall remain valid for a period of one year from the date of issue of this order or until the grant of Stage-II approval, whichever is earlier.

It is expressly clarified that no tree felling, removal of vegetation, or execution of any activity involving damage to forest produce shall be undertaken without prior written approval of competent authority. The User Agency shall strictly adhere to all applicable provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Rules 2023, the Stage-I approval conditions, and all instructions issued by the Government of India and Government of Odisha.

Any Violation of the above conditions shall render this Working Permission liable for withdrawal without prejudice to action under the applicable legal framework.

(Sri Sachin Annasaheb Ohol, IFS)
Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1096/ Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 662/FE&CC dated 08.01.2026.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1097/ Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act), O/o. the Pr. CCF, Odisha and the Pr. CCF(WL) & CWLC, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 661/FE&CC dated 08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1098/ Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy submitted to the Collector, Rayagada for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 663/FE&CC dated 08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1099/ Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy forwarded to Range Officer, Kashipur Range for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1101/ Dt. 27/02/2026

Copy forwarded to the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janapath, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Item No-3

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Environment)

idco Your Partner to Growth ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

No. HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024

Date:31/01/2026

To,

The Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Forest Division
Rayagada

Sub: Working permission for development of road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation to Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District.

Sir,

MoEF & CC, GoI vide their letter dt.05/01/2026 has granted the Stage-I approval for diversion of 4.911 hact of forest land in the village Sagabari & Porland under Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44, vide memo No.662, dt.08/01/2026 of Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Department, Government of Odisha.

IDCO through the Project Proponent, Vedanta Ltd has deposited the Compensatory Afforestation Levis of ₹1,60,25,258/- in State CAMPA Account, vide UTR No.CMS5504195085, dt.22/01/2026.

Bank Name: ICICI Bank

Branch name: Jharsuguda Branch

IFSC: ICICI0000468

Account No.046805000728

The Project Proponent, Vedanta Ltd. has requested for grant of working permission to commence of road work (copy enclosed). It is pertinent to mention that, the Compensatory Afforestation land has also been identified by the Collector, Rayagada, vide their letter No.2362, dt.27/08/2024. (copy enclosed)

In pretext of above, we request to please grant working permission for trees cutting and commencement of work. The compliance to conditions of Stage-I Clearance will be submitted, soon.

Encl:- As above

Yours faithfully,

Consultant (Environment)
31/01/2026

Divisional Forest Officer Receipt No. 625 Date 02/02/2026 Rayagada Division

P.T.O

By Speed Post/E-Mail

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT
****

No.FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2025-659 /FE&CC, Bhubaneswar, dated the 08 JAN 2026
10F (Cons)-18/2025

From

Sri Lingaraj Otta,
OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Stage-I/In-principle approval of Central Government under Section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land in favour of IDCO for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the 'Stage-I/in-principle' approval order of Government of India, MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar communicated vide Letter dtd.05.01.2026 for non-forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO, for which proposal was submitted by the State Government to Government of India, MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar vide letter No.10894/FE&CC dtd.09.05.2025. The Stage-I approval order referred to above indicates that Government of India, MoEF&CC, agrees 'in-principle' for non-forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO, subject to compliance of conditions as laid down therein so as to consider the case for Stage-II (final) forests clearance.

It is requested to take necessary steps for compliance of the conditions imposed in the 'Stage-I/in-principle' approval order of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. Appropriate instruction in this context may be imparted to the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division as well as to the user agency for compliance of the conditions. Detailed compliance of all the conditions imposed by MoEF&CC may be meticulously scrutinized by PCCF (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act) of your office and further necessary steps may also be taken by him/her expeditiously to furnish the detailed compliance in this respect to MoEF&CC, on behalf of State Government as per authorization of State Government communicated in this regard vide letter No.10195/F&E dtd.16.05.2017 to you, for their consideration for according final forest clearance for this proposal. A copy of detailed compliance so sent to MoEF&CC may also be furnished to State Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department unfailingly for reference.

Divisional Forest Office, Receipt No. 291 Date 15/01/26 Rayagada Division

FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2025/2/2026

Since it is a linear project and as per RO, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India order (Last Para i.e. Point No.3), the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division may take further follow up action in compliance as per Para 11.1 of Chapter-11 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 vide Ministry's letter dtd.29.12.2023 and as per the orders of the State Government in F&E Department communicated vide Memo No.17194/F&E dtd.28.09.2015 for allowing the User Agency to undertake project activities on forest land, being diverted, for a period of one year pending Stage-II forest clearance. Required instructions in this context may be imparted to the DFO, Rayagada Forest Division for placing demand with the User Agency for deposit of all the Compensatory levies pertaining to this project. Commencement of project activities shall however be subject to availability of other statutory clearances, as may be required for this project.

Violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, if any, may, however, be reported in detail expeditiously to the State Government as per Para 1.16 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 vide Ministry's Letter dtd.29.12.2023 for bringing the same to the notice of Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for further action at their end.

Yours faithfully

8/1/2026

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 660 / FE&CC, Date 08 JAN 2026

Copy forwarded to the Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Govt. of India, MoEF&CC, Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-23 for information & necessary action.

8/1/2026

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 661 / FE&CC, Date 08 JAN 2026

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha/ Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FD&NO, FC Act), O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha for information & necessary action.

8/1/2026

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 662 / FE&CC, Date 08 JAN 2026

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Koraput Circle/ Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division for information and necessary action.

The DFO, Rayagada Forest Division shall place demand note with the User Agency for deposit of Compensatory levies pertaining to this project so as to enable User Agency

to take up project activities on forest land proposed for diversion under their specific orders as per authorization of State Government.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 663 / FE&CC, Date 08 JAN 2026

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to the Steel & Mines Department/ Revenue & Disaster Management Department/ Works Department/ Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department/ Member Secretary, SPCB, Odisha/ Collector, Rayagada for information and necessary action.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 664 / FE&CC, Date 08 JAN 2026

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to the Consultant (Env.), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janpath, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Item No-2
288

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION

Email: dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Letter No 1628 **4F (Misc.) 1984/2026.**
Dated, Rayagada the 26 **th March, 2026.**

To

The Divisional Manager,
OFDC Ltd.
Muniguda (C) Division, Muniguda.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 under Rayagada District/Division **Regarding removal of trees.**

Ref: Letter no.HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024/7400 dt.16.03.2026 of the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janapath, Bhubaneswar.

Sir,

With reference to the above subject, it is hereby informed that Stage-I (In-Principle) approval for the diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 under Rayagada District/Division was accorded by the Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, Bhubaneswar, vide their letter dated 05.01.2026.

Consequently, working permission has been granted in favour of the User Agency to mobilize resources and commence preliminary project activities (excluding blacktopping, concretization, railway track laying, and charging of transmission lines,etc) over 4.911 hectares of forest land falling under the jurisdiction of Rayagada Forest Division. This permission has been accorded for a period of one year vide this office Order No. 52 dated 27.02.2026.

In the interim, the User Agency has requested permission for removal of 91 No's miscellaneous trees standing on the forest land proposed for diversion within the Rayagada Forest Division. Accordingly, the User Agency has been requested vide this office letter no.1227 dt.07.03.2026 to deposit an amount Rs.1,61,489/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Nine) only towards the cost of Royalty of the treesstanding over the forest land proposed to be diverted and the said amount has been remitted by the UA through e-challan under the Head of Account: 8782-00-103-168-3-91014-027 of the Government Treasury vide e-challan no.8782/1313 dt.12.03.2026.

In view of above the permission is hereby granted for the removal of 91 No's enumerated miscellaneous trees from the said forest land and take delivery of the same at the earliest, strictly adhering to the prescribed Government procedures. The enumeration list of tree growth along with the joint verification report is enclosed herewith for your ready reference and necessary action.

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It is further submitted that Appeal No. 04/2026/EZ pertaining to the present project is pending before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata. The outcome of the said proceedings, as and when pronounced, shall be binding and complied with.The present permission is being issued in accordance with extant approvals and applicable provisions, no directions affecting the same having been issued as on date.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

26.3.26

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1629 / Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act), O/o. the Pr. CCF, Odisha for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 661/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1630 / Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy submitted to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forest, Koraput Circle, Koraput for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 662/FE&CC dated.08.01.2026 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1631 / Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy forwarded to the Range Officer, Kashipur Range for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1632 / Dt. 26/03/2026

Copy forwarded to the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janapath, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Item No-4

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Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Environment)

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7400

No. HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024

Date:16/03/2026

To,

The Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Forest Division
Rayagada

Sub: Deposit of Royalty of the standing trees over the forest land pertaining to diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 under Rayagada District.

Ref:- Your letter No.1227, dt.07/03/2026.

Sir,

Enclosed, please find herewith the Treasury eChallan No.8782/1313, dt.12/03/2026 towards deposit of tree Royalty amounting to ₹ 1,61,489.00 (Rupees One Lakh Sixty One Thousand Four Hundreds Eighty Nine) only under the Head Of Account-8782-00-103-1683-91014-027, dt.12/03/2026, as advised through your above referred letter.

This is for your kind information and necessary action.

Encl:- eChallan No.8782/1313, dt.12/03/2026

Yours faithfully,

Consultant (Environment)

1693

Memo No._____/ Date: 16/03/2026

Copy forwarded to the CGM(Land), IDCO, Bhubaneswar for information & necessary action.

Consultant (Environment)

Memo No._____/ Date: 16/03/2026

Copy forwarded to Sri. Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya, Chief Executive Officer, M/s Vedanta Ltd., 5th Floor, Module C/2, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for information & necessary action, with reference to their letter No.201/26, dt.13/03/2026.

Consultant (Environment)

Government of Odisha
Cyber Treasury
eChallan

1.	Name of the Depositor	Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Develop
2.	Depositor's Address	Head office, Idco Tower,ODISHA,Janpath, Odisha Khordha 751022
3.	District	Khordha
4.	e Challan Reference Id	3C9BDAA768
5.	Total Transaction Amount (In Rs.)	Rs. 161489/- (echallan- Rs. 161489/- + agency- Rs. 0/-)
6.	Amount (In words)	One Lakh Sixty One Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Nine Only

Head of Account

Description	Head Of Account	Amount	Challan Number & Date
Forest Divisions	8782-00-103-1683-91014-027	Rs. 161489/-	8782/1313 - 12/03/2026
	Total Amount	Rs. 161489/-	

Bank Details

Name of the Bank	ICICI BANK
Mode of Transaction	Net Banking
Bank Transaction ID	2060848213_3C9BDAA768
Bank Transaction Date & Time	12/03/2026 02:52:50 PM
Bank Transaction Status	Succesful: Confirmation Received from Bank as Success

Payment Remarks

* This is a computer generated challan and doesn't require any signature or stamp.

Generated on : 13/03/2026 03:46:55 PM

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OFFICE OFTHE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER; RAYAGADA DIVISION
E.Mail:-dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Letter No. 1227 /4F(Misc) 1984 /2026. Dt. 07/03/26

To

The Consultant (Env), IDCO,
IDCO Tower, Janapath,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 under Rayagada District/Division-**Regarding deposit of the cost of the Royalty of the Trees standing over the Forest land.**

Ref: Your Letter No.6176 Dt.05.03.2026 &
This office memo no.1101 dt.27.02.2026.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, it is hereby informed that the royalty of 91 (Ninety-One) numbers of trees standing over the forest land proposed for diversion of 4.911 Ha. in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines Top to SH-44 under Rayagada District/Division has been assessed by this office for a sum of Rs. 1,61,489.00 (Rupees One Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Nine) only. A statement showing the calculation is enclosed herewith for your kind reference.

Accordingly, the total payable amount stands at Rs. 1,61,489.00 (Rupees One Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Nine) only. You are therefore requested to remit the said amount into the Government Treasury under the following **Head of Account: 8782-00-103-1683-91014-027**. A copy of the Treasury Challan may kindly be furnished to this office at the earliest for taking further necessary action in the matter.

Encl:- As Above

Yours faithfully,

7.3.26
Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1228 Dt. 07/03/26

Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, F.C. Act. O/o. the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1229 Dt. 07/03/26

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Koraput Circle, Koraput for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Environment)

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No. HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024 6176 Date:05/03/2026

To,

The Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Forest Division
Rayagada

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation to Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District – **Permission regarding Tree Felling in the forest land**

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the Stage-I Approval granted to the above referred Proposal No.FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025 by MoEF & CC, GoI on 05/01/2026 and Working permission granted by your good office vide your Office Order No.52, dt.27/02/2026 in respect of the proposal, it is now requested to please grant necessary felling permission in respect of 91 nos of trees standing over the above project land, as per the Joint Verification done by Forest Department and Revenue Department (copy attached).

Encl:- As above

Yours faithfully,

Consultant (Environment)

Memo No. 6177 **/ Date: 05/03/2026**
Copy forwarded to the CGM(Land), IDCO, Bhubaneswar for information & necessary action.

Consultant (Environment)

Memo No. 6178 **/ Date: 05/03/2026**
Copy forwarded to Sri. S. Suresh, Chief Financial Officer, M/s Vedanta Ltd., 5th Floor, Module C/2, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information & necessary action, with reference to their letter No.197/25, dt.02/03/2026.

Consultant (Environment)

Divisional Forest Office Receipt No. 1180 Date 05/03/26 Rayagada Division

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar – 751022, Odisha, INDIA
+91- 0674 - 2541525, 2540820 | Fax: 2542956 / 2541982
cgmenv@idco.in | www.idco.in

Clean Copy

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Environment)

No. HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024 **Date:05/03/2026**

To,

The Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Forest Division
Rayagada

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation to Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District – **Permission regarding Tree Felling in the forest land**

Sir,

In inviting a reference to Stage-I Approval granted to the above referred Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025 by MoEF & CC, GoI on 05/01/2025 and Working permission granted by good office vide your Office Order No. 52, dt.27/02/2026 in respect of the proposal, it is now requested to please grant necessary felling permission in respect of 91 nos of trees standing over the above project land, as per the Joint Verification done by Forest Department and Revenue Department (copy attached).

Enc:- As above

Yours faithfully,

Consultant (Environment)

Memo No. 6177/ Date: 05/03.2026

Copy forwarded to the CGM(Land), IDCO, Bhubaneswar for information & necessary action.

Consultant (Environment)

Memo No. 6178/ Date: 05/03/2026

Copy forwarded to Sri. S. Suresh, Chief Financial Officer, M/s Vedanta Ltd., 5th Floor, Module C/2, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information & necessary action, with reference to their letter No.197/25, dt.02/03/2026.

Consultant (Environment)

Receipt No. 1180
Date: 05/03/26

ANNEXURE-X

ANNEXURE A9

TREE ENUMERATION LIST

OF NON-FOREST AREA OVER 6.403 Ha

OF

PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD CONNECTING FROM SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES (HILL TOP) TO SH-44 IN RAYAGADA DISTRICT

BY

IDCO , BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA

PLOT WISE ABSTRACT OF TOTAL TREES IN NON-FOREST LAND							
SL.NO	VILLAGE NAME	PLOT NO.	Acquired area in Ac	SOUND	UNSOUND	TOTAL NO. OF TREES	Remarks
1	Sagabari	6	1.768	0	0	0	GOVT. LAND
2	Bichapindha	23	1.948	0	0	0	GOVT. LAND
3	Bichapindha	24	3.873	0	0	0	GOVT. LAND
4	Dumerapadar	377	1.094	0	0	0	GOVT. LAND
5	Dumerapadar	374	0.086	0	0	0	GOVT. LAND
6	Dumerapadar	375	0.068	0	0	0	GOVT. LAND
7	Sagabari	31	1.369	0	0	0	GOVT. LAND
8	Sagabari	32	0.185	0	0	0	GOVT. LAND
9	Sagabari	732	1.76	0	0	0	GOVT. LAND
10	Sagabari	733	1.329	0	0	0	GOVT. LAND
11	Sagabari	770	1.946	0	0	0	GOVT. LAND
12	Dumerapadar	377/437	0.396	0	0	0	PVT. LAND
Total			**15.822**	**0**	**0**	**0**	

FORESTER
SUNGER SECTION

Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range

Revenue Inspector
Adatakiri

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

VEDANTA LIMITED

TAHASILDAR, KASHIPUR

SPECIES WISE ABSTRACT (NON-FOREST)																	
Sl. No.	Species	*Botanical name*	30cm to 59cm		60cm to 89cm		90cm to 119cm		120cm to 149cm		150cm to 179cm		180cm to above		Total		Grand Total
			S	US	S	US	S	US	S	US	S	US	S	US	S	US	
1	Nil																

FORESTER
SUNGER SECTION

TAHASILDAR, KASHIPUR

Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range

Revenue Inspector
Adatakiri

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

VEDANTA LIMITED

Tree Enumeration list of Non-Forest Govt. land involved within the Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44											
Tree No	Village	Khata No	Plot No	Kissam	Acquired Area in Ac	Name of Tree	Botanical Name	Girth (in Cm)	Appx. Height (In Mtr)	Sound/ Unsound	Remarks
1	Bichapindha	5	23	Pahad	1.948	Nil					
2	Bichapindha	5	24	Pahad	3.873	Nil					
3	Dumerapadar	72	377	Pahada	1.094	Nil					
4	Dumerapadar	72	374	Pahada	0.086	Nil					
5	Dumerapadar	70	375	Rasta	0.068	Nil					
6	Sagabari	156	31	Pahada	1.369	Nil					
7	Sagabari	154	32	Rasta	0.185	Nil					
8	Sagabari	156	732	Pahada	1.76	Nil					
9	Sagabari	156	733	Pahada	1.329	Nil					
10	Sagabari	156	770	Pahada	1.946	Nil					
11	Sagabari	156	6	Pahada	1.768	Nil					
		Total Area in Ac			15.426						

FORESTER
SUNGER SECTION

Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range

Revenue Inspector
Adatakiri

Consultant Environmen
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

VEDANTA LIMITED

TAHASILDAR, KASHIPUR

PLOT NO-377/437 (Private Land)											
Tree No	Village	Khata No	Plot No	Kissam	Acquired Area In Ac	Name of Tree	Botanical Name	Girth (in Cm)	Appx. Height (In Mtr)	Sound/ Unsound	Remarks
1	Dumerapadar	44	377/437	Dangara	0.396	Nil					

FORESTER
SUNGER SECTION

Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range

Revenue Inspector
Adatakiri

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

VEDANTA LIMITED

TAHASILDAR, KASHIPUR

ANNEXURE-4

Land Schedule of total land involved within the Proposed Road Connecting from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44													
Hal Settlement								Status of land as on 25.10.1980					Class of land
Sl.No.	Khata No.	Village Name	Plot No.	Total Area in Ac	Acquired Area in Ac	HAL Kissam	Tenant Name	Khata No.	Plot No.	Kissam	Area in Ac	Tenant Name	
1	5	Bichapindha	23	8.000	1.948	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					Govt. land
2	5	Bichapindha	24	8.000	3.873	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					Govt. land
3	72	Dumerapadar	377	9.000	1.094	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					Govt. land
4	72	Dumerapadar	374	21.250	0.086	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					Govt. land
5	70	Dumerapadar	375	1.220	0.068	Rasta	Sarbasadharana	Unsurveyed					Govt. land
6	44	Dumerapadar	377/437	2.130	0.396	Dangara	Jaya Majhi	Unsurveyed					Pvt. land
7	35	Porlang	280	16.000	0.485	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					DLC Forest
8	156	Sagabari	4	26.380	7.274	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					DLC Forest
9	156	Sagabari	31	9.000	1.369	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					Govt. land
10	154	Sagabari	32	0.500	0.185	Rasta	Sarbasadharana	Unsurveyed					Govt. land
11	156	Sagabari	5	32.750	4.376	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					DLC Forest
12	156	Sagabari	6	14.250	1.768	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					Govt. land
13	156	Sagabari	732	9.300	1.76	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					Govt. land
14	156	Sagabari	733	7.750	1.329	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					Govt. land
15	156	Sagabari	770	8.500	1.946	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Unsurveyed					Govt. land
		Total area in Ac			27.957								
		Total area in Ha			11.314								

Certified that status of total land involved in the project (both forest and non-forest) as given in the table above is as per Govt. records as on 25.10.1980.

Revenue Inspector
Adatakin

Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range

TAHASILDAR, KASHIPUR

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

VEDANTA LIMITED

Sensitivity: Internal (C3)

ABSTRACT OF TOTAL LAND INVOLVED WITHIN THE ACCESS ROAD FROM SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES (HILL TOP) TO SH-44									
									All Figures area in Acres
Sl.No	Village	Rev. Forest	DLC Forest	Status of land as on 25.10.1980	Total Forest	Pvt. Land	Non-forest Govt. land	Total NF area	Total
1	Bichapinda	0	0	0	0		5.821	5.821	5.821
2	Dumerapadar	0	0	0	0	0.396	1.248	1.644	1.644
3	Porlang	0	0.485	0	0.485			0	0.485
4	Sagabari	0	11.65	0	11.65		8.357	8.357	20.007
	Total in Ac	0	12.135	0	12.135	0.396	15.426	15.822	27.957
	Total in Ha	0	4.911	0.000	4.911	0.160	6.243	6.403	11.314

Revenue Inspector
Adatakiri

Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range

TAHASILDAR, KASHIPUR

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

VEDANTA LIMITED

ANNEXURE A10

PLATE - II

MAP SHOWING THE LAYOUT OF PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD CONNECTING FROM SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES (HILL TOP) TO SH No. 44 BY IDCO BHUBANESWAR , ODISHA

0 70 140 280 420 560 Meters
Scale 1:3,980

N
W E
S

LAND SCHEDULE

Sl.No.	Khata No.	Village Name	Plot No.	Total Area in Ac	Acquired Area in Ac	HAL Kissam	Tenant Name	Class of land
1	5	Bichapindha	23	8.000	1.948	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
2	5	Bichapindha	24	8.000	3.873	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
3	72	Dumerapadar	377	9.000	1.094	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
4	72	Dumerapadar	374	21.250	0.086	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
5	70	Dumerapadar	375	1.220	0.068	Rasta	Sarbasadharana	Govt. land
6	44	Dumerapadar	377/437	2.130	0.396	Dangara	Jaya Majhi	Pvt. land
7	35	Porlang	280	16.000	0.485	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	DLC Forest
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9	156	Sagabari	31	9.000	1.369	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
10	154	Sagabari	32	0.500	0.185	Rasta	Sarbasadharana	Govt. land
11	156	Sagabari	5	32.750	4.376	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	DLC Forest
12	156	Sagabari	6	14.250	1.768	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
13	156	Sagabari	732	9.300	1.76	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
14	156	Sagabari	733	7.750	1.329	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
15	156	Sagabari	770	8.500	1.946	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
		Total area in Ac			27.957			
		Total area in Ha			11.314			

ମୌଜା ବିଚାପିଣ୍ଡା
ଥାନା କାଶିପୁର ନଂ୧୮
ତହସିଲ୍ କାଶିପୁର ନଂ୧୮
BICHHAPINDA
Thana Kashipur No.18
ଜିଲ୍ଲା କୋରାପୁଟ
ସ୍କେଲ୍ ୧୬ଇଞ୍ଚି=୧ମାଇଲ୍ Scale 16 Inches = 1 Mile
ସନ ୧୯୯୩-୯୪ Year 1993-94

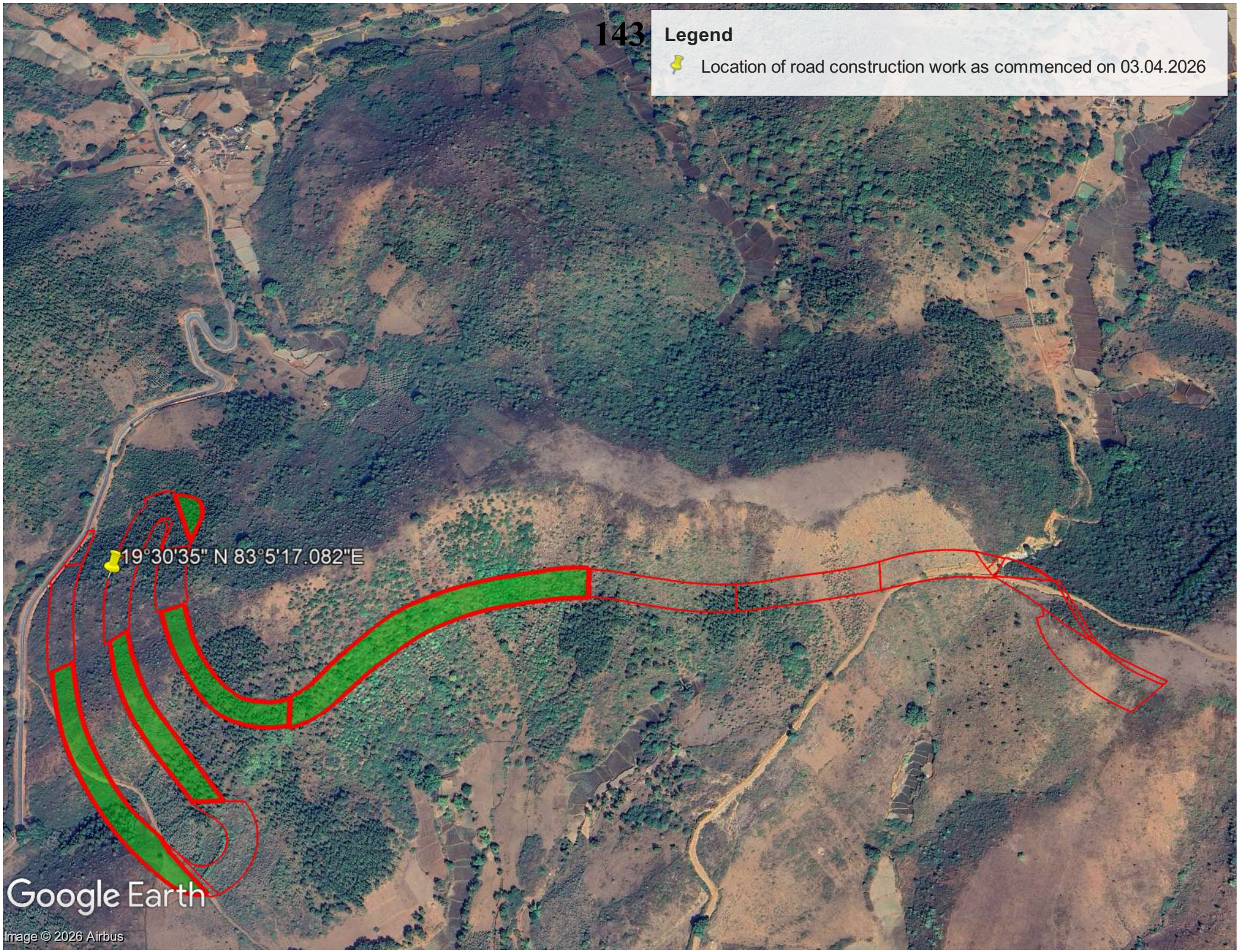
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ଥାନା କାଶିପୁର, ନଂ୨
ତହସିଲ୍ କାଶିପୁର, ନଂ୨
SAGABARI SHEET No.1
Thana Kashipur No.82.
ଜିଲ୍ଲା କୋରାପୁଟ
ସ୍କେଲ୍ ୧୬ଇଞ୍ଚି=୧ମାଇଲ୍ Scale 16-1 Mile
ସନ ୧୯୯୩-୯୪ Year 1993-94

Index to Sheets

Certified that this map has been finally framed and a copy of it has been finally published in accordance with rule 25 read with rule 60 of o.s.&.s rules 1962 on 10th September 1993.

Legend
PROPOSED ROAD COORIDOR
FOREST PATCHES OF ROAD COORIDOR

Revenue Inspector Addakuri
Tahasildar Kashipur Dist. Rayagada
Forest Range Officer Kashipur Range


Legend
Location of road construction work as commenced on 03.04.2026
19°30'35" N 83°5'17.082"E
Google Earth
Image © 2026 Airbus

ANNEXURE A11

Several villagers, police personnel injured in clash in Odisha amid protests against mining of bauxite

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Several villagers and police personnel were injured on Tuesday in a clash in Odisha's Rayagada district, where residents have been protesting against the construction of a road to a bauxite mine, officials said.

Tension has gripped the region ever since attempts were made to lay the road. Tribal communities have been opposing mining at Sijimali, estimated to hold 311 million tonnes of bauxite, claiming that it would deplete perennial water sources and severely impact their livelihood.

The villagers alleged that the police resorted to lathi charge after asking them to come out of their homes around 3 a.m.



Residents of Kutamal village in Rayagada district protesting against the police for firing tear gas shells on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"A police team had gone to Kutamal village to execute a non-bailable warrant around 5 a.m. Suddenly, we came under attack from villagers. The police found it difficult to retreat. As many as 58 personnel, including a Sub-Divisional Officer, were injured. Six personnel were shifted to Visakhapatnam as their condition deteriorated," said Rayagada Superintendent of Police Swathy S. Kumar.

The police were forced to resort to lathi charge and fire tear gas shells to disperse villagers who pelted stones, Ms. Kumar said, adding that the situation is now under control.

According to activists, eight villagers sustained serious injuries after being beaten up by the police.

Proposed project

Vedanta Limited, declared the preferred bidder for the Sijimali bauxite block spread over Rayagada and Kalahandi districts, has proposed to extract 9 million tonnes per annum.

"Vedanta allegedly secured forest clearance through fraudulent means. Records indicate that a government official was present at all eight gram sabhas simultaneously on a single day during public hearings. This raises questions about the process and its credibility. It is unclear under whose pressure the State government is pushing for mining at Sijimali," said Prafulla Samantra, an activist.

Mr. Samantra alleged that the police assaulted the villagers to deter them from opposing the project.

"Currently, 23 people, including a pregnant woman, are in jail. Since 2023, the police have been picking up villagers without reason. Through a government notification, many activists were earlier prohibited from entering Rayagada district," he said.

AND NDE

The Hindu (Page 1), 08.04.2026

RAGING CONTROVERSY

Road to Sijimali yet to get Stage-II forest clearance

SUDARSAN MAHARANA @ Bhubaneswar

THE 2.98 km access road from Sijimali hilltop bauxite reserve to State Highway (SH) 44 in Rayagada district, right in the eye of a raging conflict between the tribal inhabitants and the state administration, is yet to receive final approval for diversion of forest land.

The proposed road, planned to facilitate bauxite transportation from the Sijimali hilltop to SH-44 involves about 11.314 hectare area in Kashipur tehsil of the district of which 4.911 hectare comes under forest category and requires clearance under FC Act 1980. The Sijimali bauxite reserve was allotted to aluminium giant Vedanta Limited in 2023.

The land meant for the approach was granted stage-I (in-principle) approval for non-forestry use by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on January 5 this year, under section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

However, the MoEFCC's communication to state Forest, Environment and Climate Change department, seen by the TNIE, clearly mentioned that the land cannot be transferred to the user agency till stage-II approval is given.

Laying down the conditions, the ministry made it clear that "transfer of forest land to user agency should not be effected by the Odisha government till final (stage-II) approval for its diversion issued by the Ministry." The MoEFCC has laid down a total of 39 conditions for the Forest department to comply with prior to stage-II clearance.

"After receipt of the report on compliance to the conditions stipulated, final/ stage-II approval for diversion of the said forest land will be issued by the Ministry," it said. TNIE has learnt that currently, the compliance report is still pending with the divisional forest officer (DFO) of Rayagada.

CONTINUED ON P7

3.4-km road to transport ore from the mines

FROM P3...

As per documents accessed, the land would be acquired by state-owned IDCO and transferred to the PWD for road construction. In fact, this particular site was chosen from a list of three options. The land in question is part of two villages - Sagabari and Porlanng - and has 91 trees as per an enumeration.

Vedanta Limited was allocated Sijimali bauxite mine, spread across Kalahandi and Rayagada district with an estimated resource of 311 million tonne, in March 2023.

Sources said a total 3.4 km road is required to be built for transportation of bauxite from Kashipur side of the mine to SH-44. However, about 0.42 km length of the road falls within the mine area.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS Sat, 11 https://

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS Sat, 11 April 2026 https://epaper.newindianexpress.com/c/79614089

Fear of arrest keeps injured Sijimali tribals from hospitals

POST NEWS NETWORK



Rayagada, April 11: A road construction initiative by Vedanta Aluminum Ltd for the Sijimali bauxite mine in Kashipur block in the presence of a large contingent of police and administrative officials has flared up tension and kicked up a row in the area.

The move led to a face-off between police and villagers as the latter opposed the road construction work which started Tuesday in the presence of heavy police and administrative personnel.

Official sources said that the district administration intervened and the Collector visited the affected area to defuse the situation as villagers were allegedly disobeying the police. But villagers alleged that officials instead asked them to produce land ownership documents.

Police said they had gone to Kantamal village to arrest Subas Singh Majhi, against whom a warrant was pending. Villagers, however, claimed the police entered the area late at night and attempted to intimidate residents. They alleged that officers banged on doors, threatened people after they opened them and physically assaulted some villagers. Residents also said that they tried to defend themselves, after which the police used tear gas. Several villagers were reportedly injured and later received treatment at home as they feared getting arrested if they visited a hospital since the police have cordoned off the area.

Women in the village alleged that tear gas shells fired by police led to the death of their livestock. Locals also accused police of assaulting villagers. They alleged that a 60-year-old man, Ravan Majhi, was hit in the face with a tear gas shell, while an elderly woman sustained serious head and hand injuries after being beaten up. The injured woman said police broke open her door and attacked her when she came out. Some women also alleged that they were threatened with sharp-edged weapons.

Villagers have been protesting the proposed road to the Sijimali mine, fearing displacement and loss of their land. The administration had imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNS in the area from April 3.

The Rayagada Collector also visited the region earlier to hold discussions with the residents, but fear and tension continue to grip Kantamal village.

Residents said it was "very unfortunate" that the Collector asked them to produce land titles (land pattas) instead of holding discussions with them. They questioned whether the Collector represents the people of the district or Vedanta.

Determined to protect their land, the villagers have been keeping a round-the-clock vigil at Sijimali hill, armed with traditional weapons such as bows and arrows, axes and sticks, to prevent the road construction. People from more than eight villages, including Sagabari, Kantamal, Sarambai and Banteji, have joined the protest.

"We are ready to take bullets, but we will not give our land to the company," villagers said. Women guarding the foothills said they would resist any such move. Meanwhile, 21 residents of Talampadar in Kalahandi, located near Sijimali, were picked up by police without reason, arrested in false cases and sent to jail. Of them, 10 are women, including two school students.

Orissa Post (Page 1), 12.04.2026

ANNEXURE A12

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

APPEAL NO. 04/2026/EZ

IN THE MATTER OF:

Munidei Majhi and 3 Ors.

...Applicants

Versus

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & 3 Ors.

....Respondents

NOTARY S. Chaudhuri Bidhannagar Court Kolkata Regd. No.-6584 Exp. Dt.-21-08-2028 GOVT. OF INDIA

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Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	PAGE NO.
1	Counter Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.1, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).	1-5
2	**Annexure No. R/1;** Copy of the compliance communicationdated 17.12.2025.	6-36
3	**Annexure No. R/2;** Copy of the Stage – I (In-principle) approval for 708.204 ha of forest land for the Sijimali Bauxite Mine.	37-43
4	**Annexure No. R/3;** Copy of the Stage – I (In-principle) approval for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land.	44-49
5.	**Annexure No. R/4;** True copy of the Hon'ble NGT order dated 07.11.2012	50-87

Place: Kolkata

Dated: 23rd March, 2026

Respondent No. 1

Through

Anamika Pandey

Advocate

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

APPEAL NO. 04/2026/EZ

NOTARY S. Chaudhuri Bidhannagar Court Kolkata Regd. No.-6584 Exp. Dt.-21-08-2028 GOVT. OF INDIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

Munidei Majhi and 3 Ors.

...Applicants

Versus

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & 3 Ors.

....Respondents

BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT BIDHANNAGAR DIST-NORTH 24 PARGANAS

COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MOEF&CC).

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

I, Shri Sujoy Dutta, S/o Shri Samir Dutta, aged about 45 years, working as Assistant Commissioner (Forestry) at the Sub office Kolkata of Bhubaneswar Regional Office under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, having its office at IB – 198, Sector- III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 106 do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under: -

1. That I am the Respondent No. 1 in the above-mentioned Original Application and am well acquainted with the facts of the case based on official records. I am competent and duly authorised to swear this affidavit.

2. That the averments made in the Original Application, insofar as they relate to Respondent No. 1, are denied except those which are specifically admitted herein.

3. That the present affidavit is being filed on behalf of Respondent No.1 – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in response to the appeal filed by the appellants challenging the Stage-I (In-Principle) approval dated 05.01.2026 granted under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of an access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 in Rayagada District, Odisha.

4. That the impugned approval was granted after due examination of the proposal submitted by the Government of Odisha through the PARIVESH portal, in accordance with the provisions of the Forest

23 MAR 2026

(Conservation) Act, 1980, rules made thereunder, and the applicable guidelines.

5. That the appellants have alleged that the proposal for diversion of forest land for construction of the access road ought not to have been considered separately and that the same should have been treated as part of the mining project.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

6. That it is submitted that the proposal for diversion of 4.911 hectares of forest land for construction of an access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 was submitted by the State Government of Odisha through the PARIVESH portal under Online Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025, with Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) as the user agency.

NOTARY GOVT. OF INDIA S. Chaudhuri Bidhannagar Court Kolkata Regd. No.-6584 Exp. Dt.-21-08-2026

7. That the proposal was examined by the Ministry based on the records and recommendations forwarded by the State Government, including compliance submitted in response to the queries raised by the Ministry through the PARIVESH portal.

8. That the proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting dated 30.07.2025. After detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee deferred the proposal with the following observation:

The proposed road is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles for the mineral evacuation from the Sijimali Bauxite 98 11-91/2012FC I/126445/2025 Mine. Therefore, the proposal for road construction can only be considered once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the said mining lease is approved. The State government shall therefore submit the proposal after obtaining the in-principle approval for the diversion of forest land in the Sijimali Bauxite Mine.

9. That the proposal was returned to the State Government online on 07.08.2025 through the PARIVESH portal with the observation that the State government shall therefore submit the proposal after obtaining the in-principle approval for the diversion of forest land in the Sijimali Bauxite Mine.

10. That the Advisory Committee in its meeting dated 2.12.2025, after due diligence, has recommended the proposal of Sijimali Bauxite Mine for "Stage-I/ In-principle" approval subject to conditions.

23 MAR 2026

11. That thereafter, the State Government through the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha again submitted the road proposal with the reply vide letter dated 17.12.2025, stating that the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 02.12.2025 had already recommended the Stage-I (in-principle) approval for diversion of 708.204 ha of forest land for the Sijimali Bauxite Mine.(A copy of the compliance communication is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-1**.)

12. That, subsequently, based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and as per the approval of the competent authority, the Ministry conveyed Stage-I (In-Principle) approval on 31.12.2025 for diversion of 708.204 hectares of forest land (564.581 ha in Rayagada Forest Division and 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division) for the Sijimali Bauxite Mining Project in favour of M/s Vedanta Limited, subject to fulfilment of stipulated conditions under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. (A copy of the said approval is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure R-2**.)

NOTARY S. Chaudhuri Bidhannagar Court Kolkata Regd. No.-6584 Exp. Dt.-21-08-2028 GOVT. OF INDIA

13. That the State Government therefore clarified that since the mining proposal had already obtained Stage-I approval dated 31.12.2025, the proposal for diversion of forest land for construction of the access road could now be considered further in accordance with the statutory procedure.

14. It is humbly submitted that the Regional Office of the Ministry proceeded to process the proposal for diversion of 4.911 hectares of forest land for the access road, and accordingly, the Ministry granted Stage-I (in-principle) approval dated 05.01.2026 for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of the said access road, subject to strict conditions including compensatory afforestation, payment of Net Present Value (NPV), soil conservation measures, and mandatory compliance with the Forest Rights Act, 2006 prior to Stage-II clearance. A copy of the said approval is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure R-3.**

15. It is humbly submitted that the Advisory Committee considered both proposals viz., the road project and the mining project, in a comprehensive manner. After due diligence, in-principle approval for the mining proposal was granted by the Central Government on 31.12.2025, followed by Stage-I approval for the road project on 05.02.2026. This approach reflects that the Advisory Committee examined the matter holistically, with due diligence, to avoid any fait accompli situation.

23 MAR 2026

16. That it is further submitted that the grant of Stage-I approval dated 05.01.2026 does not permit commencement of any activity on the forest land unless the user agency fulfils the stipulated conditions and obtains working permission from the State Government, thereby ensuring that statutory safeguards relating to forest conservation, compensatory afforestation and compliance with the Forest Rights Act, 2006 are fully complied with prior to diversion of forest land.

17. That therefore the allegation of the appellants that the Ministry has granted approval without due consideration or in violation of law is incorrect and denied. The proposal was processed strictly in accordance with the statutory procedure and after receipt of recommendations from the State Government.

18. It is also pertinent to mention that the Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 7.11.2012 in Appeal No. 7 of 2012 in the matter of Shri Vimal Bhai and other vs Union of India and other inter-alia observed as under:

NOTARY S. Chaudhuri Bidhannagar Court Kolkata Regd. No.-6584 Exp. Dt.-21-08-2028 GOVT. OF INDIA

19. Cumulative reading of Section 2 (A) of the FC Act and 16(e) of the NGT Act, leads to an irresistible conclusion that under the said Sections an Appeal is provided for only against an order passed by the State Government or other authorities. In other words, the Legislature in its wisdom has kept the order of approval/clearance passed by the Central Government under FC Act beyond the scope of appeal.

20. In view of the discussions made above and reasons assigned we come to the conclusion that the order dated 08th November, 2011 (Annexure A/1), according Stage - I Forest Clearance cannot be assailed by filing an Appeal at this stage and as such the present Appeal is premature and has to be dismissed. Liberty is however granted to the Appellants to prefer an Appeal as and when the State Government passes the final order, permitting the Project Proponent to use the Forest land for nonforest purpose, if they feel aggrieved. In the event such an Appeal is filed, it would be open for the said Appellants to raise all the points which have been raised in the present Appeal and also other points which would be available to them in law and also bring to the notice the infirmities/omissions and commissions committed by the MoEF (Central Government) while granting Stage - I and Stage - II forest clearances.

Therefore, the instant appeal challenging the Stage I Approval of the Central Government is premature, not maintainable and liable to be

23 MAR 2026

quashed in light of the aforesaid order of the Hon'ble NGT. (True copy of the order dated 07.11.2012 of the Hon'ble NGT is annexed herewith and marked as Annexure R-4.)

That the Answering Respondent craves leave to file additional documents or information, if necessary, *pendente lite*.

NOTARY S. Chaudhuri Bidhannagar Court Kolkata Regd. No.-6584 Exp. Dt.-21-08-2028 GOVT. OF INDIA

Sujoy Dutta

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the Deponent above named, do hereby verify that the contents of the above Affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and belief derived from official records, and that nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Kolkata on this 23rd day of March, 2026.

Sujoy Dutta

DEPONENT

S. CHAUDHURI
★NOTARY★
GOVT. OF INDIA
Regd. No.-6584/06
Bidhannagar Court
Dist.-North 24 Pgs

23 MAR 2026

ANNEXURE A13

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

Appeal No. 04 of 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

Munidei Majhi & ors. **...PETITIONER**

Versus

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

... RESPONDENT

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DEPONENT

Through: -

Utkarsh Chandra and

Sanjay Kumar Singh Utkarsh

Advocate

C-24, Nangal Dewat,

Sector D, Vasant Kunj,

New Delhi, Delhi- 110070

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

Appeal No. 04 of 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

Munidei Majhi & ors. … **PETITIONER**

Versus

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Ors.

… **RESPONDENT**

COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 2

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

I, Sachin Annasaheb Ohol, S/o Annasaheb Mahadeo Ohol, aged 32, presently working as Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha, having office at Rayagada, Odisha, being conversant with the facts of the case, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That, it is humbly submitted, I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case, as such I am competent to swear this present affidavit.

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Rayagada Division

2. At the outset all the contentions and averments made in the present appeal of the petitioners are denied unless specifically admitted herein.
3. That, the averments made in paragraph 1, it is humbly submitted that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, has granted stage 1 approval on 05.01.2026, under section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Abhiniyam, 1980, for the diversion of 4.911 hectares of forest land for non- forestry purposes in favour of Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation. The said approval pertains to the construction of an access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill top) to SH-55 in Kashipur, Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division, Odisha, in respect of Online Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025.
4. That, the averments made in paragraph 2, it is humbly submitted that the issue regarding submission of the proposal as a standalone project was specifically examined during the appraisal process. In this regard, the Nodal Officer had raised as Essential details Sought (EDS) on 15.04.2025 seeking clarification from Respondent no. 3 (IDCO) in light of sub- para (f) of para 7.8 of chapter 7 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Rules framed thereunder.

   And whereas, in response, the Respondent no. 3 furnished a clarification (Annexure- A/1), which was duly examined at the appropriate levels, inter alia, indicating that the proposed road is not solely for the use of Respondent no. 4 and also serves connectivity needs of nearby habitations, including villages such as Dumerpadar, Porland, Sagabari, Bichapinda and Malipadar. The contention that the proposal has been illegally obtained by Respondnent no. 3 or that the same represents an impermissible splitting of the project is baseless and liable to be rejected.

   A copy of the clarification furnished is herein marked as Annexure- A/1.

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5. That the averments made in paragraph 3, it is humbly submitted that, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, government of India has granted Stage-I (in-principle) approval under Section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 708.204 hectares of forest land (comprising 564.581 hectares in Rayagada Forest Division and 143.623 hectares in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division, including 11.195 hectares earmarked for Safety Zone) out of the total mining lease area of 1548.786 hectares for Sijimali Bauxite Mines in Rayagada and Kalahandi Districts, Odisha. The said approval has been accorded in favour of Vedanta Limited vide Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024, dated 31.12.2025.

6. That, it is humbly submitted that, the averments made in paragraph no. 4 are denied as being misconceived and factually incorrect. The characterization of Respondent No.3 as "masquerading" as the User Agency is wholly unwarranted and is emphatically denied. It is respectfully submitted that the proposal dated 10.02.2025 was submitted by Respondent No. 3 (IDCO) in its capacity as the User Agency for the subject proposal, and the same has been processed accordingly under the applicable statutory framework. The mere reference in the application to the intended use of the road for facilitating transportation does not alter the legal identity of the proposal or the competence of Respondent No. 3 to submit the same.

   It is further submitted that the issue relating to the nature of the proposal and its treatment as a standalone project has already been specifically examined during the appraisal process, as stated in paragraph 4 of this counter.

   In view of the above, the allegation that the application has been improperly submitted by Respondent no. 3 is baseless and liable to be rejected.

7. That, the averments made in paragraph 5, it is humbly submitted that,, the proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha of forest land in village Sagabari & Porlang has been examined and considered in accordance with the Consolidated

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Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, as amended and updated from time to time.

8. That, the averments made in paragraph 6, it is humbly submitted that the proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha of forest land in village Sagabari & Porlang has been examined and considered in accordance with the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, as amended and uploaded from time to time.

9. That in reply to the averments made in paragraph 7, it is humbly submitted that, the reliance placed by the Appellant on the provision contained in Chapter 7.8(f) of the Consolidated Guidelines is misconceived and not applicable to the facts of the present case. The said provision pertains to situations where ancillary activities such as approach roads are intrinsically part of and proposed as components of a mining project by the project proponent itself, warranting their appraisal as an integrated mining proposal. In the present case, the proposal under consideration relates to diversion of forest land for construction of an access road undertaken by a separate user agency, and has been processed in accordance with the applicable provisions governing such proposals under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Rules and Guidelines framed thereunder, as amended from time to time. Therefore, the facts and circumstances of the present case are clearly distinguishable and the aforesaid provision does not operate as a bar to independent consideration of the proposal.

10. That in reply to the averments made in paragraph 8, it is humbly submitted that, while the Appellant seeks to rely upon Clause 7.8(f) of the Consolidated Guidelines, the said provision cannot be read in isolation or as laying down an inflexible or universally applicable mandate. The said clause applies to situations where ancillary infrastructure such as approach roads are integrally

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proposed as part of the mining project by the project proponent itself, forming a composite mining proposal for appraisal.

In the present case, the proposal for diversion of forest land for construction of the access road has been submitted by a separate and distinct User Agency, i.e., Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), and has been processed as an independent linear infrastructure proposal, in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Rules and Guidelines framed thereunder, as amended from time to time. The mere fact that the said road may facilitate connectivity to a mining area does not, by itself, render the proposal legally inseparable from the mining project, nor does it automatically attract the requirement of composite appraisal under Clause 7.8(f), particularly when the proposal has been conceptualized, submitted and examined as a separate infrastructure activity by a different User Agency.

It is further submitted that Clause 7.8(f)(1), relating to supplementary linear projects conceived after commencement of mining operations, cannot be construed to imply that all linear infrastructure proposals prior to commencement of mining must mandatorily be subsumed within the mining proposal. Such an interpretation is not borne out from the plain language of the guideline and would amount to reading into the provision conditions that are not expressly stipulated. The competent authorities, after due consideration of the proposal and the relevant provisions of law, have processed the same in accordance with the applicable statutory framework. The identity of the User Agency, the nature of the proposal, and the manner in which it has been placed for consideration are all relevant factors which have been duly taken into account.

In view of the above, the contention of the Appellant that the subject proposal could only have been processed as part of the mining project is untenable, legally unsustainable and liable to be rejected.

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11. That the averments made in paragraph 9, it is humbly submitted that, the approval granted has been issued after due examination of the proposal in accordance with provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Rules and guidelines framed thereunder, as amended from time to time. The reliance placed by the Appellant on the extracted portion of the guidelines is misplaced and does not render the approval illegal or vitiated, for the reasons already submitted hereinabove. The proposal has been processed by the competent authority following the prescribed procedure and upon due consideration of all relevant aspects.

    In view of the above, the contention that the impugned approval is liable to be quashed is denied and is not sustainable in law.

12. That the contents of para 10 to 12 needs no reply.

13. That in reply to the averments made in paragraph 13, it is humbly submitted that, while the proposed road may facilitate access to the mining area, mere functional or logistical linkage with a mining activity does not, by itself, render a proposal legally inseparable or mandate its consideration only as part of the mining project.

    It is further submitted that infrastructure such as roads, pipelines and allied facilities may, depending on the facts and manner of proposal, be conceived, submitted and appraised as independent projects, particularly when undertaken by a separate User Agency and processed as a distinct proposal under the applicable statutory framework.

    The provisions of the applicable guidelines do not lay down that every infrastructure having nexus with a mining activity must invariably be subsumed within the mining proposal, and such an interpretation would be overbroad and not supported by the statutory scheme. In the present case, the proposal has been considered independently by the competent authority, taking into account its specific scope, alignment and nature and therefore the contention of the Appellant is misconceived and liable to be rejected.

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14. That the averments made in paragraph 14- 27, it is humbly submitted that, the Appellant has sought to draw inferences of legal impermissibility merely on the basis of functional linkage between the proposed road and the mining activity. It is not disputed that various documents, including the EIA reports and related proceedings, refer to the requirements of road connectivity for transportation of mineral. However, such references only indicate the intended use of utility of the road and do not, by themselves, determine the legal character of the proposal or the identity of the User Agency for the purpose of forest clearance.

It is respectfully submitted that the proposal for diversion of forest land has been submitted by Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), a statutory entity, and has been processed as a distinct linear infrastructure proposal in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Rules and Guidelines framed thereunder, as amended from time to time.

The Appellant's contention that IDCO was "only facilitating" and therefore could not have applied is legally untenable, as the applicable statutory framework does not prohibit a duly competent agency from undertaking infrastructure development and seeking necessary approvals, even if such infrastructure may ultimately be utilized for broader industrial or public purposes. The minutes of meetings, DPR preparation, and other administrative communications relied upon by the Appellant do not alter the legal position, as such internal or inter-departmental arrangements pertain to implementation modalities and do not determine the validity of the proposal submitted before the competent authority under the Act. It is further submitted that the proposal has been examined by the competent authority on its own merits, taking into account the nature of the land, alignment of the road and applicable statutory provisions. The mere fact that the DPR or

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Rayagada Division

technical inputs may have been prepared with reference to the mining project does not render the proposal invalid or vitiated.

The allegation that the proposal constitutes a "fraud on the process" is baseless, unsubstantiated and emphatically denied. There has been no concealment, misrepresentation or suppression of material facts and the proposal has been processed transparently in accordance with law. In view of the above, the attempt of the Appellant to characterize the proposal as an impermissible or colourable exercise is misconceived, baseless and is liable to be rejected.

15. That, the contents of paragraph 28 to 30 needs no reply

16. That the averments made in paragraph 31- 43 are denied as being misconceived, selective and based on an incomplete and erroneous appreciation of the statutory appraisal process and the material on record.

At the outset, it is humbly submitted that the Appellant has attempted to portray the processing of the proposal as mechanical and pre- determined, whereas the records clearly demonstrate that the proposal has undergone multi- tier scrutiny at Divisional, State and Central levels, including deliberation by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC).

It is submitted that the site inspection report of the Assistant Commissioner (F) and the observations of the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) were duly placed before and considered during the appraisal process, including by the FAC. The FAC, while deliberating on the proposals, has taken note of the interlinkage between the access road and the mining project, as well as the concern regarding a possible fait accompli situation.

Accordingly, the FAC observed that while the proposal for the road may be considered as a separate proposal, its consideration should follow the approval of the mining proposal, thereby ensuring appropriate sequencing in line with the concerns emerging during appraisal. The said approach demonstrates application of mind and conscious decision-making, balancing

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the interlinkage of the proposals with the need to avoid premature consideration.

It is further submitted that the said sequencing was duly adhered to in the present case, inasmuch as the proposal for the access road was processed and taken forward only after the FAC, in its meeting dated 02.12.2025, recommended Stage-I approval of the mining proposal. Thus, the road proposal did not precede or pre-empt the consideration of the mining project, and the concern noted by the FAC and other authorities stood fully addressed.

The contention of the Appellant that the proposal ought to have been reconsidered again by the FAC prior to grant of approval is misconceived, as the statutory framework does not mandate repeated consideration once the relevant aspects have already been deliberated and the conditional sequencing indicated therein has been complied with.

The allegations regarding the sequence of EDS queries and responses are misleading and devoid of merits. The raising of queries, submission of replies and forwarding of proposals at various stages are part of the standard appraisal process and reflect continued scrutiny rather than absence of application of mind. The further allegation that the authorities were "waiting for an opportunity" to grant approval is baseless, speculative and emphatically denied. The timeline relied upon by the Appellant, when properly appreciated, reflects a logical and procedural progression of the proposal, including compliance with the sequencing requirements emerging from FAC deliberations.

It is also denied that there has been any lack of independent application of mind. The proposal has been examined at multiple levels and the approval has been granted after due consideration of all relevant materials, including FAC observations, inspection reports and EDS compliance.

The contention that the proposal has been processed by "circumventing" the requirement of considering the road as part of the mining proposal is untenable, for the reasons already submitted hereinabove, and is not reiterated

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for the sake of brevity. The allegation of "fraud on the process" is serious in nature but wholly unsubstantiated, and is emphatically denied. There has been no suppression of facts, misrepresentation or deviation from the prescribed procedure at any stage of cor.1sideration of the proposal. In view of the above, the allegations of non-application of mind, procedural irregularity and illegality in grant of the impugned approval are devoid of merit and liable to be rejected.

At the outset, it is submitted that the provisions of the FRA, 2006 do not fall within the ambit of enactments specified under Schedule I of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, and therefore, alleged non-compliance thereof cannot be independently agitated before this Hon'ble Tribunal. To this extent, the present challenge is not maintainable.

Without prejudice to the above objection on maintainability, it is submitted that due compliance with the provisions of the FRA has, in fact, been ensured in the present case. The Project Administration-cum- Nodal Officer (FRA) compliance Certificate issued by the District Collector, Rayagada dated 31.01.2025, certifying completion of the process of identification and settlement of rights in respect of the land involved in the proposal.

The said certificate, inter alia, records that:

- The complete process of identification and settlement of rights under the FRA has been carried out for the 12.135 acres (includes the 11.650 acres in village Sagabari and 0.485 acres in village Porlang) proposed for development of road from Sijimali Bauxite mines top to SH-44 for facilitating Bauxite transportation by M/s Vedanta Ltd.
- The diversion of forest land for facilities managed by the Government as required under Section 3(2) of the FRA have been completed and the Gram Sabhas have given their consent to it.

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The proposal does not involve recognized rights of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) and Pre- agricultural communities (PAC).

17. That in reply to the averments made under paragraph 44 to 47 it is humbly submitted that, the allegations made therein are denied as being misconceived, untenable in law and devoid of merit. It is respectfully submitted that the said grounds are repetitive in nature and substantially reiterate the allegations already addressed in detail in the foregoing paragraphs, and are therefore not reiterated herein for the sake of brevity. Without prejudice to the above, it is submitted that the impugned approval has been granted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the Rules framed thereunder and the applicable guidelines, as amended from time to time, after due examination at all levels. In view of the above, the grounds raised are baseless, unsupported by cogent material and liable to be rejected.

18. That I have gone through the statements made hereinabove and fully understood the same.

19. That the annexure/s is/are true/xerox of their originals/xerox copies.

23.4.26
DEPONENT
Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Division

VERIFICATION

Solemnly verified at Rayagada on this 23rd day of April 2026 that the contents of paragraph no.1 and 2 are true to my knowledge and those in paragraphs 3 to 19 are true and correct to my knowledge and are based on information derived from the records, which I believe to be true and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

23.4.26
DEPONENT
Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Division

ANNEXURE A14

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

APPEAL NO. 04 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

Munidei Majhi …Appellant

-Versus-

MoEF&CC & Ors. …Respondent (s)

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Date: 06.05.2026
Place: Kolkata

DRAWN AND FILED BY:

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

APPEAL NO. 04 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

Munidei Majhi …Appellant

-Versus-

MoEF&CC & Ors. …Respondent (s)

PRELIMINARY REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 4, M/S VEDANTA LIMITED TO THE APPEAL NO. 04 OF 2026 (EZ)

1. That this Hon'ble Tribunal is currently seized of the abovementioned Appeal, wherein the Appellant had challenged the Stage-I Clearance dated 05.01.2026 granted by the Respondent No. 1, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (hereinafter, 'MoEF&CC') to Respondent No. 3, Odisha Industrial Development Corporation (hereinafter, 'IDCO') for non-forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of a road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 in Rayagada District in the State of Odisha.
2. That this Hon'ble Tribunal issued Notice on 27.02.2026 and the instant case was, thereafter, listed on 23.03.2026 when Respondent No. 4, M/s Vedanta Limited (hereinafter, the 'answering Respondent') was granted time for filing its Reply and the case was directed to be listed on 18.05.2026.
3. That, however, subsequently on 13.04.2026 an I.A. No. 44/2026/EZ was filed by the Appellant in the instant Appeal and mentioned on the same date before a different composition of this Hon'ble Bench, albeit without prior intimation to any of the Respondents. It was only on 15.04.2026 that a Notice dated 15.04.2026 alongwith an Order dated 13.04.2026 was sent by the Appellant informing about the prior listing of the present Appeal on 24.04.2026.
4. That ultimately on 24.04.2026, this Hon'ble Tribunal granted the answering Respondent time to file its Reply and directed for the case to be listed on 07.05.2026. Accordingly, in pursuance of the Orders of this Hon'ble Tribunal

dated 23.03.2026 and 24.04.2026, the present Reply is being filed by the Respondent No. 4, M/s Vedanta Ltd. (hereinafter referred as "Answering Respondent") in response to the allegations made in the present Appeal.

5. That the Answering Respondent, at the outset, submits that all those averments in the Appeal that have not been specifically admitted are herewith denied and are not to be construed as having been accepted by the Answering Respondent as if *traversed seriatim*.

6. That the Respondent No.4 seeks to place on record its Preliminary Objections/Submissions against the Appeal, which in its humble opinion, are crucial for a holistic adjudication of the present matter. The Respondent No.4 craves leave to file a detailed para wise response as and when necessary.

PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS

A. **The present Appeal is infructuous since a Stage II Clearance has been granted to Respondent No.3, IDCO**

7. That at the outset, it has come to the knowledge of the answering Respondent that the project road in question has been granted the Stage II Clearance on 05.05.2026 which essentially means that present case has been rendered infructuous and is liable to be dismissed as the Stage-I clearance which has been impugned in the present *lis* has merged into the Stage -II Clearance. The respondent No.4 could obtain the Stage-II from the Parivesh portal only on 06.05.2026 and is marked and annexed as **ANNEXURE R/1 (Colly)** alongwith the Corrigendum dated 06.05.2026.

8. In this regard, the Respondent No.4 places reliance on Vimal Bhai and Ors vs Union of India & Ors (Appeal No. 07/2012) wherein vide Judgment dated 07.11.2012, this Hon'ble Tribunal dismissed Appeal challenging Stage-I Forest Clearance noting that as Appeal under Section 16(e) of the NGT Act, 2010 is only provided against an Order passed by the State Government or

other authorities. The Judgment goes on to state that, "in other words, the legislature in its wisdom has kept the Order of approval/clearance passed by the Central Government under FC Act beyond the scope of Appeal."

9. This position was further corroborated by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the case titled Milind Pariwakam vs Union of India & Ors (2015 SCCOnLine NGT 845) a four Judge Bench of this Hon'ble Tribunal has clearly stated that only an Order passed under Section 2 of the FCA, 1980 is appealable under Section 16 of the NGT Act, 2010.

B. **Appellants are attempting to challenge the mining project of the Answering Respondent under the guise of challenging IDCO's road project**

10. That it is respectfully submitted that the present proceedings are a clear attempt by the Appellants to indirectly assail and obstruct the mining project of the Answering Respondent under the guise of challenging the separate Stage I approval granted for the access road project of the Respondent No. 3, IDCO. Surprisingly the Stage I Clearance granted to the mine in December 2025, prior to the Stage I Clearance to the road, was a pre-requisite to the Stage I Clearance for the subject road and the same has not been challenged. While the impugned approval in the present Appeal pertains to the road project of IDCO, yet the pleadings are replete with allegations directed against the mining project of Respondent No. 4, M/s Vedanta Ltd. and approvals sought by it under separate statutory processes. In this regard, it is the humble submission of the Answering Respondent that the Appellants cannot be permitted to enlarge the scope of the present Appeal or convert the same into a collateral challenge to matters that are not the subject matter of the impugned approval. Such an approach is legally untenable and the instant Appeal deserves to be rejected on this ground alone. Illustratively, following are some

instances which demonstrate that the real grievance is against the mining project, not merely the road project:

i. While discussing their bonafides, the Appellants admit that they are aggrieved by the proposal to mine the forest land in question (Pg. 7-8 of appeal);

ii. While discussing the issue of non-application of mind by the FAC, reliance has primarily been placed on the Minutes of 7th FAC Meeting dated 30.07.2025 and 12th FAC Meeting dated 02.12.2025 which considered the Answering Respondent's proposal for diversion of 708.204 ha in mine lease area (Para 33-37/Pg. 19-22 of Appeal);

iii. Application for prior Environmental Clearance for mining is pending (Pg. 545-547); and

iv. Vedanta applied on 25.06.2024 for diversion of 708.204 ha for its mining project (Para 3/Pg. 10 r/w A2 @Pg. 39-91).

11. That, further, insofar as the Answering Respondent is concerned, all averments made by the Appellants are based on assumptions, conjectures and generalized allegations without any clear cause of action against the Answering Respondent. The Appellants merely seek to create an impression of *fait accompli* where none exists, as no mining activity has yet commenced and the same would be undertaken only after all permissions have been obtained and, consequently, in compliance with the law. Thus, the Appellants are mixing two separate issues in an attempt to stall the mining project of the Answering Respondent. In this regard, reliance is placed on the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of K.K. Modi v. K.N. Modi [(1998) 3 SCC 573] wherein it was held that proceedings filed for a collateral purpose, vexation, oppression, or misuse of court process amount to abuse of process.

C. **Appellants have challenged a Stage I approval, which is only an intermediate statutory step as opposed to complete diversion, making the instant Appeal premature**

12. That, moreover, the In-Principal Stage – I approval accorded to the Respondent No. 3, IDCO dated 05.01.2026 is conditional in nature and subject to compliance with the terms and conditions imposed by the Respondent No. 1, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change ('MoEF&CC'). The grant of such approval does not, by itself, amount to final diversion of forest land nor confer any unrestricted right to commence project activities. A cumulative reading of Section 2(A) of the Forest (Conservation) Act and Section 16(e) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 reflect that an Appeal is provided only against order passed by the State Government while an Order of approval/clearance by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act is beyond the scope of an Appeal.

13. That it is further submitted that Working Permission has since been granted to the Respondent No. 3, IDCO on 27.02.2026 and enables the limited preliminary and preparatory activities connected with the access infrastructure. In this regard, this Hon'ble Tribunal in the case of *Vimal Bhai v. Union of India, Appeal No. 07/2012 (PB)* held that an Appeal is provided for only against an order passed by State Government and an order of approval/clearance by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act is beyond the scope of an Appeal. Accordingly, the Appeal in question pertaining to in-principle approval was held to be premature and unassailable, while the Appellants were given liberty to file their challenge once the final order is passed by the State Government. Similarly, in the case of *Milind Pariwakam v. Union of India, O.A. No. 52/2015*, this Hon'ble Tribunal yet again held that only an order passed under

Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act is appealable under Section 16 of the NGT Act, 2010. Thus, it is clear that an Appeal challenging the In-Principle Stage I approval is premature, unassailable and liable to be quashed. In light of the established legal position, it is humbly submitted that the Appellants could not have challenged the In-Principal Approval as the same stands to be premature in light of the grant of the Working Permit to IDCO and accordingly, the current Appeal is liable to be dismissed on this ground alone. It is reiterated that now with Stage-II Clearance having been granted, the present Appeal is infructuous and is liable to be dismissed.

14. That the Respondent No.4 reserves its right to raise all its points on merits as and when required. Further, it is important to highlight that there are a catena of cases such as one held by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in the case of M/s Harrisons Malayalam Limited v. State of Kerala & Ors. [2018 (2) KLT 369] that public outcry ought not to influence adjudication (Para 163).

15. It is also settled law that sustainable development ought to balance the interests of industries, economy and the protection of the environment and reference in this regard is made to the cases of Indian Council of Enviro Legal Action v. Union of India [1996 (5) SCC 281 - Para 31, 33], Research Foundation for Science Technology & Natural Resource Policy v. Union of India [(2007) 15 SCC 193 – Para 10-12], G. Sundarrajan v. Union of India & Ors [2013 (6) SCC 620 – Para 201-204, 236-238] and Samaj Parivartana Samudaya v. State of Karnataka and Ors. [WP (C) No. 562 of 2009 – Para 17].

Date: 06.05.2026
Place: Kolkata

DRAWN AND FILED BY:

Mbachani

Eisha Krishn, Mansi Bachani,
Gitanjali Sanyal & Anubhav Anand
Advocates for Respondent No. 6

SETTLED BY:
Shri Sanjay Upadhyay
[Senior Advocate]

IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

APPEAL NO. 04 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

Munidei Majhi & Ors. …Applicant

-Versus-

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Ors. …Respondent (s)

AFFIDAVIT

I, Satyapriya, S/o Shri Arvind Shankar Singh, aged about 50 years, am the authorized signatory for M/s Vedanta Limited Core-6, 3rd Floor, Scope Complex, 7, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003, do hereby solemnly affirms and declares as under:

1. That I am fully conversant of the facts and circumstances of the matter and am competent to swear this affidavit.
2. The contents of the accompanying Reply are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and have been drafted by the counsel on my instructions and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.
3. That the Annexures in the Reply are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I identified the deponent who has signed in my presence
D/85/24/2018

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

Verified at New Delhi on this 06 MAY 2026 day of May, 2026 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed there from.

NOTARY GOVT. OF INDIA
NEELAM SHARMA
ADVOCATE
DELHI
REGD. NO.: 8227
EXPIRY DATE
04/09/2030

ATTESTED

NOTARY (Govt. of India)
Neelam Sharma, Advocate
Enrol. No.-D1281/2001
Ch. No. 165A, Gate No. 11,
Patiala House Courts,
New Delhi-110001
(M):9899408301

DEPONENT

06 MAY 2026

ANNEXURE A15

F. No. 11-306/ 2014-FC (*pt.*)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi - 110 001
Dated: 28th August, 2015

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
All State Governments /Union territory Administrations

Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Simplified procedure for grant of permission for felling of trees standing on forest land to be diverted for execution of linear projects: *reg*.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to guidelines on the afore-mentioned subject issued by this Ministry vide letters of even number dated 7th May 2015, wherein this Ministry communicated a simplified procedure for grant of permission for tree cutting and commencement of work of linear project in forest land, and to say that after further examination of these guidelines it has been observed that having obtained the permission for tree felling and execution of work on forest land, urgency/need to obtain stage-II approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act) reduces. It has also been apprehended in some quarters that in many such cases State Governments may not seek and obtain stage-II approval under the FC Act, and consequently many of conditions, other than those relating to payment of compensatory levies and transfer and mutation in favour of State Forest Department of land for compensatory afforestation, may remain unfulfilled.

2. Accordingly, in supersession of this Ministry's said letter/guidelines of even number dated 7th May, 2015, I am directed to say as below:

(i) With a view to facilitate speedy execution of projects involving linear diversion of forest land such as laying of new roads, widening of existing highways, transmission lines, water supply lines, optic fiber cabling, railway lines *etc.*, in-principle approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act) issued by the Central Government may be deemed as the working permission for tree cutting and commencement of work, if the required funds for compensatory afforestation, net present value (NPV), wildlife conservation plan, plantation of dwarf species of medicinal plants, and all such other compensatory levies specified in the in-principle approval are realised from the user

agency and where necessary, for compensatory afforestation, transfer and mutation of non-forest/revenue forest land in favour of State Forest Department is affected;

(ii) After the afore-mentioned compensatory levies specified in the in-principle approval are realised from the user agency and where necessary, for compensatory afforestation, transfer and mutation of non-forest/revenue forest land in favour of State Forest Department is affected, the State Government or a Senior Officer not below the Rank of a Divisional Forest Officer, having jurisdiction over the forest land proposed to be diverted, duly authorized in this behalf by the State Government, **shall pass an order for tree cutting and commencement of work of a linear project in forest land for a period of one year**. The central Government may extend the permission for one more year subject to submission of reasonable progress report from the State Government as regards to the steps taken to comply with the remaining conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval.

(iii) No non-forest activity in the forest area that is covered under Section 2 of the FC Act would be permitted and carried on in any manner whatsoever unless an order specified in para (ii) above has been passed by the competent authority of that State Government and is placed in the public domain by putting it on its website and all other requirements in accordance with law are complied with;

(iv) For the purpose of Section 2A of the FC Act and Section 16 (e) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (NGT Act) the Order for tree cutting and commencement of work of linear project in forest land, specified in para (ii) above, shall be an order under Section 2 of the FC Act;

(v) An appeal as per provisions of section 2 A of FC Act and/or Section 16 (e) of the NGT Act can be filed against any such order specified in para (ii) above for tree cutting and commencement of work of linear project in forest land;

(vi) In the event of filing of such appeal, it would be open for the person aggrieved, to assail the order/clearance granted by the Central Government under Section 2 of the FC Act which forms an integral part and sole basis of the order specified in para (ii) above;

(vii) The State Government and the project proponent shall take further action as has been stipulated by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in their Judgment dated 7th November 2012 in Appeal No. 7/2012 to accord publicity and to ensure availability in public domain of in-principle approval under the FC Act accorded by the Central Government and the order specified in para (ii) above. State Government and the project proponent shall also ensure strict compliance of other direction(s) contained in the said judgment; and

(viii) The State Governments, in such cases shall seek and obtain from the Central Government final/formal approval under the FC Act for diversion of such forest land at the earliest, and in any case not later than five years from the date of grant of the in-principle approval.

This issues with approval of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Yours faithfully,

(H.C. Chaudhary)
Director

Copy to:-

1. Prime Minister's Office (***Kind attn.:*** Shri Santosh D. Vaidya, Director), South Block, New Delhi.
2. The Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Chairman, Railways Board, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, Transport Bhawan, New Delhi.
7. Director General, Border Roads Organization, New Delhi.
8. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all States/UTs.
9. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT Governments.
10. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India (GoI).
11. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
12. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests/ Directors in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
13. Director, Regional Offices Headquarters Division, MoEFCC, GoI.

14. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEFCC, GoI with a request to place a copy of this letter on website of this Ministry.
15. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, GoI.
16. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEFCC, GoI.
17. Sr. PPS to the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC, GoI.
18. PS to the Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC, GoI.
19. Guard File.

(H.C. Chaudhary)
Director

ANNEXURE A16

English

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Project Name:	Sijimali Bauxite Mines	**Single Window Number:**	SW/178967/2024
		Proposal Number:	FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024
State:	ODISHA	**Current Status:**	**Pending on UA for Levies Payment**
Submission Date:	25/06/2024	**Area (in ha):**	708.204

View Agenda | View MoM

PARIVESH
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India

View Proposal Revision Summary

Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

Back

Common Application Form

Project Details

1. Details of Proiect

1.1. Name of the Project	Sijimali Bauxite Mines
1.2. Project Proposal For	New
1. Project ID (Single Window 3. Number)	SW/178967/2024
1.4. Description of Project	The Sijimali Bauxite Block area has been granted by Govt. of Odisha, Steel & Mines Department vide letter No.2103/S&M, Bhubaneswar dated 01.03.2023 in favour of M/s Vedanta Limited after becoming successful bidder. Out of the total block area of 1548.786 Ha, the involvement of forest land is 708.204 Ha which is required for quarry excavation and other related mining activities which need to be diverted.

2. Details of the Company/Organization/User Agency making application

2.1. Legal Status of the Company/Organization/User Agency	Company
2. Name of the Company/ **2.** Organization/User agency	SHUVRENDU ROYCHOUDHURY

Registered address

2.3. Address	Vedanta Limited-1st Floor, C Wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue Atul Projects, Chakala , Andheri (East) Mumbai, Mumbai City, Maharashtra 400093,India
2.4. State	MAHARASHTRA
2.5. District	MUMBAI SUBURBAN
2.6. Pin Code	400093
2.7. E-mail address	mines.kuraloi@vedanta.co.in
2.8. Mobile number	xxxxxx1828

3. Details of the person making application

3.1. Name	Purnendu Pandey
3.2. Designation	Project Head - Kuraloi A North Coal Mine

Correspondence address

3.3. Address	Vedanta Limited-1st Floor, C Wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue Atul Projects, Chakala , Andheri (East) Mumbai, Mumbai City, Maharashtra 400093,India
3.4. State	MAHARASHTRA
3.5. District	MUMBAI SUBURBAN
3.6. Pin Code	751023
3.7. E-mail address	mines.kuraloi@vedanta.co.in
3.8. Landline Number	5666351
3.9. Mobile number	xxxxxx1828

Project Location

4. Location of the Project or Activity

4.1. Upload KML	Sijimali Project KML File.kml **Preview**
4.2. Whether the project/activity falling in the state/UT sharing international borders	NO

borders

4.3. Shape of the Project	Non - Linear

Location Details

Toposheet No	State/UT	District	Sub District	Village	Plot/Survey/K No.
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur	TIJMALI	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, ,13,14,15,16,17,18, 21,22,23,24,25,2 8,28/272,28/21 219,28/220,28/ /222,28/223,28 28/225,28/226 27,28/228,28/2 /230,28/231,28 28/233,28/234 35,28/236,28/2 /238,28/239,28 28/241,28/242 31,32,33,34,35,3 38,39,40,41,42, 45,46,47,48,49 52,53,54,55,56 ,59,60,61,62,63 ,66,67,68,69,70 73,74,75,76,77,7 80,81,82,83,84, /202,85/203,8 85/205,85/20 7,88,88/199,88

Thuam

E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	ul Rampur	Nakarundi	10,10/604,11,12,1 ,14
E44F2	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Aligun a	1,2,7,8,10,249,25 ,254,258,259,2
E44F2	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	MALIPADAR	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, ,13,14,15,16,17,18, 21,22,23,24,25,2 8,29,30,31,32,33 5,36,37,38,39,4 2,43,44,45,46,4 49,50,51,52,53, 56,57,58,59,60 63,64,65,66,67 ,70,71,72,73,74,7 7,78,79,80,81,83 4,85,86,87,88,8 91,92,93,94,95, 98,99,100,101,10 04,105,106,107,1 9,110,1121,112,44, /31,44/33,45/2 /296,87/257
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur	CHULBADI	444/601,405,4 417,428,439,44 463,484
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Bundel	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Dumerpadar	377,378,403,43

		ada	ul	a	
E44F3	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur	Mahajal	1,67,68,69,70,7
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur	Tadadei	1,2,3,4,5,5/11,5/
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Katibhata	1
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur	Ambajhola	234,235,236
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur	Salebali	1
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur	Talambpadar	414,415
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur	Taramundi	1.2.3.4.5.6.7.50.53.54.55.56.57
		Kalaha	Thuamul	Upara	108,109,110,111,11

E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Rampur	mbpadar	35,136,137,138,1
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Kutamal	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, ,13,14,15,16,17,18, 21,22,23,24,25,2 8,29,30,31,32,3 8,39,40,43,44,7 6,787
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Pelanakona	84,85,86
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Shagabari	768,770,771,772 74,775,781,782, 95,1196,1197

Remarks
N/A

5. Land Requirement (in Ha) of the project or activity

5.1. Nature of Land involved	
5.2. Non-Forest Land [A]	840.582
5.3. Forest Land [B]	708.204

5.4. Total Land [A+B]	1548.786

Project Activity Cost

7. Project/Activity Cost

7.1.	Total Cost of the Project at current price level (in Lakhs)	79200 Amount in Words : **Seventy Nine Thousand Two Hundred Lakh(s) Only**

8. Employment likely to be generated

8.1. During construction phase

Permanent employment

8.1.1. No. of permanent employment (No.s) [A]	100
8.1.2. Period of employment (No. of days) [B]	365
8.1.3. No. of man-days [X]= [A]*[B]	36500

Temporary employment

8.1.4. Temporary / Contractual employment (No. of Man days) [Y]	400
8.1.5. Total [X] +[Y]	36900

8.2. During operational phase

Permanent employment

8.2.1. No. of permanent employment (No.s) [A]	600
8.2.2. Period of employment (No. of days) [B]	365
8.2.3. No. of man-days [X]= [A]*[B]	219000

Temporary employment

8.2.4. Temporary / Contractual employment (No. of Man days) [Y]	500
8.2.5. Total [X] +[Y]	219500

Others

9. Whether Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) involved?	YES

9.1. No. of Villages	2
9.2. No. of Project Displaced Families	100
9.3. No. of Project Affected Families	100
9.4. Status of Rehabilitation & Resettlement	In-Progress

10. Whether project area involves shifting of watercourse/road/rail/Transmission line/water pipeline, etc. required?	NO

11. Whether any alternative site(s) examined or part thereof for the non-site-specific component?	Not applicable as the project or activity is site specific

12. Whether there is any

Government Order or Policy/ Court order relevant or restricting to the site?	NO
13. Whether there is any litigation pending against the project and/or land in which the project is proposed to be set up?	NO
14. Whether the proposal involves violation of Act/Rule/Regulation/Notification of Central/State Government?	NO

Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

Project Details

1. Forest Clearance

1.1. State	ODISHA
1. Upload a copy of note containing justification 2. for locating the Project in forest land	Justification for locating the project in forest area.pdf **Preview**
1.3. Project Category	Mining / Quarrying
1.3.1. Project Sub-	

Category	Non-Coal
1.4. Exempted Category	NA
1. Is Related to 5. Encrochment?	No
1.6. Whether any proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan)	No

Proposed Land

2. Details of Forestland proposed to be diverted (Village / Division / District Wise Breakup)

2.1. Total area of forestland proposed for diversion (ha.)	708.204
2.2. Total area of non-forestland required for this project (ha.)	840.582

this project (ha.)

2.3. Legal Status of forest land proposed for diversion

Area (ha)	Legal Status of Forest Land
620.349	District Level Committee (D.L.C.) Forest
12.408	Revenue Forest
75.447	PF, FRA & Sabik Forest

2.3.1. Total Area (ha)	708.2040

2.4. Total period for which the forestland is proposed to be diverted (No. of years)	50

KML Details

Division	Kalahandi South Division
No. of Patches	11
KML	62450990_FC_KML_17138 68109519_Project Forest Patch KLD.kml **Preview**

Location Details

Non

Topo sheet No.	District	Village	Range	Forest land proposed for diversion (ha)	Forest Land (ha)
E44F2	Kalahandi	Ambajhola	Rampur North	0	11.805
E44F3	Kalahandi	Chulbadi	Rampur North	55.200	86.204
E44F2	Kalahandi	TIJMALI	Rampur North	79.681	102.373
E44F2	Kalahandi	Mahajal	Rampur North	0	75.529
E44F2	Kalahandi	Nakarundi	Rampur North	8.082	7.175
E44F2	Kalahan	Salebali	Rampur Nort	0	2.703

	di		h		
E44F2	Kalahandi	Tadadei	Rampur North	0.660	38.904
E44F2	Kalahandi	Talambpadar	Rampur North	0	9.284
E44F2	Kalahandi	Taramundi	Rampur North	0	208.540
E44F2	Kalahandi	Uparambpadar	Rampur North	0	51.152

Patch Details

Patch/ Segment ID	Forest Area (ha)	Non-Forest Area (ha)	Remarks if any
1	17.726	593.669	
2	22.906	0	
3	14.569	0	

4	18.305	0
5	6.637	0
6	1.493	0
7	4.403	0
8	47.273	0
9	4.945	0
10	3.136	0
11	2.23	0

Remarks Details

Division	Rayagada Division
No. of Patches	20
KML	62450990_FC_KML_1747750480643_rayagada total forest patch kml.kml Preview

Location Details

Toposheet No.	District	Village	Range	Forest land proposed for diversion (ha)	Non Forest Land (ha)
E44F2	Rayagada	Aliguna	Kashipur	20.574	10.236
E44F3	Rayagada	Bundel	Kashipur	26.380	0.373
	Ray		Ka		

E44F2	agadda	Kutamal	shipur	85.499	64.55
E44F3	Rayagadda	MALIPADAR	Kashipur	421.46	144.488
E44F3	Rayagadda	Dumerpadara	Kashipur	0.567	7.754
E44F3	Rayagadda	Katibhata	Kashipur	4.553	0
E44F3	Rayagadda	Pelanakona	Kashipur	3.541	0
E44F3	Rayagadda	Shagabari	Kashipur	2.007	19.512

Patch Details

Patch/ Segment ID	Forest Area (ha)	Non-Forest Area (ha)	Remarks if any
1	383.781	144.488	FP Patch -9 as per DGPS Map
2	11.862	0	FP Patch -10as per DGPS Map
3	13.559	0	FP Patch -11 as per DGPS Map
4	2.707	0	FP Patch -12as per DGPS Map
5	9.206	0	FP Patch -13 as per DGPS Map
6	0.344	0	FP Patch -14 as per DGPS Map
7	0.567	7.754	FP Patch -15 as per DGPS Map
8	1.514	19.512	FP Patch -16as per DGPS Map
9	0.494	0	FP Patch -17 as per DGPS Map
10	19.189	10.236	FP Patch -18 as per DGPS Map

			per DGPS Map
11	1.21	0	FP Patch -19 as per DGPS Map
12	0.175	0	FP Patch -20 as per DGPS Map
13	3.541	0	FP Patch -21 as per DGPS Map
14	4.553	0	FP Patch -22 as per DGPS Map
15	23.345	0.373	FP Patch -23 as per DGPS Map
16	3.035	0	FP Patch -24 as per DGPS Map
17	19.443	64.55	FP Patch -25 as per DGPS Map
18	8.701	0	FP Patch -26 as per DGPS Map
19	9.462	0	FP Patch -27 as per DGPS Map
20	47.893	0	FP Patch -28 as per DGPS Map

Remarks Details

Total Patch-wise Forest Land in the division (ha)	
2.5. Total Forest Land Area (ha)	708.2040
2.6. Total Non Forest Land Area (ha)	840.5820

Total KML-wise Forest Land in the division (ha.)	
2.7. Total Forest Land Area (ha)	708.204
2.8. Total Non Forest Land Area (ha)	840.582
2.9. Total Area (ha)	1548.786

3. Component Wise Break Up (Including underground works such as tunnel and similar purpose)-if applicable

Component	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)

Mined out reclaimed and rehabiliated area	580.445	624.685
Safety Zone area	11.195	21.675
Untouched area	116.564	194.222

4. Total Forest Land(ha)	708.2040000000001
5. Total Non Forest Land (ha)	840.5820
6. Upload map of the forest land proposed to be diverted prepared by using DGPS or Total Station (pdf only)	DGPS Map.pdf **Preview**

Afforestation Details

7. Details of land identified for Compensatory Afforestation

7.1. Whether Compensatory Afforestation is applicable or not?	Yes
7.1.1. Type of Compensatory Afforestation	Non-forest Land
7.1.1.1. Whether Non-forest land is available?	Yes

7.1.1.2. Patch wise details

Kml File Name
total ca land kml.kml **Preview**

TopoSheet No.	State	District	Village	Plot No. /Khasra No.	Present Owner	Are
E44E14	ODISHA	Kalahandi	SAMAPALA	103(P), 104, 105, 106, 107, 108(P)	GoO	85.00
E44F5	ODI	Rayag	Barat	4(P), 23(P),	GoO	34.

	SHA	ada	aran	24, 25		09
E44F5	ODISHA	Rayagada	DEMUPADAR	129(P), 132(P), 133, 134, 135(P), 136(P), 137(P)	GoO	58.00
E44F5	ODISHA	Rayagada	JAMBAPADAR	4(P), 6(P), 25, 46(P), 47	GoO	40.40
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Kanjiguda	240(P), 237(P), 241(P), 242(P)	GoO	55.00
E44F5	ODISHA	Rayagada	MARAGALU	1(P), 3, 5(P)	GoO	34.9
E44F10	ODISHA	Rayagada	DAMBALU	1(P)	GoO	3.2
E44F5	ODISHA	Rayagada	PIRELAPADAR	2, 3, 4, 5(P), 21(P)	GoO	77.81
E44F5	ODISHA	Rayagada	BADINGAPA	1(P), 43(P),	GoO	38.4

			DAR	44		
E44F10	ODISHA	Rayagada	LADIPANGA	208(P), 362(P), 363(P), 364(P)	GoO	46.22
E44F5	ODISHA	Rayagada	UMBER	46(P), 87, 88(P), 91, 92	GoO	69.66
E44F5	ODISHA	Rayagada	ALIBHATA	1, 2, 3(P)	GoO	36.5
E44F5	ODISHA	Rayagada	BARAPAJIBALI	1, 2, 3, 4(P), 10, 11, 14(P)	GoO	87.1
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Malatipadar	302, 307(P)	GoO	18.73
E44F10	ODISHA	Rayagada	KAUGURA	44(P), 46(P)	GoO	38.95

7.1.1.3. Number of patches.	21
7.1.1.4. No. of districts involved for raising Compensatory	2

Afforestation.	
7.1.1.5. Total CA Land	724.22
7.1.1.6. Upload a scanned copy of the map of the land identified for creation of Compensatory Afforestation prepared by using GPS or Total Station (pdf only)	total ca dgps map.pdf **Preview**
7.1.1.7. Whether the area of non-forest land or Revenue forest land required to be provided by User Agency for raising Compensatory Afforestation is less than area of forest land proposed to be diverted?	No
7.1.1.8. Whether NFL is free from Non-Encumbrance	Yes
7.1.1.9. Whether the present owner of NFL is	Yes

different from the User Agency	Yes
7.1.1.9.1. Upload MoU/agreement executed between the present owner and the user agency	CA Allotment Order.pdf **Preview**

Others

8. Cost-Benefit analysis

8.1. Whether Cost-	

Benefit analysis for the Project has been made?	Yes
8.1.1. Total Loss (Against the proposed forest land Diversion in crore)	371.77
8.1.2. Estimated Benefits of Forest Diversion (in crore)	275674.33
8.1.3. Cost Benefit Ratio	741.5185
8.1.4. Upload a copy of Cost-Benefit analysis	Cost Benefit Analysis.pdf **Preview**

9. Environmental clearance Details

9.1. Whether the Project	

requires Clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (Environmental clearance)?	Yes
9.1.1. Status of Environmental Clearance	Application submitted
9.1.1.1. Proposal No	IA/OR/MIN/423359/2023
9.1.1.2. Date of application	14/08/2023
9.1.1.3. MoEFCC / SEIAA File Number	IA-J-11015/6/2023-IA-II(NCM)
9.1.1.4. Status of application [Submitted recently / ToR Granted / PH Conducted / Under appraisal]	ToR Granted

10. Wildlife clearance Details

10.1. Whether the Project or a part thereof is located in any Protected Area or their Eco sensitive zone?	No

Category Specific Details

11. Sector specific detail/attachments

11.1. Copy of approved mining plan along with approval letter	Approve Mine Plan with letter.pdf **Preview**
11.2. Copy of map of the outer boundary of mining lease area (pdf only)	Layout Map.pdf **Preview**
11.3. Copy of the detailed land use plan in 1:4,000 scale prepared by using	Proposed Plan Map PLATE V.pdf **Preview**

DGPS or Total Station (Kml only)	
11.4. Copy of the prospecting licence and extension of the prospecting licence, if any	N/A
11.5. Copy of the approval accorded for MoEFCC for prospecting	N/A
11.6. Copy of note containing details of the plan for the transportation of the minerals proposed to be raised from the mining lease (pdf only)	The transportation of the minerals proposed to be raised from the mining lease.pdf **Preview**

12. Period of validity of Mining Plan

12.1. From	16/08/2023
12.2. To	31/03/2073
13. Period of Mining Lease(Years)	50
14. Name of approving authority for the Mining	IBM Bhubaneswar

authority for the Mining plan	IBM Bhubaneswar

15. Details of Prospecting undertaken to assess mineral reserves

15.1. Whether detailed prospecting to assess mineral reserves in the lease has been undertaken	No

16. Brief details of Prospecting activities undertaken in the mining lease

16.1. Details of bore holes drilled for prospecting

Forest Land		Non-Forest Land	
No. of Bore holes	Diameters(Inch)	No. of Bore holes	Diameters(Inch)
40	3.94	51	3.94

17. Mineral Reserves

Name

Name of Mineral	Proved Reserves	Indicated Reserves	Inferred Reserves	Mineable Reserves	R
Bauxite	0.001	0.001	0.001	299.58	

18. Estimated reserves in Forest / Non-Forest land if any

Name of Mineral	Estimated Reserve in Forest Land	Estimated Reserve in Non-Forest Land	Remarks

19. Details of Letter of Intent (LoI) / Vesting order / Mining Lease

19.1. Date of issue of LoI/Vesting order/Mining Lease	01/03/2023
19.2. Period of validity of LoI / Vesting order (years and months)	26/03
19.3. Period of lease (years and months)	76/03
19.4. Date of expiry of lease	31/03/2076
19.5. Lease area (in ha) as per LoI/Vesting order/Mining Lease	1549.022

19.6. Production

19.6. Production capacity (in MTPA) as per LoI / Vesting Order / Mining lease, if any prescribed	9
19.7. Details of Lease renewal(s), if any	
	Product capacity may shall be enhanced from 9
19.8. Other information, if any	MTPA to as per required by management and approved from Govt of Odisha as per statute.
20. Status of approval of Mining plan	Approved

21. Minerals to be mined

Name of Mineral	Classification	Production Capacity	Remarks
Bauxite	Major	9	

22. Details of Total excavation (RoM) including Topsoil, Overburden, Mining waste, Rejects, etc.

22.1. Total excavation in MTPA	18

22.2. Total Excavation in M.Cu.m/Annum	9
22.3. Stripping Ratio	0.46
22.4. Other information, if any	

23. Life of mine (years and months)

23.1. Life of the mine as per approved mining plan (in years and months)	35/04
23.2. Life of the mine as per total estimated reserves, if any (in years and months)	35/04
23.3. Other information, if any	Total mineable reserve is 299.58 MT. Production @9MTPA and the life of the mine will be 35.04 months. However, the life

	of the mine may increase after further exploration.

24. Type and method of Mining Method

24.1. Type of mining	Opencast
24.2. Method of mining	Mechanized
24.3. Other information, if any	Mine will be operated by fully mechanised open cast method of mining in two to three pits with 2 to 3 mobile crushers of 1200 TPH crushing capacity

25. Type of blasting, if any, to be adopted

25.1. Type of blasting	Staggered pattern with Control blasting
25.2. Mitigation measures for control of blast induced vibrations	Control blasting will be carried out. Rock breaker will be deployed for breaking the oversized boulders. To control the ground vibration as well as fly rock only 100% Non-Electric (NONEL) detonators will be used.
	Mine will be operated by fully mechanised method

25.3. Other information, if any	fully mechanised method of mining with ripper dozer combination with control blasting in two to three pits in twenty four hours (Three shifts). All environmental measures shall be done for pollution prevention and control .
26. Whether it is proposed to install beneficiation plant/Coal washery within the mining lease area?	No
26.1. Capacity of beneficiation/washery (in MTPA)	N/A
26.2. Proposed process	N/A
26.3. Beneficiation/Washing Technology	N/A
26.4. Other information, if any	

27. Whether it is proposed to install crusher within the mining lease area?	Yes

27.1. No. Of crushers	2
27.2. Capacity of crushers	4.5 N/A
27.3. Total Capacity of crushers	9 N/A

28. Dumping strategy

Description	Area in Ha	Maximum height in m	Remarks
External dump	0.001	0.001	
Internal dump	0.001	0.001	
Topsoil dump/ storage	0.001	0.001	

29. Topsoil management

29.1. Total Topsoil excavated during the entire life of the mine (mm3)	4647066
29.2. Utilization strategy	Backfilling and plantation

of topsoil	
29.3. Other information, if any	

30. Details of the Quarry/Mine Pit

30.1. Total Quarry Area (ha.)	1205.13
30.2. Area of final void (ha.)	1205.13
30.3. Maximum Depth of final void (m)	30
30.4. Other information, if any	As per the approved mining plan progressive reclamation by backfilling and plantation shall be done.

31. Details of Transportation

31.1. Mode of transportation upto pit head	Through trippers and dumpers by haul road
31.2. Mode of transportation from pit head to siding/loading	Through rear dump trucks. Bauxite will be loaded by front-end loaders or hydraulic excavators. Initially, the

head to siding/loading	bauxite will be transported via road and rail networks.
31.3. Mode of transport from loading point to consumers	By road, rail & conveyor network
31.4. Other information, if any	The transportation of mineral shall be done by road, rail and conveyor networks.

32. Details of reclamation/post mining land use

32.1. Plantation area (ha.)	1205.13
32.2. Water body (ha.)	0.001
32.3. Public use (ha.)	0.001
32.4. Other uses (ha.)	343.656

33. Copy of Additional Information, if any

S. No.	Document Name	Remark	Document
1	EDS compliance of MoEF & CC	EDS compliance of MoEF & CC	eds_reply moef.pdf **Preview**
2	CA Cadastral Map	CA Cadastral Map	total ca cadastral map.pdf **Preview**
3	Distance Map of WL Sanctuary & National Park	Distance Map of WL Sanctuary & National Park	wildlife map.pdf **Preview**
4	DSS Analysis Report and Maps	DSS Analysis Report and Maps	dss report & maps.pdf **Preview**
5	CA Land Schedule	CA Land Schedule	ca ls.pdf **Preview**
6	CA Suitability Certificate	CA Suitability Certificate	CA Suitability Certificate.pdf **Preview**
	Non		non

7	Encroachment Certificate	Non-Encroachment Certificate	encroachment certificate.pdf **Preview**
8	CA Topo Map	CA Topo Map	tota ca topomap.pdf **Preview**
9	CA DGPS Map	CA DGPS Map	total ca dgps map.pdf **Preview**
10	Component wise KML file	Component wise KML file	component wise kml file.kml **Preview**
11	Tree Enumeration list of Non Forest area Kalahandi	Tree Enumeration list of Non Forest area Kalahandi	30 tree enumeration non forest area kld.pdf **Preview**
12	Tree Enumeration list of Forest area Kalahandi	Tree Enumeration list of Forest area Kalahandi	31 tree enumeration forest area kld.pdf **Preview**

	Kalahandi		
13	Tree Enumeration list of Forest area Rayagada	Tree Enumeration list of Forest area Rayagada	tree enumeration forest area rgda.pdf **Preview**
14	Tree Enumeration list of NF area Rayagada part	Tree Enumeration list of NF area Rayagada part	30.tree enmuration non forest area rgda.pdf **Preview**
15	Village wise DGPS map	Village wise DGPS map	Village wise DGPS map_1.pdf **Preview**
16	48th PSC EDS Compliance Sijimali FDP	48th PSC EDS Compliance Sijimali FDP	48th PSC EDS Compliance Sijimali FDP.pdf **Preview**
17	CA Suitability Certificate	CA Suitability Certificate	CA Suitability Certificate.pdf **Preview**
		Map showing the	Landuse

18	Land Use Map	Proposed land use of ML area within 1st five plan period	Map.pdf **Preview**
19	Undertaking for Undisturbed Forest Area	Undertaking for Undisturbed Forest Area	Undertaking for Undisturbed Forest Area.pdf **Preview**
20	Authorization letter	The authorization letter from Purnendu Pandey to Kanshajit Bhaumick due certification from respective DFOs. (Sl. no. 5 Compliance of EDS)	Authorization .pdf **Preview**
21	Information of other mining leases	Information of other mining leases	Information of other mining leases.pdf **Preview**
22	Brief Description of The	Brief Description of The Project-Sijimali	Brief Description of The Project-

	Project		Sijimali.pdf **Preview**
23	Undertaking to maintain the Safety Zone As Greenbe	Undertaking to maintain the Safety Zone As Greenbelt	Undertaking to maintain the Safety Zone As Greenbelt.pdf **Preview**
24	Undertaking for Payment of NPV	Undertaking for Payment of NPV	Undertaking for Payment of NPV.pdf **Preview**
25	Undertaking for Payment of Cost of PCA RWLMP SSWLC	Undertaking for Payment of Cost of PCA RWLMP SSWLCP SZ 1.5 SZ ETC	Undertaking for Payment of Cost of PCA RWLMP SSWLCP SZ 1.5 SZ ETC.pdf **Preview**
26	Undertaking for Payment of Cost of CA	Undertaking for Payment of Cost of CA	Undertaking for Payment of Cost of CA.pdf **Preview**
	Undertaking for		Undertaking for Payment

27	ng for Payment of Cost of Additional CA	Undertaking for Payment of Cost of Additional CA	for Payment of Cost of Additional CA.pdf **Preview**
28	Undertaking for Payment of Additional NPV	Undertaking for Payment of Additional NPV	Undertaking for Payment of Additional NPV.pdf **Preview**
29	Statement Showing Non-Forest Area Proposed For Div	Statement Showing Non-Forest Area Proposed For Diversion	Statement Showing Non-Forest Area Proposed For Diversion.pdf **Preview**
30	Statement Showing Forest Area Proposed For Diversi	Statement Showing Forest Area Proposed For Diversion	Statement Showing Forest Area Proposed For Diversion.pdf **Preview**
31	Certificate for Minimum	Certificate for Minimum Use of	Certificate for Minimum Use of Forest

31	Use of Forest Land	Minimum Use of Forest Land	Use of Forest Land.pdf **Preview**
32	FRA Undertakings and Certificates	FRA Undertakings and FRA Certificates	FRA Undertaking_1.pdf **Preview**
33	Status of land as on 25.10.1980	Status of land as on 25.10.1980 (Sabik Landschedule)	Status of land as on 25.10.1980.pdf **Preview**
34	Land Schedule of project area	Land Schedule of project area	Land Schedule of project area.pdf **Preview**
35	Cost Benefit Analysis	Cost Benefit Analysis	Cost Benefit Analysis.pdf **Preview**
36	Layout Map	Layout Map	Layout Map.pdf **Preview**
37	DGPS Map	DGPS Map	DGPS Map.pdf

			Preview
38	PLATE VII	Phased Reclamation Map	Phased Reclation Map PLATE VII.pdf Preview
39	PLATE VI	Safety Zone PLATE VI	Safety Zone PLATE VI.pdf Preview
40	PLATE V	Proposed Plan Map PLATE V	Proposed Plan Map PLATE V.pdf Preview
41	PLATE IV	Present Land Use Map	Present Land Use Map PLATE IV.pdf Preview
42	Topomap	Topomap	Topomap.pdf Preview
43	CA Cadastral Map	CA Cadastral Map	CA Cadastral Map.pdf Preview
44	ToR grant letter	ToR grant letter	ToR grant letter.pdf

	letter		Preview
45	The transportation of the minerals proposed to be	The transportation of the minerals proposed to be raised from the mining lease	The transportation of the minerals proposed to be raised from the mining lease.pdf Preview
46	Scheme for Reclamation & afforestation	Scheme for Reclamation & afforestation	Scheme for Reclamation & afforestation.pdf Preview
47	PSC Compliance letter	PSC Compliance letter	PSC Compliance letter.pdf Preview
48	POA	POA	POA.pdf Preview
49	LOI	LOI	LOI.pdf Preview

50	Justification for locating the selected site	Justification for locating the selected site	Justification for locating the selected site.pdf **Preview**
51	Justification	Justification for locating the project in forest area	Justification for locating the project in forest area.pdf **Preview**
52	Details of the linked end use Project	Details of the linked end use Project	Details of the linked end use Project.pdf **Preview**
53	CA Allotment Order	CA Allotment Order	CA Allotment Order.pdf **Preview**
54	Approve Mine Plan with letter	Approve Mine Plan with letter	Approve Mine Plan with letter.pdf **Preview**

55	Undertaking to pay the Net Present Value (NPV)	Undertaking to pay the Net Present Value (NPV)	Undertaking to pay the Net Present Value (NPV).pdf **Preview**
56	Undertaking to carry out any mining works in fores	Undertaking to carry out any mining works in forest land	Undertaking to carry out any mining works in forest land.pdf **Preview**
57	UNDERTAKING FOR STATUTORY PAYMENT	UNDERTAKING FOR STATUTORY PAYMENT	UNDERTAKING FOR STATUTORY PAYMENT.pdf **Preview**
58	UNDERTAKING FOR R & R PIAN	UNDERTAKING FOR R & R PIAN	UNDERTAKING FOR R & R PIAN.pdf **Preview**

Undertaking

☑ I hereby give undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures

information given in the application and enclosures are true to be best of my knowledge and belief and I am aware that if any part of the data and information is found to be false or misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and clearance given if any to the project will be revoked at our risk and cost. In addition to the above, I hearby give undertaking that no activity/construction/expansion has been taken up

34. Name	Purnendu Pandey
35. Designation	Chief New Mines & Approvals
36. Company	SHUVRENDU ROYCHOUDHURY
37. Address	Vedanta Limited-1st Floor, C Wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue Atul Projects, Chakala , Andheri (East) Mumbai, Mumbai City, Maharashtra

Project Name: Proposed acess road connecting from Siji... | **Proposal Number:** FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025

View Agenda View MoM

PARIVESH
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India

View Proposal Revision Summary

Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

Back

Common Application Form

Project Details

1. Details of Project

1.1. Name of the Project	Proposed acess road connecting from Sijimali bauxite mines (Hill Top) to SH-44
1.2. Project Proposal For	New
1.3. Project ID (Single Window Number)	SW/234460/2025
1.4. Description of Project	The proposed road is from Sijimali mines top to SH-44 to facilitate the bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Raygada District in the state of Odisha.

2. Details of the Company/Organization/User Agency making application

2.1. Legal Status of the Company/Organization/ User Agency	State Government (Department/Autonomous body)
2.2. Name of the Company/ Organization/User agency	IDCO

Registered address

2.3. Address	IDCOTOWERS,JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR-751022
2.4. State	ODISHA
2.5. District	KHORDHA
2.6. Pin Code	751022
2.7. Landmarks	JANPATH
2.8. E-mail address	skakmal.anjum@gmail.com
2.9. Mobile number	xxxxxx2538

3. Details of the person making application

3.1. Name	Ashok Kumar Mishra
3.2. Designation	Chief General Manager (Environment)

Correspondence address

3.3. Address	IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar
3.4. Village /Town / City	Janpath
3.5. State	ODISHA
3.6. District	KHORDHA
3.7. Pin Code	751022
3.8. E-mail address	mis.support@idco.in
3.9. Landline Number	2544180
3.10. Mobile number	xxxxxx2538

Project Location

4. Location of the Project or Activity

4.1. Upload KML	approachroadkml.kml **Preview**
4.2. Whether the project/activity falling in the state/UT sharing international borders	NO
4.3. Shape of the Project	Linear

Location Details

Toposheet No	State/UT	District	Sub District	Village	Plot/Survey/Khasra No.
E44F2	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Porlang	280(P)
E44F2	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Shagabari	4(P),5(P)

Remarks
Shagabari

5. Land Requirement (in Ha) of the project or activity

5.1. Nature of Land involved	
5.2. Non-Forest Land [A]	6.403
5.3. Forest Land [B]	4.911
5.4. Total Land [A+B]	11.314

Project Activity Cost

7. Project/Activity Cost

7.1. Total Cost of the Project at current price level (in Lakhs)	5635.42 Amount in Words : **Five Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Five Point Forty Two Lakh(s) Only**

8. Employment likely to be generated

8.1. During construction phase

Permanent employment

8.1.1. No. of permanent employment (No.s) [A]	2
8.1.2. Period of employment (No. of days) [B]	180
8.1.3. No. of man-days [X]=[A]*[B]	360

Temporary employment

8.1.4. Temporary / Contractual employment (No. of Man days) [Y]	180
8.1.5. Total [X] +[Y]	540

8.2. During operational phase

Permanent employment

8.2.1. No. of permanent employment (No.s) [A]	1
8.2.2. Period of employment (No. of days) [B]	365
8.2.3. No. of man-days [X]=[A]*[B]	365

Temporary employment

8.2.4. Temporary / Contractual employment (No. of Man days) [Y]	1825
8.2.5. Total [X] +[Y]	2190

Others

9. Whether Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) involved?	NO
10. Whether project area involves shifting of watercourse/road/rail/Transmission line/water pipeline, etc. required?	NO
11. Whether any alternative site(s) examined or part thereof for the non-site-specific component?	YES

12. Upload Alternate KML	Remarks
alternative1.kml Preview	true
alternative2.kml Preview	true
alternative3.kml Preview	true

Alternative Site.

Alternative 1 (Proposed)
Alternative 2
Alternative 3

Location Details

Toposheet No.	State/UT	District	Sub District	Village
E44F2	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	SHAGABARI

13. Brief justification on selected site particularly highlighting environmental considerations	Out of the 3 alternative sites explored,Alternative 1 involves least extent of forest land. It is the shortest route and has least enviromental impact
14. Upload copy of note containing justification for locating in the selected site	justication of the project.pdf **Preview**
15. Whether there is any Government Order or Policy/ Court order relevant or restricting to the site?	NO
16. Whether there is any litigation pending against the project and/or land in which the project is proposed to be set up?	NO
17. Whether the proposal involves violation of Act/Rule/Regulation/Notification of Central/State Government?	NO

Project Details

1. Forest Clearance

1.1. State	ODISHA
1. Upload a copy of note containing 2 justification for locating the Project in . forest land	justication of the project.pdf **Preview**
1.3. Project Category	Others (please specify)
1.4. Exempted Category	NA
1.5. Is Related to Encrochment?	No
1.6. Whether any proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for this project has been submitted in the past?	No

Proposed Land

2.	Underground Component	Not Applicable.

3. Details of Forestland proposed to be diverted (Village / Division / District Wise Breakup)

3.1. Total area of forestland proposed for diversion (ha.)	4.911
3.2. Total area of non- forestland required for this project (ha.)	6.403

3.3. Legal Status of forest land proposed for diversion

Area (ha)	Legal Status of Forest Land
4.911	District Level Committee (D.L.C.) Forest

3.3.1. Total Area (ha)	4.9110

3.4. Total period for which the forestland is proposed to be diverted (No. of years)	99

KML Details

Division	Rayagada Division
No. of Patches	2
KML	119697930_FC_KML_1743849570452_forepatch.kml **Preview**

Location Details

Toposheet No.	District	Village	Range	Forest land proposed for diversion	Non Forest
				Area (ha)	Area (ha)
E44F2	Rayagada	Porlang	Kashipur	0.196	0
E44F2	Rayagada	Shagabari	Kashipur	4.715	3.382
E44F2	Rayagada	Dumerpadara	Kashipur	0	0.665
E44F2	Rayagada	Bichapinda	Kashipur	0	2.356

Patch Details

Patch/ Segment ID	Forest Area (ha)	Non-Forest Area (ha)	Remarks if any
1	0.196	0	
2	4.715	6.403	Forest area in this patch comes in Shagabari village only Non-Forest area comes within the Shagabari, Dumerpac and Bichapinda villages

Remarks Details

Forest land comes in Porlang and Shagabari villages and Non-forest land comes in Shag Dumerpadar and Bichapinda villages

Total Patch-wise Forest Land in the division (ha)	
3.5. Total Forest Land Area (ha)	4.9110
3.6. Total Non Forest Land Area (ha)	6.4030

Total KML-wise Forest Land in the division (ha.)	
3.7. Total Forest Land Area (ha)	4.911
3.8. Total Non Forest Land Area (ha)	6.403
3.9. Total Area (ha)	11.314

4. Component Wise Break Up (Including underground works such as tunnel and similar purpose)-if applicable

Component	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
Road Carrage Way	0.982	1.184
Paved Area	0.421	0.464
Earthen Shoulder	0.534	0.622
Earth Work Slope	0.764	0.943
Drain Breast wall,Retaining wall and LUVPs etc	2.21	3.19

5. Total Forest Land(ha)	4.911
6. Total Non Forest Land (ha)	6.4030
7. Upload map of the forest land proposed to be diverted prepared by using DGPS or Total Station (pdf only)	dgps project_compressed.pdf **Preview**

Afforestation Details

7. Details of land identified for Compensatory Afforestation

7.1. Whether Compensatory Afforestation is applicable or not?	Yes
7.1.1. Type of Compensatory Afforestation	Non-forest Land
7.1.1.1. Whether Non-forest land is available?	Yes

7.1.1.2. Patch wise details

Kml File Name
tingirijhola_ca_area.kml **Preview**

TopoSheet No.	State	District	Village	Plot No. /Khasra No.	Present Owner	Area
E44F12	ODISHA	Rayagada	TINGIRIJHOLA	Plot No-13(P),Khata No-13	Govt of Odisha	6.07

7.1.1.3. Number of patches.	1
7.1.1.4. No. of districts involved for raising Compensatory Afforestation.	1
7.1.1.5. Total CA Land	6.07
7.1.1.6. Upload a scanned copy of the map of the land identified for creation of Compensatory Afforestation prepared by using GPS or Total Station (pdf only)	ca dgps_compressed.pdf **Preview**
7.1.1.7. Whether the area of non-forest land or Revenue forest land required to be provided by User Agency for raising Compensatory Afforestation is less than area of forest land proposed to be diverted?	No
7.1.1.8. Whether NFL is free from Non-Encumbrance	Yes
7.1.1.9. Whether the present owner of NFL is different from the User Agency	Yes
7.1.1.9.1. Upload MoU/agreement executed between the present owner and the user agency	allotment letter of ca.pdf **Preview**

Others

8. Cost-Benefit analysis

8.1. Whether Cost-Benefit analysis for the Project has been made?	N/A

9. Environmental clearance Details

9.1. Whether the Project requires Clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (Environmental clearance)?	No

10. Wildlife clearance Details

10.1. Whether the Project or a part thereof is located in any Protected Area or their Eco sensitive zone?	No

Category Specific Details

N/A

11. Copy of Additional Information, if any

S. No.	Document Name	Remark	Document

S. No.	Document Name	Remark	Document
1	Joint Verification Report of CA land	Joint Verification Report of CA land	jv report tingarjhola.pdf **Preview**
2	Proposed land use map2	Proposed land use map2	proposed land use map.pdf **Preview**
3	KML file of the total approch road	KML file of the total approch road	total road with forest patch seg.kml **Preview**
4	10km buffer area kml	10km buffer area kml	9. annexure-9. 10 km buffer area of sijimali access road.kml **Preview**
5	Letter of Authorization for filing FDP.	Letter of Authorization for filing FDP.	10. annexure-10- letter of autherization -from idco.pdf **Preview**
6	Statement showing Length and width of the road.	Statement showing Length and width of the road.	checklist serial no- 53.1.pdf **Preview**
7	Brief summary of the project	Brief summary of the project	brief description of the project.pdf **Preview**
8	Topo Map of the project area.	Topo Map of the project area.	topo project.pdf **Preview**
9	PROPOSED LAND USE MAP	PROPOSED LAND USE MAP	proposed land use.pdf **Preview**
10	EXISTING LAND USE MAP	EXISTING LAND USE MAP	existing land use map.pdf **Preview**
11	Layout Plan Map.	Layout Plan Map.	layout map.pdf **Preview**
12	Undertaking for cost of Addl CA land	Undertaking for cost of Addl CA land	undertaking for cost of addl ca.pdf **Preview**
13	Undertaking for cost of CA land	Undertaking for cost of CA land	undertaking for cost of ca.pdf **Preview**
14	Undertaking for payment of NPV and Add NPV	Undertaking for payment of NPV and Add NPV	undertaking for npv & add. npv.pdf **Preview**
15	Certificate of minimum use of forest land.	Certificate of minimum use of forest land.	certificate for minimum use of forest land.pdf **Preview**
16	Tree Enumuration Non-Forest Area.	Tree Enumuration Non-Forest Area.	tree enumeration list of non-forest land for road from sijimali top to sh-44-6.403 ha.pdf **Preview**
17	Tree Enumuration Forest Area.	Tree Enumuration Forest Area.	tree enumeration list of forest land for road from sijimali top to sh-44-4.911 ha.pdf **Preview**
18	Approved land schedule of forest area.	Approved land schedule of forest area.	project area forest ls.pdf **Preview**
19	Approved Landshedule Project Area.	Approved Landshedule Project Area.	project area total ls with sabik status.pdf **Preview**

S. No.	Document Name	Remark	Document
20	Statement of Non-Forest area	Statement of Non-Forest area	stament showing non-forest land.pdf **Preview**
21	Statement of Forest area	Statement of Forest area	statement showing forest land.pdf **Preview**
22	MOM of CS Meeting	MOM of CS Meeting	mom - goo industry dept..pdf **Preview**
23	DPR of Approach Road	DPR of Approach Road approved by Chief Engineer, DPI & Road, Govt of Odisha	approved final dpr with ce letter_compessed.pdf **Preview**
24	Topo map of Alternative alignments	Topo map of Alternative alignments	alt topo.pdf **Preview**
25	Cadastral map of CA land	Cadastral map of CA land	ca cada.pdf **Preview**
26	Topo map of CA	Topo map of CA	ca topo_compressed.pdf **Preview**
27	Non encroachment & Non encrumbance Certificate	Non encroachment & Non encrumbance Certificate issued by Tahasidar, Kolnara	non encroachment certificate.pdf **Preview**
28	Suitabality Certificate	Suitabality Certificate issued by DFO, Rayagada	land suitability certificate by dfo.pdf **Preview**
29	Land Schedule of CA area	Land Schedule of CA area	comp. affn ls.pdf **Preview**
30	FRA Certificate	FRA Certificate along with proceedings of SDLC & DLC	fra certificate with proceedings.pdf **Preview**

Undertaking

☑ I hereby give undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to be best of my knowledge and belief and I am aware that if any part of the data and information is found to be false or misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and clearance given if any to the project will be revoked at our risk and cost. In addition to the above, I hearby give undertaking that no activity/ construction/expansion has been taken up

12. Name	Ashok Kumar Mishra
13. Designation	Chief General Manager (Environment)
14. Company	IDCO
15. Address	IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar
16. Date	10/02/2025

Project Details

1. Details of Project

1.1. Name of the Project	Sijimali Bauxite Mine (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) with Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.00 Million TPA, Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste: 7.40 Million TPA & Subgrade: 1.42 Million TPA; (Total Excavation: 18.00 Million TPA) along with Installation of 2 Crushers (2 x 1200 TPH) located at Tehsils: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur, Districts: Kalahandi & Rayagada, State: Odisha.
1.2. Project Proposal For	New
1.3. Project ID (Single Window Number)	SW/123618/2023
1.4. Description of Project	Sijimali Bauxite Mine (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) with Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.00 Million TPA, Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste: 7.40 Million TPA & Subgrade: 1.42 Million TPA; (Total Excavation: 18.00 Million TPA) along with Installation of 2 Crushers (2 x 1200 TPH) located at Tehsils: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur, Districts: Kalahandi & Rayagada, State: Odisha.

2. Details of the Company/Organization/User Agency making application

2.1. Legal Status of the Company/Organization/User Agency	Company
2.2. Name of the Company/ Organization/User agency	SHUVRENDU ROYCHOUDHURY

Registered address

2.3. Address	Vedanta Limited-1st Floor, C Wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue Atul Projects, Chakala , Andheri (East) Mumbai, Mumbai City, Maharashtra 400093,India
2.4. Village /Town / City	Andheri East, Mumbai
2.5. State	MAHARASHTRA
2.6. District	MUMBAI SUBURBAN
2.7. Pin Code	400093
2.8. E-mail address	mines.kuraloi@vedanta.co.in
2.9. Landline Number	5666351
2.10. Mobile number	xxxxxx1828

3. Details of the person making application

3.1. Name	Purnendu Pandey
3.2. Designation	GENERAL MANAGER - MINES

Correspondence address

3.3. Address	Vedanta Limited-1st Floor, C Wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue Atul Projects, Chakala , Andheri (East) Mumbai, Mumbai City, Maharashtra 400093,India
3.4. Village /Town / City	Bhubaneswar
3.5. State	MAHARASHTRA
3.6. District	MUMBAI SUBURBAN
3.7. Pin Code	400093
3.8. E-mail address	mines.kuraloi@vedanta.co.in
3.9. Landline Number	5666351
3.10. Mobile number	xxxxxx1828

Project Location

4. Location of the Project or Activity

4.1. Upload KML	KML.kml
4.2. Whether the project/activity falling in the state/UT sharing international borders	NO
5. Shape of the Project	Non - Linear

Location Details

Toposheet No	State/UT	District	Sub District	Village	Plot/Survey/Khasra No.
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Dumerpadara	
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur	Salebali	
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur	Tadadei	
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur	Taramundi	

16.1.2. Validity of the LoI/Vesting order	28/02/2026
16.1.3. Lease Period	47.02
16.1.4. Date of expiry of lease	28/02/2073
16.1.5. Lease area (in ha) as per LoI/Vesting order/Mining Lease	1549.022
16.1.6. Production capacity (in MTPA) as per LoI / Vesting Order / Mining lease, if any prescribed	9.0
16.1.7. Details of Lease renewal(s), if any	None
16.1.8. Other information, if any	LOI for Sijimali Bauxite Block over an area of 1549.022 ha was granted to Vedanta Ltd. dated 01.03.2023. It is valid for 3 years from the date of issuance i.e. valid up to 28.02.2026. Mine lease will be granted for a period of 50 years from the date of lease execution.

16.2. Status of approval of Mining plan	Approved

16.3. Minerals to be mined

Name of the Mineral to be mined	Classification	Production capacity (in MTPA)	Remarks
• Bauxite	Major	9	Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan was approved vide letter No. MCDR-MiFL0BXT/4/2023-BBS-IBM_RO_BBS dated 16.08.2023, Bhubaneshwar, Odisha.

16.4. Details of Total excavation (RoM) including Topsoil, Overburden, Mining waste, Rejects, etc.

16.4.1. Total excavation (in MTPA)	18
16.4.2. Total Excavation in M.Cu.m/Annum	9
16.4.3. Enter stripping Ratio	01:05
16.4.4. Other information, if any	1:0.51 (Stripping Ratio is calculated considering generation of Top Soil & OB to excavate the 1.0 million TPA of bauxite)

16.5. Mineral Reserves

Name of Mineral	Proved Reserves ((million tonnes))	Indicated Reserves ((million tonnes))	Inferred Reserves ((million tonnes))	Mineable Reserves ((million tonnes))	Remarks
Bauxite	0	0	0	299.58	

16.6. Life of Mine (years)

16.6.1. Life of the mine as per approved mining plan	54/08
16.6.2. Life of the mine as per total estimated reserves, if any	54/08
16.6.3. Other information, if any	On the basis of 299.58 million tonnes of mineable reserves, life of mine will be 31 years and Mining Plan was approved on 16.08.2023.

16.7. Type and method of Mining Method

16.7.1. Type of mining	Opencast
16.7.2. Method of mining	Mechanized
16.7.3. Other information, if any	

16.8. Type of blasting, if any, to be adopted

16.8.1. Type of blasting	Controlled
16.8.2. Mitigation measures for control of blast induced vibrations	Controlled blasting and use of Rock breaker
16.8.3. Other information, if any	

16.8.3. Other information, if any	

16.9. Whether it is proposed to install beneficiation plant/Coal washery within the mining lease area?	No

16.10. Whether it is proposed to install crusher within the mining lease area?	Yes	
16.10.1. No. Of crushers	2	
16.10.2. Capacity of crushers	14.04	
16.10.3. Capacity of crushers	14.04	MTPA
16.10.4. Total capacity of crushers	14.04	MTPA

16.11. Dumping strategy

Description	Area (in ha)	Maximum height (in m)	Remarks
External dump	0	0	-
Internal dump	0	0	-
Topsoil dump/ storage	0	0	-

16.12. Topsoil management

16.12.1. Total Topsoil excavated during the entire life of the mine (in million cubic metre)	2.39
16.12.2. Utilization strategy of topsoil	Will be used in Greenbelt and Plantation
16.12.3. Other information, if any	Will be used in Greenbelt and Plantation

16.13. Details of the Quarry/Mine Pit

16.13.1. Total Quarry Area (in ha)	1205.13
16.13.2. Enter Area of final void (in Hectare)	0
16.13.3. Maximum Depth of final void (in meter)	0
16.13.4. Other information, if any	Entire mined out area will be backfilled and later on rehabilitated by plantation & regrassing

16.14. Details of Transportation

16.14.1. Mode of transportation upto pit head	Haul Road
16.14.2. Mode of transportation from pit head to siding/loading	Haul Road
16.14.3. Mode of transport from loading point to consumers	Road and Rail
16.14.4. Other information, if any	Bauxite will be transported from mine face to crusher by dumpers. Crushed bauxite will be transported to the railway siding by trucks & railway siding up to plant by rail. Company will explore possibility to transport the mineral via CCB up to railway siding & from railway siding up to plant by rail

16.15. Details of reclamation/post mining land use

16.15.1. Plantation area (in ha)	1238
16.15.2. Water body (in ha)	0
16.15.3. Public use (in ha)	0
16.15.4. Enter Other uses (in ha)	311.022

16.16. Whether road/river /seasonal nallah /irrigation canal passes through project site

S.No.	Type of Road/Waterway	Any diversion is proposed	No Object Certificate obtained	Application for NOC has been submitted	NOC from the concerned department or authority	Proof of application for NOC	Reason thereof (No Object Certificate obtained - Not Applicable)	Reason thereof (NOC has not been submitted)

Enclosures

17. Layout Plan showing the components of the project and green belt proposed; general location and specific location of the project along with coordinates	LayoutPlan.pdf

Enclosures

17. Layout Plan showing the components of the project and green belt proposed; general location and specific location of the project along with coordinates	LayoutPlan.pdf
17.1. Letter of Intent / Mining Lease	LOI.pdf
18. Schematic representation of the feasibility drawings which give information for EIA purpose	Schematic Details.pdf

19. Additional Information

S. No.	Document Name	Remark	Document
1	State to Central forwarding Letter_Court Details	State to Central forwarding Letter_Court Details	state to central forwarding letter_court case.pdf
2	Undertaking Reg. Court Case	Undertaking Reg. Court Case	undertaking reg. court case.pdf
3	EDS Reply	EDS Reply	EDSReply.pdf
4	Affidavit	Affidavit	Affidavit.pdf
5	Pre-Feasibility Report	Pre-Feasibility Report	Pre-feasibilityReport.pdf
6	Covering Letter	Covering Letter	Covering Letter.pdf
7	NABET Certificate	NABET Certificate	NABETCertificate.pdf
8	Authorization	Authorization Letter	Authorization.pdf

20. Document CheckList

20.1. Land-Related Documents	Ownership document	Yes
	Mine lease document (in case of mining)	Yes
	Letter of Intent (in case of mining)	Yes
	Project layout	Yes
	Gazette notification of notified industrial area (if applicable)	Not Applicable
20.2. Public Hearing-Related Details	Public hearing proceedings	Yes
	Advertisements	Yes
20.3. EIA/EMP - Related Details	Pre-feasibility report	Yes
	EIA/EMP report (in case of Cat A, B1)	Yes
	EMP report (in case of Cat B2)	Not Applicable
	Budgetary provision table for EMP	Yes
	Mining plan (in case of mining)	Yes
	DSR in case of minor minerals	Not Applicable
20.4. Water Permission-Related Details	Permission for withdrawal of surface water	No
	Permission for abstraction of ground water	Yes
20.5. Compliance and Monitoring Documents	Certified compliance report (in case of Expansion Proposals)	Not Applicable
	Action Taken Report (if any)	Not Applicable
	Closure report from RO (if any)	Not Applicable
20.6. Previous Clearances	Previous TOR granted (if any)	Not Applicable
	Previous EC granted (if any)	Not Applicable
	Previous EC transferred (if any)	Not Applicable
20.7. Wildlife and Forest Related Documents	Conservation plan for Schedule-I species	Yes
	NBWL/SBWL recommendation	Not Applicable
	In principle (stage-I) forest clearance	Not Applicable
	Final (stage-II) forest clearance	Not Applicable
	Existing CTE/CTO	Not Applicable

20.8. NOC from Other Departments/Ministries	NOC from airport authority on the permissible height of the building (if applicable)	Not Applicable
	Court case details (if any)	Yes
20.9. Others	Violation details (if any)	Not Applicable
	Summary of the project	Yes

21. ☑ I certify that I have uploaded all the required documents and correctly indicated them in the checklist. In case any discrepancy is found, or any required document is missing, the application shall be liable to be rejected at our own risk and cost.

Undertaking

22. ☑ I hereby give undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to be best of my knowledge and belief and I am aware that if any part of the data and information is found to be false or misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and clearance given if any to the project will be revoked at our risk and cost. In addition to the above, I hearby give undertaking that no activity/construction/expansion has been taken up

22.1. Name	Shuvrendu Roy Choudhury
22.2. Designation	GENERAL MANAGER - MINES
22.3. Company	VEDANTA LIMITED
22.4. Address	VEDANTA LIMITED, FIFTH FLOOR, MODULE C/2, FORTUNE TOWER, CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESWAR
22.5. Date	25/03/2023

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR

Sijimali Bauxite Mine (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) with Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.00 Million TPA, Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste: 7.40 Million TPA & Subgrade: 1.42 Million TPA; (Total Excavation: 18.00 Million TPA) along with installation of 2 Crushers (2 x 1200 TPH)

At
Tehsils: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur,
Districts: Kalahandi & Rayagada,
State: Odisha

Baseline Study Period: Summer Season (March to May, 2023)

APPLICANT

M/s. Vedanta Ltd.
1st Floor, 'C' wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue Atul Projects,
Chakla, Andheri (East), Mumbai City, Maharashtra- 400 093
Email- shuvrendu.choudhury@vedanta.co.in

EIA CONSULTANT

J.M. EnviroNet Pvt. Ltd.
Extension in validity of Accreditation Certificate No NABET/EIA/2023/SA/0172 was obtained via QCI/NABET/ENV/ACO/23/2809, dated 01.08.2023 and same is valid up to 31.10.2023.
Emaar Digital Greens, Tower – B, Unit No. 1517,
Golf Course Ext. Road, Sector – 61, Gurugram (Haryana) – 122 011
E-mail: jmenviron@hotmail.com
NABL Approved Lab: JM EnviroLab Pvt. Ltd.
(Certificate No.:TC-6821)

ToR Compliance

Point wise compliance of ToR Points issued by MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide file no. IA-J-11015/6/2023-IA-II(NCM), dated 14.08.2023 for Sijimali Bauxite Mine with capacity of 9.0 Million TPA in the project area of 1549.022 ha located at Villages: Aliguna, Ambajhola, Bundel, Chulbari, Dumerpadar, Katibhata, Kutamal, Mahajal, Malipadara, Nakarundi, Pelanakona, Sagabari, Salabali, Tala Ambapadar, Taradei, Taramundi, Tijmali, Upar Ambapadar, Tehsil: Thuamul Rampur of Kalahandi District and Kashipur of Rayagada district, State: Odisha of M/s. Vedanta Limited.

ToR Point No.	ToR Point	Compliance	Ref in EIA / EMP Report
A.	**Specific Terms of Reference for (Mining of Minerals)**		
1	**Survey**		
1.1	The Project Proponent shall conduct drone survey of the mine lease area and buffer area and submit during the appraisal for EC	Real time aerial footage and video of the mine lease area and buffer area through Drone Survey will be presented during the appraisal of EAC.	-
2	**Greenbelt/Plantation**		
2.1	During the submission of EC proposal, the Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for carrying out plantation along the 7.5m barrier, safety zone of habitations, water bodies, roads etc., PP should also submit the details no of saplings to be planted, type of saplings proposed and the area to be covered under greenbelt/plantation along with the timeline and budget. The Project Proponent needs to submit the compensatory afforestation plan for the no. of trees to be cut in the mine lease area. The afforestation plan shall be prepared in such a way that the ecology of the area shall be restored.	Greenbelt will be developed along the 7.5m mine periphery covering an area of 32.87 ha and plantation will be developed along the safety zone within initial 5 years of mining operation. Plantation on backfilled area over 1205.13 Ha will be carried out as per Approved Mining Plan. At conceptual stage, approximately 12,87,305 trees will be planted on 1238 ha area @ 1000-2500 plants per ha. Rs. 25.74 Cr. have been earmarked for greenbelt & plantation till the end of life of mine @ Rs 200/sapling. Survival rate will be maintained 90%. Native species will be planted in consultation with the local forest officer, District Forest Officer and as per CPCB/SPCB guidelines. Approximately 200 trees will be cut however further details will be ascertain after tree enumeration.	*Chapter 4, Table 4.21, Pg No 167*
3	**Road Transportation**		
3.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the map and details regarding the road transportation and its limitation along with the traffic management plan and an action plan for permanent dust suppression systems	The crushed bauxite will be transported up to the railway siding by covered trucks and from the railway siding up to plant by rail. Vedanta Limited will construct a road of 7.5 Km from NW site of mine area and which will connect to the SH-44. The proposed road from Mine top to SH-44 will be constructed and the Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station will be strengthened and widened. This will increase the strength and capacity of the transportation route, thus maintaining a satisfactory LOS category. internal and nearby roads will be periodically maintained to facilitate the safe and pollution free transportation services. With no	***Annexure XIII***

		significant change in the traffic density after the proposed project, Vedanta Ltd. will take all the appropriate measures to the best possible extent to minimize the impacts of fugitive dust, gaseous and noise emission. The detail traffic study report along with map is enclosed with EIA/EMP Report.	
4	**Resettlement and Rehabilitation**		
4.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the detailed R&R plan covering all the components viz. number of Project Affected Families (PAF) and details of the land owned by them, break up of total compensation to be paid including method of calculation including the sources/references adopted and mode of payment etc. PP need to submit the plan for Socio economic development of the neighbourhood habitats based on the need based survey along with the time bound action plan. PP also needs to submit the possession certificate and timeline for acquiring the land at the time of submission of EC proposal.	The area of proposed mine is 1549.02 ha which falls in 8 villages namely Malipadar, Dumerpadara, Katibhata, Kutamal, elanakona, Aliguna, Bundel, Shagabari(Tehsil: Kashipur in Rayagada District) and 10 villages namely Tijmali, Chulbadi, Ambajhola, Mahajal, Nakarundi, Taramundi, Uparambpadar, Salebali, Tadadei, Talambpadar (Tehsil: Thaumul–Rampur in Kalahandi District). Out of the mine area, 699.65 ha is Forest Land, 127.87 ha is Private Land and 722.89 ha is Govt. Land. As per Khasra details there are 500 Project Affected Families whose land to be purchased. There are few houses present within mine lease area, which needs to be displaced.	Chapter 4 Para 4.5.5.4.2 Pg no 161 ***Annexure XI***
5	**Groundwater**		
5.1	The Project Proponent shall carry out the assessment of impact due to the proposed project as per the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP. The project proponent shall conduct hydrological study for projects involving intersection of ground water table as per the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP.	Detailed hydrogeological study has been done as per the guidelines issued by the CGWA. According to study, depth of water level is varying from Pre-Monson: 680 to 581m AMSL (585 to 345m bgl) Post Monsoon: 683 to 584m AMSL (582 to 343m bgl). The mineral availability and depth of mine working will go up to 45 m bgl; therefore, ground water will not be intersected due to mining activities.	*Chapter 2, Table 2.13, Pg No. 70* ***Annexure XII***
5.2	The Project Proponent shall explore the possibility of reduction of specific water requirement by optimization / technology up gradation, etc. The efforts shall be	During initial stage, total water requirement is 480 KLD, same will be sourced from Borewells out of which the groundwater requirement is 380KLD whereas in five years the water requirement will be 725 KLD, out of which the groundwater requirement is 575 KLD. Prior permission before withdrawal of the surface & ground water will be	*Chapter 2 Para 2.7.1.1 Pg. No.60*

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Vedanta Limited is a leading global natural resources company and is one of the world's foremost natural resources conglomerates, with primary interests in Aluminium, Zinc-lead-silver, Oil and Gas, Iron Ore, Steel, Copper, Power, Nickel and Ferro alloys.

Vedanta Limited is amongst the world's top Aluminium producers, and India's largest producer of Aluminium, catering to discerning customers in nearly 50 countries. In FY22, Vedanta produced more than half of India's Aluminium @ 2.27 Million Tonnes.

Vedanta has some of the world's largest Aluminium assets in Eastern India - in the states of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Vedanta operates a 2 MTPA capacity Alumina Refinery in Lanjigarh, Kalahandi district of Odisha) since 2007 and an associated 75 MW Captive Power Plant. The refinery feeds their large Aluminium smelters at Jharsuguda, in Odisha, and BALCO, in Chhattisgarh. Vedanta's aluminium finds applications across critical sectors like aerospace, aviation, defence, transportation, electricity distribution, packaging etc. and in sunrise sectors such as electric vehicles, renewable energy and more. With a view to catering to the growing demand for this strategic metal Vedanta embarked on expansion of their Aluminium production facilities to add new product lines. Vedanta Limited has been allocated with Sijimali Bauxite mine spread over Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha in Mar' 2023, having estimated reserve of around 311 MT. For meeting the increased requirement of raw material, Vedanta intends to operate Sijimali block for dispatching Bauxite from mines to its Refinery.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Vedanta Ltd. has an existing Alumina Refinery Plant currently operating at 2.0 Million TPA capacity; now the Plant will be operated at granted EC capacity i.e. 6.0 Million TPA; therefore, to meet the additional bauxite requirement Vedanta Ltd. has proposed the Sijimali Bauxite Mine with 9.0 Million TPA Bauxite Capacity (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) located at Kalahandi & Rayagada District of Odisha.

As per Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification dated 14th September 2006, proposed project falls under schedule Mining of Minerals '1(A)' of category- 'A' and requires prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to be obtained from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

Technical Presentation for ToR was held during 15th Meeting of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) (Non-Coal Mining) on 30.05.2023 (Agenda Item No. 1.1).

ToR Reconsideration Presentation was held before 17th Meeting of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) (Non-Coal Mining) on 11.07.2023 (Agenda Item No. 1.5).

This report has been prepared as per Terms of Reference (ToR), issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) Govt. of India, New Delhi vide file no. IA-J-11015/6/2023-IA-II (NCM), dated 14.08.2023 for carrying out the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study of proposed Sijimali Bauxite Mine.

The baseline data for the Environmental Impact Assessment studies has been collected during Pre-Monsoon Season (March. to May., 2023).

The main purpose of the EIA report is to provide a coherent statement after analyzing all significant impacts of the proposed mining project and measures that should be taken to mitigate them. It contains essential information for:

- The proponent to implement the proposal in an environmentally and socially responsible way;
- The responsible authority to make an informed decision on the proposal, including the terms and conditions that must be attached to an approval or authorization;
- The project proponent to understand the mitigation measures suggested and earmark proper resources & budget for the impacts envisaged; and
- The public to understand the proposal and its likely impacts on people and the environment.

1.3 IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECT & PROJECT PROPONENT

1.3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT

A. PROPOSED PROJECT

- Sijimali mine project is an integrated project of opencast Bauxite mine along with dispatch of mineral via road & rail network, located at Kalahandi & Rayagada district of Odisha state.
- This bauxite mine block was granted to M/s. Vedanta Ltd. for 1549.022 ha area through E-auction dated 09.02.2023 and accordingly State Govt. granted the Letter of Intent vide no 2103/ Bhubaneshwar on 01.03.2023 (SM-MC2-MC-0006-2023) in favor of M/s. Vedanta Limited, Odisha.
- ToR has been issued by the MoEF&CC vide ToR Identification No. TO23A0000OR5724945N and file no. IA-J-11015/6/2023-IA-II(NCM), dated 14.08.2023.
- Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan (PMCP) of Sijimali Bauxite Deposit for 1549.022 ha area was approved by Indian Bureau of Mines vide letter no. No. MCDR-MiFL0BXT/4/2023-BBS-IBM_RO_BBS on 16.08.2023.
- M/s. Vedanta Ltd. is proposing Sijimali Bauxite Mine (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) with Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.00 Million TPA, Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste: 7.40 Million TPA & Subgrade: 1.42 Million TPA; (Total Excavation: 18.00 Million TPA) along with installation of 2 Crushers (2 x 1200 TPH) located at Tehsils: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur, Districts: Kalahandi & Rayagada, State: Odisha.
- Bauxite shall be mined from Sijimali mine site by Opencast method and dispatched by development new road Connecting Mine site at Hill top to State Highway -44 on ground and further State Highway -44 to near by railway siding at Lelligumma station on sprd-krpu section of wat division, eco railway.

2.4.1 ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES PROVIDED

Associated facilities like mine office, store, first aid station, rest shelter, toilets, etc. as per the Mine Rules 1955 will be built within the leasehold area.

A. Statutory Obligations:

- **First Aid Room:** First Aid Room as required under Rule 43 Mines Rules 1955 will be constructed (Portable), equipped and maintained. A qualified person will be in-charge of the First Aid Room. All competent person will be provided with First Aid outfits. A well-equipped mobile Ambulance facility will be provided as per norms.
- **Rest Shelter:** A rest shelter as required under Rule 62 of MR 1955 will be provided and maintained.
- **Canteen:** Good canteen will be provided at mine office premises for the employees.
- **Drinking Water:** Drinking water facilities will be available at the site.
- **Urinals & Latrines:** Sufficient separate for male & Females shall be provided and maintained.
- **Lighting arrangements:** Adequate permanent lights will be provided at office, canteen, rest shelter, haulage roads. Portable lights at quarry faces will be provided.
- **CRECHE facility** for working mothers.
- **Vocational Training Center:** A VTC center as mine s rule shall be established at site.

B. Operational Facilities:

- **Workshop:** To maintain the HEMM and another mine equipment a fully equipped workshop will be established.
- **Electric Sub-Station:** An electric sub-station to cater crusher, office, workshop and another establishment will be provided.
- **Fuel Station / Storage facility:** Diesel Pump for Fuel storage facility for HEMM equipment will be provided.
- **Road Facility:** New Road shall be developed inside ML area and outside from ML area for smooth man & material dispatch.
- **Communication Equipment:** Telephone, mobile, intercom and Fax will be provided.

2.5 STATUS OF STATUTORY CLEARANCES, PERMISSIONS, NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATES, CONSENTS

The mining project will be implemented after getting all the Statutory Clearances, Permissions, No Objection Certificates, consents etc. which are required/necessary for this project under various Acts, Rules and Regulations is as given in table below:

ANNEXURE XIII

TRAFFIC STUDY REPORT

TRAFFIC STUDY REPORT

Sijimali Bauxite Mine (AuctionedBlock)

(Area: 1549.022 Ha)

with Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.0 Million TPA At,

Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste: 7.40Million TPA & Subgrade:

1.42 Million TPA along with installation of 2 crusher
Tehsil: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur, District: Kalahandi, State:

Odisha

PROJECT PROPONENT
1st Floor, 'C' Wing, Unit 103,
Corporate Avenue Atul Projects,
Chakala, Andheri (East),
Mumbai City, Maharashtra 400093
EMAIL: shuvrendu.choudhury@vedanta.co.in

M/s Vedanta Limited.

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TRAFFIC STUDY REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

M/s. Vedanta Ltd. is proposing Sijimali Bauxite Mine (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) with Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.00 Million TPA, Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste: 7.40 Million TPA & Subgrade: 1.42 Million TPA; (Total Excavation: 18.00 Million TPA) along with installation of 2 Crushers (2 x 1200 TPH) located at Tehsils: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur, Districts: Kalahandi & Rayagada, State: Odisha.

Bauxite produced from the mine will meet the partial or remaining bauxite requirement of the Alumina Refinery of Vedanta Ltd. The bauxite mined out from this proposed mine will be used for captive purpose in Integrated Alumina Refinery of Vedanta Ltd.

E-Auction process was conducted in accordance with the tender document for the Sijimali Mineral Block and Vedanta Limited was declared as the "Preferred Bidder" under Rule 9(9)(iii) or Rule 10(1A) of Auction Rules dated 09.02.2023. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules and the terms of the tender document, the Govt. of Odisha Steel & Mines Dept., issued Letter of Intent for grant of mine lease for Sijimali Bauxite Block over an area of 1549.022 ha dated 01.03.2023.

2.0 PROPOSED MINING TECHNOLOGY & TRANSPORTATION DETAILS

Mining operations will be carried out by fully mechanized opencast method. Initially it has been purposed to remove the top soil/over burden/subgrade to gain access the bauxite benches in respective active working areas. The top soil will be stacked separately in earmarked areas for future use in backfilled and reclaimed areas. The overburden/subgrade strips are planned to be loosened by using rippers and drilling and blasting. The loosened material will be piled up by dozer and the same will be loaded into rear dump trucks by front end loader and hydraulic excavators for transportation of overburden/subgrade dump. The bench height in overburden and bauxite benches will be maximum 8 meter and width will be minimum 20 meter.

Bauxite will be transported from mine face to crusher or ROM ore stock pile by rear dump trucks. The bauxite will be loaded by front end loaders or hydraulic excavators. Initially crushed bauxite will be transported up to the railway siding by covered trucks and from the railway siding up to plant by rail.

2.1 EXISTING TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

SH-44 ~1.5 km in West direction from the mine boundary. Total length of the SH-44 which comes in transport route is 27 km. SH-44 connecting Sijimali mines area to Mandibisi-Sikarpai Chouwk. The road is 2 lane undivided carriage way by Govt. of Odisha. SH-44 width is 7.8 m with 1.0 m shoulders. A black top road which Mandibisi-Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma Railway station. Total length of this road is 29.0 km, width is 3 m with 1.0 m shoulders. Vedanta Limited will strengthen and widen the black

top road which connects to the railway siding.





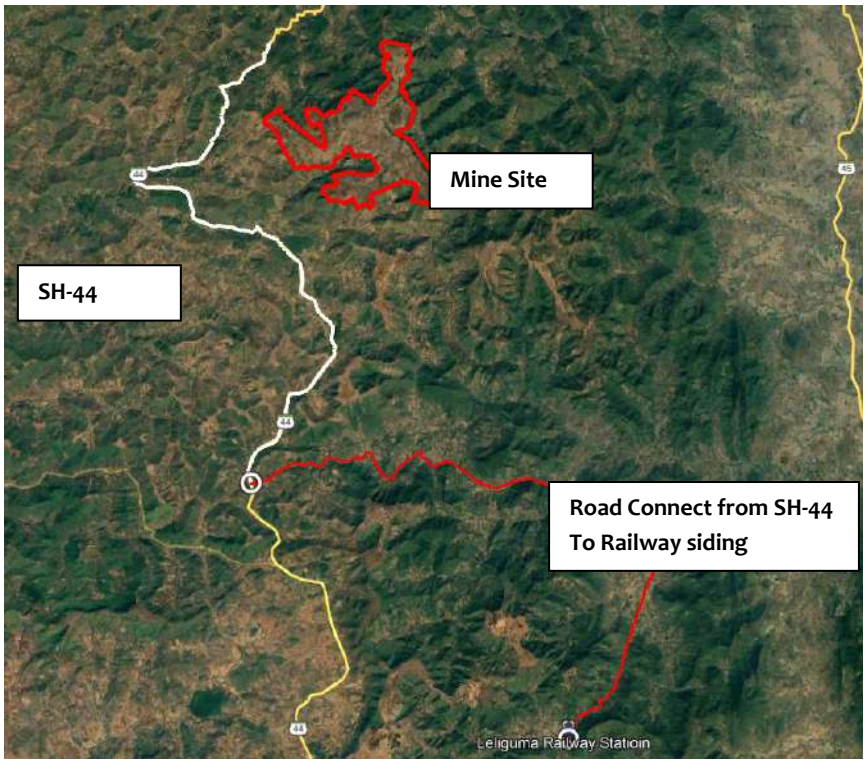
SH-44





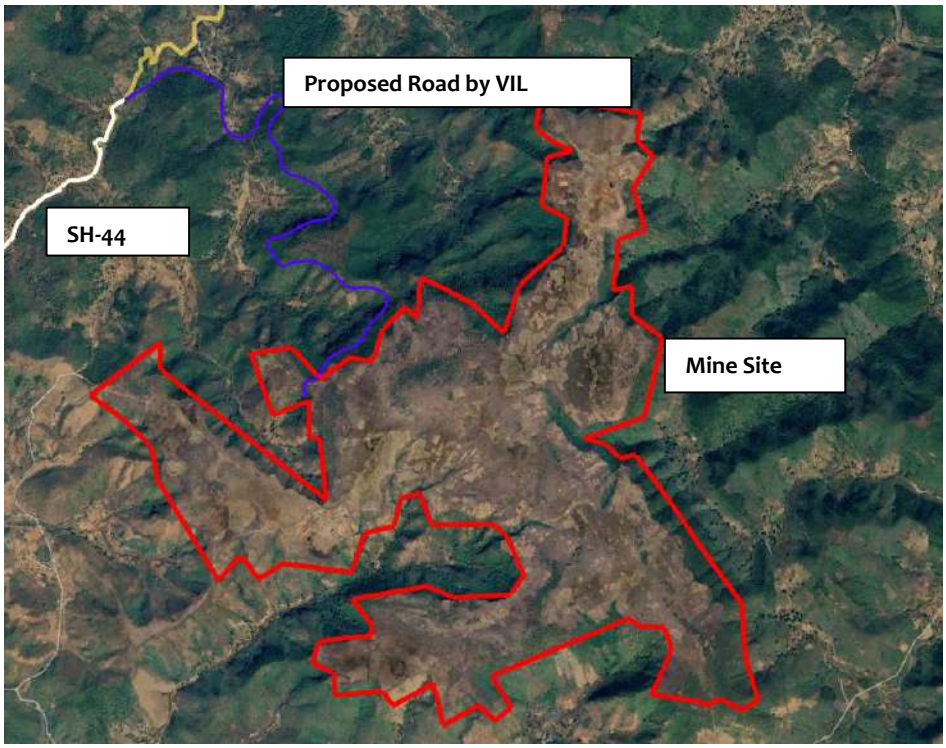
Leliguma Road

The proposed mine is 20 km away from Sikarpai Railway Station in SE direction. Visakhapatnam International Airport, is about 194 km in SSE direction. Map showing location of nearby connectivity with proposed Sijimali Mine has been prepared on Google Earth & same is given below:



2.2 PROPOSED TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Vedanta will construct a road from NW site of mine area and which will connect to the SH-44. This road will pass through the forest area so FC is required and land will be acquired by VIL. The total length of the road will be 7.5 km.



3.0 TOTAL MATERIAL HANDLING

Total handling to excavate 18.0 Million TPA production capacity at Normative (considering 300 working days) & Peak Stage (considering 250 working days) is given as below:

Table – 1.1
Total Excavation

S. No.	Particular	Million TPA	Normative (300 days)		Peak Stage (250 days)	
			TPD	TPH (19.5 hrs @ 6.5hrs)	TPD	TPH
1	Bauxite	9.0	30000	1538	36000	1846
2	Top Soil	0.18	600	31	720	37
3	Subgrade/Mineral Reject	1.42	4733	243	5680	291
4	Waste	7.40	24667	1265	29600	1518
Total Excavation		**18.0**	**60000**	**3077**	**72000**	**3692**

In case of heavy rainfall/ strike/ major maintenance work/ road blockage/ short supply of Rakes, supply of Bauxite to the plant will be suffered. Therefore, to cover up this short fall, peak stage production has been considered as compared to daily production & and during the above said period Soil, overburden removal work will continue, considered at 20% maximum as compared to daily capacity and bauxite produced shall be kept in the storage and later the same will be dispatched to the Plant. However, the annual production will remain same i.e. Bauxite production capacity 8.0 Million TPA.

Inside the lease transportation: At Normative stage, the bauxite production per day 30000 tonnes & others (Top soil, subgrade & Waste) will be 30000 tonnes; thus, total handling will be 60000 tonnes/day. At Peak Stage, after considering the 20% maximum (Days 250) bauxite production per day 32000 & others (Top soil, subgrade & Waste) will be 36000 tonnes; thus, total handling will be 72000 tonnes/day.

Excavated bauxite will be transported from mine to stockpile by 100T capacity of Dumper. Total trips of 100 tonnes capacity of dumper required for transport of 30000 tonnes bauxite (in a day) will be 300 numbers. The number of trips per hour will be 15 numbers (3 shifts @ 6.5 effective working hrs). Total trips of 100 tonnes capacity of dumper required for transport of 30000 tonnes Top Soil, subgrade & Waste (in a day) will be 300 numbers. The number of trips per hour will be 15 numbers (3 shifts @ 6.5 effective working hrs).

Outside the lease: Crushed bauxite will be transported up to the railway siding by covered tippers (35 tonnes capacity) and from the railway siding up to plant by rail.

1st and 2nd Year: Total trips of 35 tonnes capacity of tipper required for transportation of 10000 tonnes bauxite (in a day initially for 1 and 2 year) will be 286 numbers. The number of trips per hour will be 15 number (3 shifts @ 6.5 effective working hrs).

3rd and 4th Year: Total trips of 35 tonnes capacity of tipper required for transportation of 20000 tonnes bauxite (in a day initially for 3rd and 4th year) will be 571 numbers. The number of trips per hour will be 29 number (3 shifts @ 6.5 effective working hrs).

5th Year: Total trips of 35 tonnes capacity of tipper required for transportation of 30000 tonnes bauxite will be 857 numbers. The number of trips per hour will be 44 number (3 shifts @ 6.5 effective working hrs).

3.1.1 ROAD TRAFFIC COUNT METHODOLOGY

Traffic survey has been conducted on the SH-44 and village road connecting Mandibisi-Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma Railway station. Measurements of Traffic density was made continuously for 24 hours by visual observation and counting of vehicles for the six categories, viz., Motor cycle/ scooter, Passenger car/ van, Tractors, trucks/Trailers, Buses and Cycle. The traffic survey monitoring was done to review the future traffic growth and the load on the SH-44 & village road connecting Mandibisi-Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma Railway station.



SH-44



Leligumma Road Traffic Survey

Total numbers of vehicles per hour under the 6 categories were determined. The traffic volume count at SH-44 shown in table 1.2:

Table – 1.2
Traffic Volume Count at SH-44

S. No.	Type of Vehicle	No. of vehicles / day
1.	Motor Cycle / Scooter	500
2.	Passenger Car / Van or Auto Rickshaw	449
3.	Tractor	106
4.	Trucks/Buses	146
5.	Trailer	162
6.	Cycle	448
Total		**1811**

Source: *Field Survey*

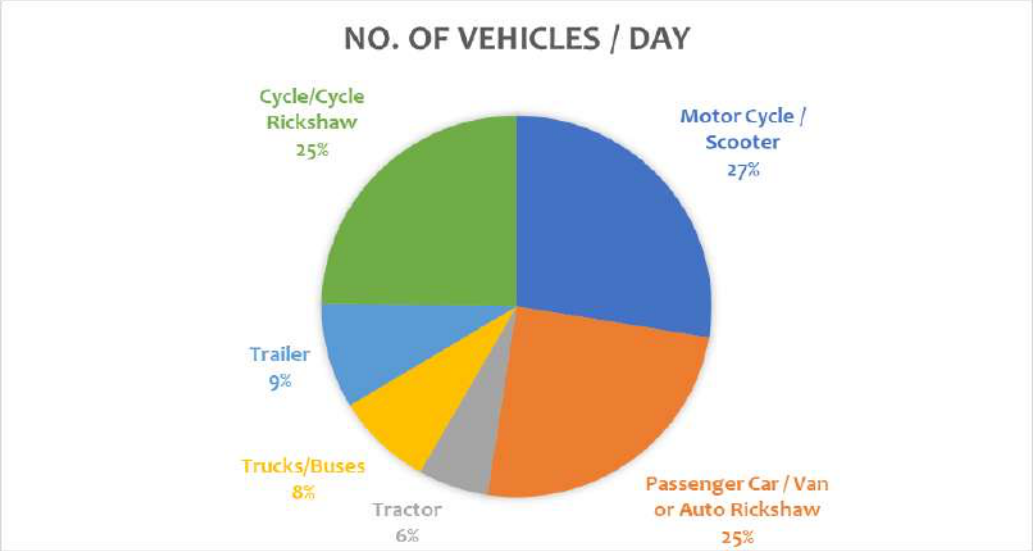


Figure 1.1 Traffic Volume Count at SH - 44

Table – 1.3
No. of Vehicles with respect to PCU

S. No.	Vehicle Type	Number of Vehicles / days	Passenger Car Unit (PCU) Factor	Total Number of Vehicle (PCU) / day	Total Number of Vehicle (PCU)/Hour
1	Motor Cycle / Scooter	500	0.75	375	16
2	Passenger Car / Van or Auto Rickshaw	449	1.0	449	19
3	Tractor	106	5.0	530	22
4	Trucks/Buses	146	3.7	540	23
5	Trailer	162	5.0	810	34
6	Cycle	448	0.5	224	9
Total		**1811**		**2928**	**123**
PCU / hrs = (PCU / day) / 24					

Table – 1.4
Traffic Volume Count at Village Road Mandibisi-Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma Railway station

S. No.	Type of Vehicle	No. of vehicles / day
1	Motor Cycle / Scooter	171
2	Passenger Car / Van or Auto Rickshaw	89
3	Tractor	42
4	Trucks/Buses	68
5	Trailer	76
6	Cycle	256
Total		**702**

Source: *Field Survey*

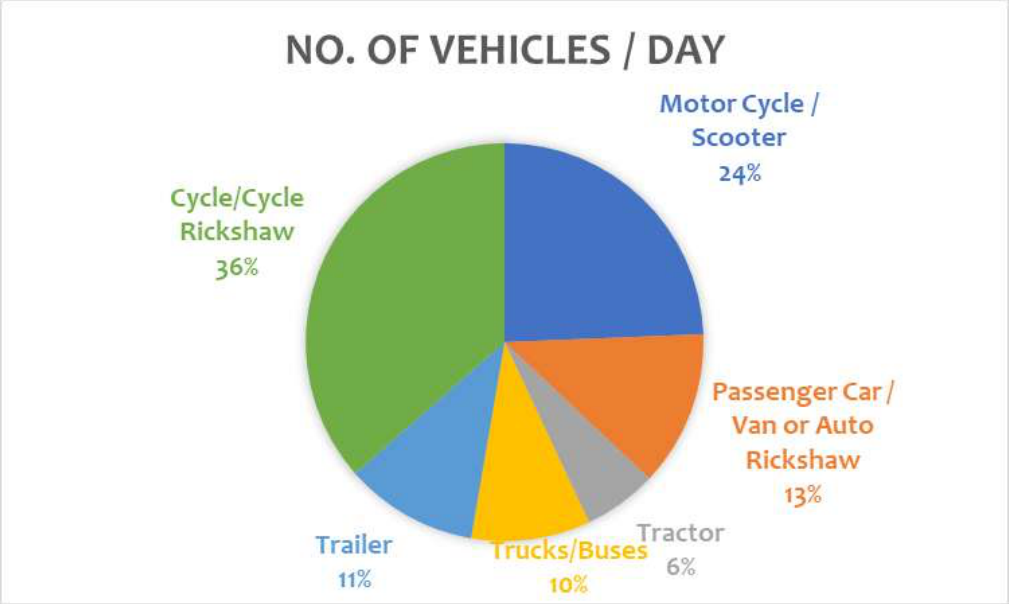


Figure 1.2 Traffic Volume Count at Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station

Table – 1.5
No. of Vehicles with respect to PCU

S. No.	Vehicle Type	Number of Vehicles / days	Passenger Car Unit (PCU) Factor	Total Number of Vehicle (PCU) / day	Total Number of Vehicle (PCU)/Hour
1	Motor Cycle / Scooter	171	0.50	86	4.0
2	Passenger Car / Van or Auto Rickshaw	89	1.0	89	4.0
3	Tractor	42	1.5	63	3.0
4	Trucks/Buses	68	3.0	204	9.0
5	Trailer	76	4.5	342	14.0
6	Cycle	256	0.5	128	5.0
Total		**702**		**912**	**39**
PCU / hrs = (PCU / day) / 24					

Table-1.6
Traffic Volume Count at Proposed Road connecting SH-44

S. No.	Type of Vehicle	No. of vehicles / day
1	Tippers	857

Table – 1.7
No. of Vehicles with respect to PCU

S. No.	Vehicle Type	Number of Vehicles / days	Passenger Car Unit (PCU) Factor	Total Number of Vehicle (PCU) / day	Total Number of Vehicle (PCU)/Hour
1	Tippers	857	3.0	2571	107

Table – 1.8
Existing Traffic Scenario and LOS (Level of Service)

Road	V (Volume in PCU/hr)	C (Capacity in PCU/hr)	Existing V/C Ratio	LOS
SH-44	123	1500	0.08	A
Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station	39	292	0.13	A

**** Recommended Service Volume for two lane road as per IRC guidelines for capacity of urban roads in plain areas (IRC: 106-1990)***

Table – 1.9
Capacity as per IRC: 64-1990

V/C	LOS (Level of Service)	Performance
0.0 - 0.2	A	Excellent
0.2 - 0.4	B	Very Good
0.4 - 0.6	C	Good / Average / Fair
0.6 - 0.8	D	Poor
0.8 - 1.0	E	Very Poor

A. DURING PROPOSED MINE OPERATION IN 1st and 2nd Year (3.0 MTPA)

Table – 1.10
During Proposed Mine Operation in 1st and 2nd Year (3.0 MTPA)

S. No.	Particular	Details
1.	Capacity of mine (Million TPA)	3.0
2.	No. of working days	300
3.	Capacity of tippers for Transportation of Bauxite (Tonnes)	35
4.	Transportation of Bauxite (Tonnes per day)	10000
5.	Working hours (for transportation) per day	19.5

6.	Transportation of Bauxite (Tonnes per hour)	513
7.	No. of trips (filled)	286
8.	No. of trips / day (to & from)	572
9.	Frequency of dumpers/trucks/tippers deployed/hour	572/19.5=30
10.	Increase in PCU's per hour	30*3.7=111

Table – 1.11
Modified Traffic Scenario & LOS

S. No.	Road	Increased PCUs/ State Highway	V (Volume In PCU/Hr)	C (Capacity In PCU/Hr)	Modified V/C Ratio	Los
1	SH-44	111	123+111=234	1500	0.15	A
2	Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station	111	39+111=150	292	0.51	C
3	Proposed Road	111	107+111=218	292	0.75	D

B. DURING PROPOSED MINE OPERATION IN 3rd and 4th Year (6.0 MTPA)

Table – 1.12
During Proposed Mine Operation in 3rd & 4th Year (6.0 MTPA)

S. No.	Particular	Details
1.	Capacity of mine (Million TPA)	6.0
2.	No. of working days	300
3.	Capacity of tippers for Transportation of Bauxite (Tonnes)	35
4.	Transportation of Bauxite (Tonnes per day)	20000
5.	Working hours (for transportation) per day	19.5
6.	Transportation of bauxite (Tonnes per hour)	1026
7.	No. of trips (filled)	571
8.	No. of trips / day (to & from)	1142
9.	Frequency of dumpers/trucks deployed/hour	1142/19.5=59
10.	Increase in PCU's per hour	59*3.7=218

Table – 1.13
Modified Traffic Scenario & LOS

S. No.	Road	Increased PCUs/ State Highway	V (Volume In PCU/Hr)	C (Capacity In PCU/Hr)	Modified V/C Ratio	Los
1	SH-44	218	123+218=380	1500	0.25	A
2	Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station	218	39+218=257	292	0.88	E
3	Proposed Road	218	107+218=325	292	1.1	E

C. DURING PROPOSED MINE OPERATION IN 5th Year (9.0 MTPA)

Table – 1.14
During Proposed Mine Operation in 5th Year (9.0 MTPA)

S. No.	Particular	Details
1	Capacity of mine (Million TPA)	9.0
2	No. of working days	300
3	Capacity of Tipper for Transportation of bauxite (Tonnes)	35
4	Transportation of Bauxite (Tonnes per day)	30000
5	Working hours (for transportation) per day	19.5
6	Transportation of Bauxite (Tonnes per hour)	1538
7	No. of trips (filled)	857
8	No. of trips / day (to & from)	1714
9	Frequency of dumpers/trucks deployed/hour	1714/19.5=88
10	Increase in PCU's per hour	88*3.7=326

Table – 1.15
Modified Traffic Scenario & LOS

S. No.	Road	Increased PCUs/ State Highway	V (Volume In PCU/Hr)	C (Capacity In PCU/Hr)	Modified V/C Ratio	Los
1	SH-44	326	123+326=449	1500	0.3	B
2	Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to	326	39+326=365	292	1.25	E

	Leliguma station					
3	Proposed Road	326	107+326=433	292	1.49	E

3.1.2 TRAFFIC PROJECTION & IMPACT DUE TO INCREASED TRAFFIC MOVEMENT

Due to the proposed project, there will be addition of Heavy and Light motor vehicles in the existing traffic load.

The LOS value for the traffic survey conducted for SH-44 & Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station are for the present traffic scenario & it indicates that comfort & convenience is fair but declines noticeably after this point of LOS. For future scenario, following points have been considered for calculations:

During the first and second year, 10000 TPD bauxite will be transported via proposed road will be constructed by Vedanta Limited, SH-44 & Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station from 35 Tonner capacity tippers. V/C ratio for the existing 0.10 to 0.42 at SH-44 & Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station which falls LOS category 'A Excellent' and 'A Excellent' whereas, after starting the transportation the LOS category will remain "A Excellent" for SH-44 & "D Poor" for Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station and proposed road and its maximum capacity 9.0 MTPA, 30000 TPD of Bauxite will be transported via Proposed road, SH-44 & Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station. The LOS category will remain "B Very Good" for SH-44 & "E Very Poor" for Transportation in the Village Road from Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station and in the proposed road.

Thus, it can be concluded that the present road network is good enough to bear the increased traffic load. However, the proposed road from Mine top to SH-44 will be constructed and the Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station will be strengthened and widened. This will increase the strength and capacity of the transportation route, thus maintaining a satisfactory LOS category. Initially Crushed bauxite will be transported up to the railway siding by road & rail and in later phase, through Conveyor belt along with railway siding will be explored for long term mineral transportation. The internal and nearby roads will be periodically maintained to facilitate the safe and pollution free transportation services. With no significant change in the traffic density after the proposed project, Vedanta Ltd. will take all the appropriate measures to the best possible extent to minimize the impacts of fugitive dust, gaseous and noise emission.

3.1.3 MEASURES FOR TRANSPORTATION

Necessary mitigation measures will be adopted. The same are given as under:

- All tippers carrying coal will be covered with Tarpaulin.
- Road will be maintained in consultation with the local administrative authority.

- Vehicles with PUC Certificate will be used.
- Overloading will be avoided.
- Speed breakers will be provided.
- Speed governors will be installed in HEMMs.
- Peak hours will be avoided.
- Unnecessary blowing of horn will be avoided.
- Additional plantation along both sides of the village roads will be carried out in consultation with the Gram Panchayat and Forest Dept.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Bauxite will be transported from mine to Aluminum Plant of Vedanta Ltd. Initially, the bauxite will be transported via road upto Railway siding and from the railway siding upto plant by Rail.

During the road transportation adequate measures will be taken to keep the pollution under control. Hence there will not be any significant impact on transport infrastructure from the proposed mine.

ANNEXURE A20

REVISED FINAL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR

Sijimali Bauxite Mine

(Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha)

with Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity: 9.00 Million TPA, Top Soil: 0.18 Million TPA, Waste: 7.40 Million TPA & Subgrade: 1.42 Million TPA; (Total Excavation: 18.00 Million TPA) along with installation of 2 Crushers (2 x 1200 TPH)

At

Tehsils: Thuamul Rampur & Kashipur,
Districts: Kalahandi & Rayagada, State: Odisha

Baseline Study Period : Summer Season (March to May, 2023)

Public Hearing held on 16.10.2023 in Rayagada District & 18.10.2023 in Kalahandi District

APPLICANT

M/s. Vedanta Ltd.

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EIA CONSULTANT

J.M. EnviroNet Pvt. Ltd.

(Registered EIA Consultant Organization from NABET-QCI)
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E-mail: jmenviron@hotmail.com
NABL Approved Lab: JM EnviroLab Pvt. Ltd.
(Certificate No.:TC-6821)

ToR Compliance

Point wise compliance of ToR Points issued by the MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide file no. IA-J-11015/6/2023-IA-II(NCM), dated 14.08.2023 and ToR Amendment Letter, dated 27.10.2025 for Sijimali Bauxite Mine with capacity of 9.0 Million TPA Bauxite in the project area of 1549.022 ha, as per DGPS and 1548.786 ha, as per ROR located at Villages: Aliguna, Ambajhola, Bundel, Chulbari, Dumerpadar, Katibhata, Kutamal, Mahajal, Malipadara, Nakarundi, Pelanakona, Sagabari, Salabali, Tala Ambapadar, Taradei, Taramundi, Tijimali, Upar Ambapadar, Tehsil: Thuamul Rampur of Kalahandi District and Kashipur of Rayagada District, State: Odisha of M/s. Vedanta Limited.

ToR Point No.	ToR Point	Compliance	Ref in EIA / EMP Report
A.	**Specific Terms of Reference for (Mining of Minerals)**		
1	**Survey**		
1.1	The Project Proponent shall conduct drone survey of the mine lease area and buffer area and submit during the appraisal for EC.	Real time aerial footage and video of the mine lease area and buffer area through Drone Survey will be presented during the appraisal of EAC.	-
2	**Greenbelt/Plantation**		
2.1	During the submission of EC proposal, the Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for carrying out plantation along the 7.5m barrier, safety zone of habitations, water bodies, roads etc., PP should also submit the details no of saplings to be planted, type of saplings proposed and the area to be covered under greenbelt/plantation along with the timeline and budget. The Project Proponent needs to submit the compensatory afforestation plan for the no. of trees to be cut in the mine lease area. The afforestation plan shall be prepared in such a way that the ecology of the area shall be restored.	Greenbelt will be developed along the 7.5m mine periphery covering an area of 32.87 ha. Plantation on backfilled area i.e. 1205.13 ha will be carried out as per Approved Mining Plan. At conceptual stage; 12,87,305 nos of saplings will be planted on 1238 ha area @ 1000-2500 saplings per ha. Rs. 25.74 crore have been earmarked for greenbelt & plantation till the end of life of mine @ Rs. 200/sapling. Survival rate will be maintained more than 90%. Native species will be planted in consultation with the local forest officer, District Forest Officer and as per CPCB/SPCB guidelines. As per Tree Enumeration details/study, hilltop area doesn't have much trees; total nos. of trees will be cut other than safety zone & untouched area is approx. 740 nos. Copy of the Tree Enumeration Report is enclosed with this EIA/EMP Report. In Kalahandi district, about 161.86 ha of compensatory afforestation land and in Rayagada district about 565.50 ha of compensatory afforestation land has been identified. CA Land suitability details are enclosed with this EIA/EMP Report.	*Chapter 4, Table 4.24, Pg No 213* *Chapter 1 Para 1.3.1, (E) Pg No 90* ***Annexure IIIB*** ***Annexure IIIC***
3	**Road Transportation**		
3.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the map and details regarding the road transportation and its limitation along with the traffic management plan and an action plan for permanent dust suppression systems.	The crushed bauxite will be transported up to the railway siding by covered trucks and from the railway siding (Leliguma & Tikiri) up to the Plant by rail. The proposed road from mine top to SH-44 will be constructed and the Village Road up to the Railway Siding wherever needed to be strengthened and widened. This will increase the strength and capacity of the transportation route, thus maintaining a satisfactory LOS category. Internal and nearby roads will be periodically maintained to facilitate the safe and pollution free transportation services. With no significant change in the traffic density after the proposed project, Vedanta Ltd. will take all the appropriate measures to the best possible	*Chapter 4, Para 4.6.6, Pg No 208*

		extent to minimize the impacts of fugitive dust, gases and noise emission. Request Letter regarding diversion of 0.66 Ha (1.64 Acre) Land falling in Birabafala Village for development of road for transportation of Bauxite from Sijimali Bauxite Mine to the Addl. District Magistrate & Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada, dated 16.11.2023; to the Project Administrator, ITDA, Rayagada, dated 21.11.2023; to the Sub-collector-Cum-Chairman, SDLC (FRA), Rayagada, dated 22.11.2023 and to the Tehsildar & BOD, Kashipur, dated 28.11.2023. As earlier proposed route to connect the mine top to SH-44 is covering total length of about 7.5 km. To reduce the length for connecting mine top to SH-44 Vedanta Limited has adopted another route and the Company will construct a road of 3.4 km from NW site of mine area which will connect to the SH-44 (Owner of the Road shall be PWD). For the same forest diversion proposal is submitted for an area of 4.911 Ha out of the total Road area of 11.314 Ha vide proposal no. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025 dated 24.03.2025 by IDCO, Govt. land alienation (area of 6.243 Ha) was also completed & NOC was obtained from IDCO to construct the road, for Pvt. Land (area of 0.160 Ha) the SIA study was completed. Copy of NOC is enclosed with this EIA/EMP Report.	***Annexure XIIIA & XIIIB***
4	**Resettlement and Rehabilitation**		
4.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the detailed R&R plan covering all the components viz. number of Project Affected Families (PAF) and details of the land owned by them, break up of total compensation to be paid including method of calculation including the sources/references adopted and mode of payment etc. PP need to submit the plan for Socio economic development of the neighbourhood habitats based on the need-based survey along with the time bound action plan. PP also needs to submit the possession certificate and timeline for acquiring the land at the time of submission of EC proposal.	The area of proposed mine is 1549.022 ha (as per DGPS) and 1548.786 (as per ROR) which falls in 8 villages namely Malipadar, Dumerpadara, Katibhata, Kutamal, elanakona, Aliguna, Bundel, Shagabari (Tehsil: Kashipur in Rayagada District) and 10 villages namely Tijmali, Chulbadi, Ambajhola, Mahajal, Nakarundi, Taramundi, Uparambpadar, Salebali, Tadadei, Talambpadar (Tehsil: Thaumul–Rampur in Kalahandi District). Out of the total mine area, as per ROR, 708.204 ha is Forest Land, 129.089 ha is Private Land and 711.493 ha is Govt. Land whereas as per DGPS, 709.721 ha is Forest Land, 130.215 ha is Private Land & 709.086 ha is Govt. Land. As per SIA Study there are 162 Project Affected Families whose land to be purchased. Approx. 78 household in Tijimali and 84 household in Malipadar village. Budget proposed for R&R Action Plan is 130.07 crore. Request Letter for identification of suitable Govt. land of 40 acre nearby Village Malipadar for Rehabilitation Colony of displaced families due to establishment of Sijimali Bauxite at Malipadar Village has been forwarded from the Addl. District Magistrate, Rayagada to the Tehsildar, Kashipur vide letter no. 164/XII-01/2023, dated 06.12.2023. For permanent resettlement of above PDFs, the land has been identified at two locations namely Kurkuti & Chandgiri for construction of R & R colonies in both the districts. The same land also has also been sanctioned by district authorities for both the districts. Request letter to the Collectors Rayagada and Collector Kalahandi for permission of construction by M/s. Vedanta dated 24.10.2025. Copy of R&R Action Plan and Request Letters is enclosed with this EIA/EMP Report.	*Chapter 4 Para 4.6.5.4.2 Pg No 206* ***Annexure XI***
5	**Groundwater**		

Table - 4.23
Impact Evaluation to determine the Significance
(Socio economic Environment)

Impact Evaluation Element	Impact on socio economics due to the proposed mining project			
Potential Effect/ Concern	loss of land, rehabilitation & resettlement of PAFs, Improvements in socio economic conditions of the settlement falling within mine and nearby villages			
Characteristics of Impacts				
Nature	Positive		***Negative***	Neutral
	√			
Type	***Direct***	Indirect	Cumulative	
	√	√		
Extent	***Project Area***	*Local*	Zonal	Regional
		√	√	√
Duration	Short – term		Long- term	
			√	
Intensity	Low		***Medium***	High
			√	
Frequency	Remote (R)	Occasional (O)	Periodic (P)	Continuous (C)
				√
Significance of Impact				
Significance	Insignificant	Minor	**Moderate**	Major
				√

4.6.6 IMPACT ON LOCAL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

In compliance of specific ToR Point No. 3.1 details regarding the road transportation and its limitation along with the traffic management plan and an action plan for permanent dust suppression systems.

The bauxite will be transported from mine face to crusher or ROM ore stock pile by rear dump trucks. The bauxite will be loaded by front end loaders or hydraulic excavators. Crushed bauxite will be transported up to the railway siding by covered trucks and from the railway siding i.e. Leliguma and Tikiri up to the plant by rail.

Details are given below:

Serving Railway station – Leliguma Railway Siding and Tikiri Railway Siding

Evacuation Plan: Mine Top to Leliguma Railway Siding

Route	Length (km)	Width (m)
Mine Top to SH-44	~3.4 Km	~35 m
SH-44 to Mandibisi Chowk	~23 Km	~7.5 m
Mandibisi Chowk to Leliguma Railway Siding	~29 Km	~3.5 m

From mine top to bottom, total length connecting to SH-44 is ~3.4 km in West direction. Total length of the SH-44 which comes in transport route is ~23 km. SH-44 connecting Sijimali mines area to Mandibisi-Sikarpai Chouwk. The road is 2 lane undivided carriage way by Govt. of Odisha. SH-44 width is 7.5 m with 1.0 m shoulders. A black top road which Mandibisi-Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma Railway station. Total length of this road is 29.0 Km; width is 3.5 m with 1.0 m shoulders. Vedanta Limited will strengthen and widen the black top road which connects to the railway siding.

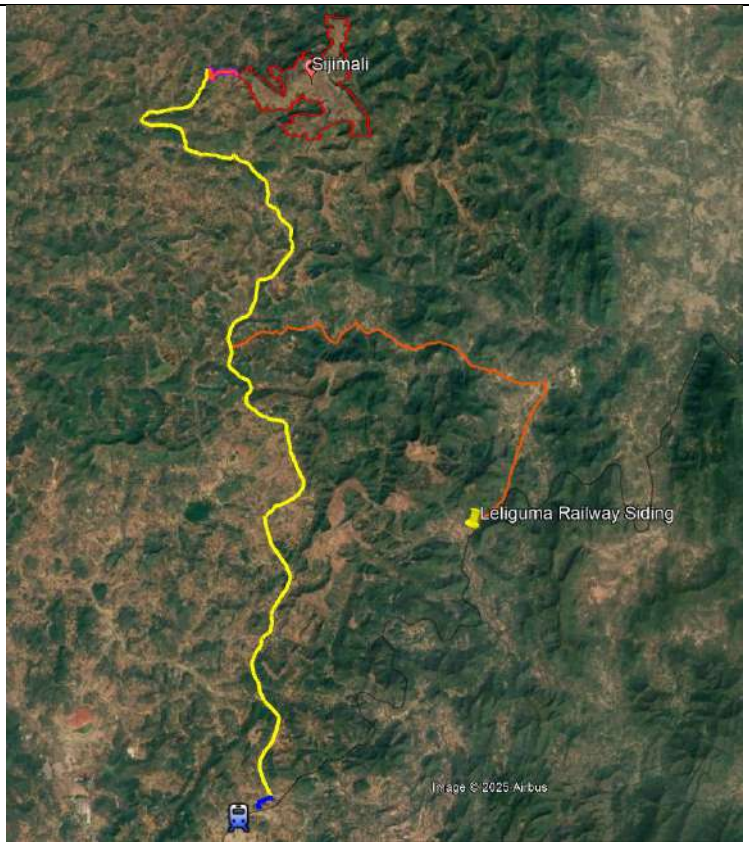
Alternatively, the proposed Tikiri railway siding is located approximately 55 km distance from the Sijimali mining lease boundary.

Evacuation Plan: Mine Top to Tikri Railway Siding

Route	Length (In km)	Width (In m)
Mine Top to SH-44	~ 3.4 Km	~35 m
SH-44 to Tikiri Chowk	~ 50.5 Km	~7.5 m
Tikiri Chowk to Tikiri Railway Siding	~ 1.1 Km	~3.5 m

From mine top to bottom, total length connecting to SH-44 is ~3.4 km in West direction. Total length of the SH-44 which comes in transport route is ~ 50.5 km. SH-44 connecting Sijimali mines area to Tikiri Chowk. The road is 2 lane undivided carriage way by Govt. of Odisha. SH-44 width is 7.5 m with 1.0 m shoulders. A black top road which Tikiri Chowk to Tikiri Railway station. Total length of this road is ~1.1 Km; width is 3.5 m with 1.0 m shoulders. Vedanta Limited will strengthen and widen the black top road which connects to the railway siding.

Map showing location of nearby connectivity with proposed Sijimali Mine has been prepared on Google Earth & same is given below:



		ML Boundary	
	Mine Top to Bottom		SH-44
	SH-44 to Leliguma Siding		SH-44 to Tikri Chowk
	Leliguma Railway Siding		Tikri Railway Siding

Figure 4.3 Google Earth Image showing the Transportation Route Map

MEASURES FOR TRANSPORTATION

Necessary mitigation measures will be adopted. The same are given as under:

- All trucks/ dumpers carrying bauxite will be covered with Tarpaulin.
- Permanent water sprinklers will be installed on main haulage road for dust suppression.
- Road will be maintained in consultation with the local administrative authority.
- Vehicles with PUC Certificate will be used.
- Overloading will be avoided.
- Speed breakers will be provided.
- Speed governors will be installed in HEMMs.
- Peak hours will be avoided.
- Un- necessary blowing of horn will be avoided.
- Additional plantation along both sides of the village roads will be carried out in consultation with the Gram Panchayat and Forest Deptt.

Detailed Traffic study is enclosed as ***Annexure XIIIA.***

Request Letter to construct the Private Siding at Lelligumma Station has been forwared from the Advisor/Operations to the Sr. Divisional Operations Manager, Waltair Division, East Coast Railway, Visakhapatnam, vide Letter No. UNIRAIL/VL/LLGM/2023-24/101, dated 21.06.2023. Request Letter for development of Goods Siding at Lelligumma Station for loading & dispatching Bauxite has been forwared from the Sr. Divisional Engineer (North), E.Co.Railway/Waltair to the Sr. Divisional Operations Manager, East Coast Railway, Waltair vide Letter No. WEL/19/WAT/Vedanta/LLGM/Land/91A, Office of the Div. Railway Manager (Engg), Waltair, dated 04.10.2023. Mineral will also be transported through Tikri railway siding.

Request Letter regarding diversion of 0.66 Ha (1.64 Acre) Land falling in Birabafala Village for development of road for transportation of Bauxite from Sijimali Bauxite Mine to the Addl. District Magistrate & Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada vide letter no. VL/FC/SIJIMALI-ROAD/RGDA/01, dated 16.11.2023; to the Project Administrator, ITDA, Rayagada vide letter no. 3668/XXXV-08/2023, dated 21.11.2023; to the Sub-collector-Cum-Chairman, SDLC (FRA), Rayagada, vide letter no. 4285/2023, dated 22.11.2023 and to the Tehsildar & BOD, Kashipur, vide letter no. 5717/XXXII-10/23, dated 28.11.2023.

As earlier proposed route to connect the mine top to SH-44 is covering total length of about 7.5 km. To reduce the length for connecting mine top to SH-44 Vedanta Limited has adopted another route and the Company will construct a road of 3.4 km from NW site of mine area which will connect to the SH-44 (Owner of the Road shall be PWD).

For the same forest diversion proposal is submitted for an area of 4.911 Ha out of the total Road area of 11.314 Ha vide proposal no. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025 dated 24.03.2025 by IDCO, Govt. land alienation (area of 6.243 Ha) was also completed & NOC was obtained from IDCO to construct the road, for Pvt. Land (area of 0.160 Ha) the SIA study was completed. Copy of Noc is enclosed as ***Annexure XIIIB.***

4.6.7 IMPACT ON BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation are important causes of known species-population extinctions. The main cause of degradation and depletion of forest and wildlife are the human activity (anthropogenic pressure). Population explosion, over exploitation of forest resources,

ANNEXURE A21

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT
***

No. IND-HI1-MATS-0036-2019- 875 /I **Dated-** 3/2/2024

From

S.K. Nayak, OAS
Additional Secretary to Government.

To

Principal Secretary to Govt., Works Department, Odisha
Principal Secretary to Govt., Rural Development Deptt., Odisha
Managing Director, IDCO, Bhubaneswar
Managing Director, IPICOL, Bhubaneswar
Collector, Rayagada

Sub: Meeting to discuss regarding finalisation of logistics requirements for Bauxite mineral transportation in Rayagada.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on **24.01.2024** under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Odisha on the above subject for kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

03.02.2024

Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 876 /I, dated 3/2/2024

Copy alongwith copy of enclosure forwarded to President, Vedanta Limited (*Email:* tapan.chand@vedanta.co.in) for kind information and necessary action.

03.02.2024

Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 877 /I, dated 3/2/2024

Copy alongwith copy of enclosure forwarded to OSD to Chief Secretary, Odisha for kind information of Chief Secretary.

03.02.2024

Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 878 /I, dated 3/2/2024

Copy alongwith copy of enclosure forwarded to OSD to Principal Secretary, Industries Department for kind information of Principal Secretary.

03.02.2024

Additional Secretary to Government

Minutes of the meeting held on 24.01.2024 at 10:30 AM in the conference room of Chief Secretary on the issue of transportation of Bauxite from Sijimali Mines

A meeting was held on 24.01.2024 at 10:30 am in the conference room of Chief Secretary under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Odisha on the issue of transportation of Bauxite from Sijimali Mines. At the outset, Principal Secretary Industries extended warm welcome to Chief Secretary and other participants and briefly explained the subject. Dr. T K Chand and Mr. V Srikanth, CEO Mines made the presentation on the proposed transportation routes from Sijimali. The following points were discussed, and decisions taken:

1. Transportation of Bauxite from Sijimali to Tikiri/ Singaram siding through SH 44 (PHASE-1)

Mine Top to SH-44

i. Vedanta to submit the land schedule from Mine top to SH 44 road.
ii. IDCO to facilitate acquisition and transfer of land to PWD and giving NOC to Vedanta for construction of the road.
iii. PWD will remain as the owner of the road.

Kashipur Bypass (12 km)

i. District collector informed that the DLEC has already cleared the transfer of road to PWD
ii. RD to transfer the road to PWD.
iii. PWD to prepare the DPR and start the development of the road.

Tikiri to Singaram connecting road (9.5 km)

i. Road under RD dept to be transferred to PWD for which Collector, Rayagada to submit the DLEC proposal.
ii. PWD to conduct the survey, prepare the DPR and take up the development of the road.

2. Transportation of Bauxite through State highways connectivity from SH 44 to SH 45 (PHASE-2)

i. The roads under construction that can be completed in near term to be continued. Other projects relating to road development may be foreclosed.
ii. The link road from SH-44 to SH-45 which is under RD & PR dept. to be transferred to PWD.
iii. The construction of bridge near Dandpadar to be completed and to be transferred to PWD.

iv. Construction of Major HL bridge between Bijepur to Kedulguda section to be initiated on priority. After completion the same to be transferred to PWD.

v. PWD to conduct the survey, prepare the DPR and take up the development of the road connecting SH-44 to SH-45

vi. Tender for the road including allied infrastructure (village by-pass and bridges) to be given by June 2024

3. Transportation of the Bauxite through End-to-End Conveyor

i. Vedanta informed that a State of Art Conveyor (approx. 38 Km) as long-term sustainable solution, is being planned.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and members present.

Chief Secretary,
Odisha

ANNEXURE A22

Email: sepwd_rgda@yahoo.com
Phone/Fax: -06856-223049

Office of the Chief Construction Engineer
Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada

File No. CIII/2024/Letter No. 1050 dt. 14/11/2024

To

The Superintending Engineer,
Rayagada (R&B) Division No.I,
Rayagada.

Sub :- Detailed Project Report for Development of proposed road connectivity from Sijimali Mines to SH-44 for transportation of Bauxite Ore for M/s. Vedanta Ltd., Lanjigarh,Odisha from 0/0 km. to 3/400 km.

Sir,

The Technically approved Detailed Project Report for Development of proposed road connectivity from Sijimali Mines to SH-44 for transportation of Bauxite Ore for M/s. Vedanta Ltd., Lanjigarh, Odisha from 0/0 km. to 3/400 km, received vide letter No. 41996 dt. 30.10.2024 of the Chief Engineer (Roads-I), Odisha is returned herewith for taking further needful action.

The execution and specification of the work should be followed as per IRC guidelines.

Encl. :- As above

Yours faithfully,

14/11/24

Chief Construction Engineer
Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada

13/11/24

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA,
NIRMAN SOUDHA, KESHARI NAGAR, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001

File No: C-II- RYD-II-24/2024 No: 41996 Date: 30.10.2024

From

Chief Engineer, (Roads-I) Odisha.
Tel: +91 674 239 3122 / Fax: +91 674 239 0080
Email: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com

To

The Chief Construction Engineer,
Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada.

Sub: - Detailed Project Report for Development of proposed road connectivity from Sijimali Mines to SH-44 for transportation of Bauxite Ore for M/S. Vedanta Ltd., Lanjigarh, Odisha from 0/0 Km to 3/400 Km

Ref: - Your letter No-938 dtd. 24.09.2024

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, the provision provided in the crust of the estimate as received from the Chief Construction Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada vide letter no. 938 dated 24.09.2024 is technically approved and return herewith. The execution and specification of the work should be followed as per IRC guidelines.

Yours Sincerely,

Chief Engineer (Roads-I), Odisha

Copy to

The Executive Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Division-I, Rayagada for information and necessary action.

project coordinator@mythrinfra.c

vedanta

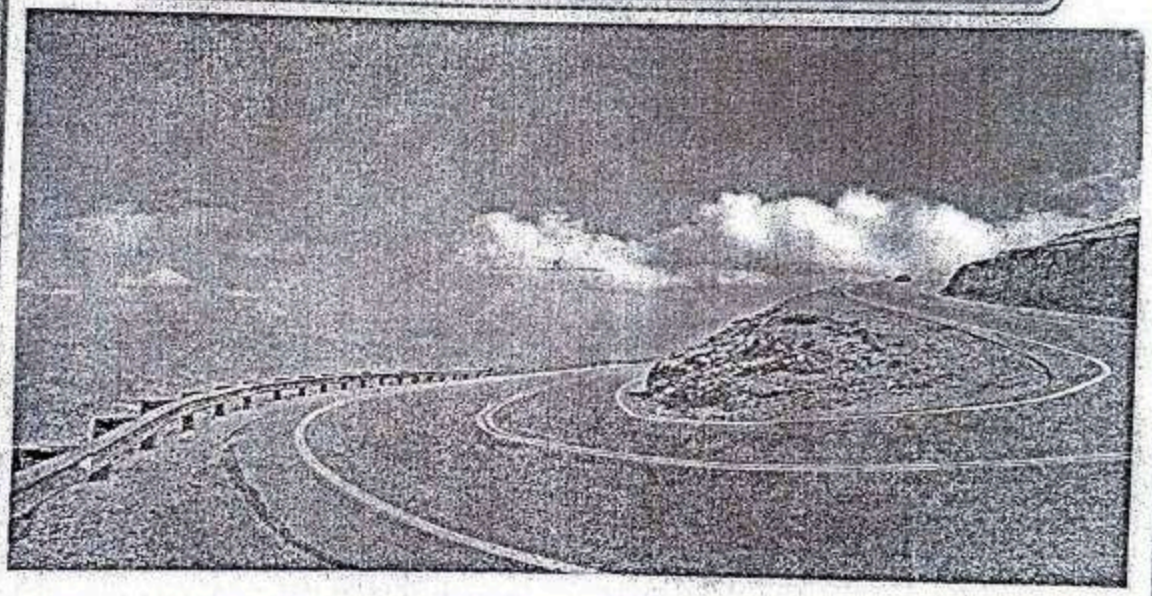
M/s. VEDANTA LTD.

LANJIGARH, KALAHANDI, ODISHA.

DETAILED PROJECT REPORT (DPR) DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED ROAD CONNECTIVITY FROM SIJIMALI MINES TO SH-44 FOR TRANSPORTATION OF BAUXITE ORE FOR M/S VEDANTA LIMITED AT LANJIGARH.

DETAILD PROJECT REPORT

SEPTEMBER-2024



Executing Agency: **Mythri Infrastructure and Mining India Pvt Ltd.**

S.R.S NO : 051, Near Canara Bank, Main Road, Tikiri, Dist-Rayagada, Odisha-765015

Design Consultant: - Utkal Rail Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

Regd. office- At-Ramchandrapur, (Near Dhanmandal Police station)
P.O. Dhanmandal, Dist-Jajpur, Odisha. Pin-754024.
E-mail : utkalrailconsultants@gmai.com , Mob-9439196960

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ABBREVIATION

MORTH	Ministry of Road Transport & Highway
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Official
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forest
IRC	Indian Road Congress
BIS	Bureau of Indian Standards
EPC	Engineering Procurement Contract
PPP	Public Private Partnership
DBFOT	Design, Build, Finance Operate & Transfer
ToR	Term of Reference
ESAL	Equivalent Standard Axle Load
VDF	Vehicle Damage Factor
MSA	Million Standard Axle
AADT	Average Annual Daily Traffic
ADT	Annual Daily Traffic
TVC	Total Vehicle Count
OD	Origin-Destination
PCU	Passenger Car Unit
GSDP	Gross State Domestic Product
CBR	California Bearing Ratio
DCPT	Direct Cone Penetration Test
BBD	Benkelman Beam Deflection
ROW	Right of Way
FY	Financial Year
COD	Commercial Operations Data

DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED ROAD CONNECTIVITY FROM SIJIMALI MINES TO SH-44 FOR TRANSPORTATION OF BAUXITE ORE FOR M/S VEDANTA LIMITED AT LANJIGARH.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

0.1 GENERAL

Vedanta Limited is one of the largest global diversified natural resources majors, supporting the country's industrial growth.

Vedanta Limited (VL) has setup 2 MTPA Alumina refinery plant with 75 MW Captive Power Plant at Lanjigarh, Kalahandi district of Odisha. Alumina is further processed through electro smelting in 1.7 MTPA smelter plant with 9 Units X 135 MW Captive Power Plant set up at Burkhamunda, near Jharsuguda, Odisha.

Raw Materials i.e. Bauxite ore is brought to the plant Kodingamali through rail transport from Tikiri.

M/s VL is now got the lease for excavation of Sijimali Bauxite ore mines under Kasipur Tehsil of Rayagada district.

M/s Vedanta intends to transports the Bauxite ore of 9.0 MTPA from mines to Alumina Refinery plant situated at Lanjigarh through road and rail transport. However, transportation of bauxite ore from mine to plant through pipe conveyor is also under process. Since, the conveyor system will take a long time for construction, hence, initially transportation of bauxite ore will be done through road and rail network.

For transportation of bauxite ore from mine to railways station (Loading point), M/s Vedanta Ltd. (VL) has engaged Logistic Partner M/s Mythri Infrastructure and Mining India Pvt Ltd. (MIMIPL) and the Logistic partner is the executing agency of the road from Mines top to SH-44.

Since, the road connectivity from Sijimali Mines top to SH-44 is not available at site; it was decided to execute suitable road connectivity from Mines top to SH-44 for transportation of Bauxite ore through Bulkers/trucks.

MIMIPL has decided to take up the construction of new road from Sijimali Mines top to SH-44 up to a distance 3.4 km in the state of Odisha.

This project is a part of the above-mentioned programme and the project awarded to M/s Utkal Rail Consultants Pvt Ltd for preparation of Detailed Project Report for the above-mentioned road.

- Project Stretch: Sijimali Mines Top to SH-44 (Total Stretch- 3+400 KM)

In order to fulfil the above task, MIMIPL has entrusted the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report for the above project to Utkal Rail Consultants, vide contract agreement.

0.2 OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of the consultancy service will focus on establishing technical viability of the project and prepare detailed project reports for construction of the new 2-lane road configuration with the following points to be ensured.

- Ensure Enhanced safety of the traffic, the road users and people living close to the project road
- Ensure enhanced operational efficiency of the road
- Ensure fulfilment of the access needs of the local population
- Ensure minimal adverse impact on the road users and the local population due to construction
- Minimal additional acquisition of land
- Superior operation and maintenance enabling enhanced operational efficiency of the Project Road.

Design requirement of pavement from SH-44 to Sijimali mines from 0/000 to 3/400, it should be of 60 MSA.

0.3 SCOPE OF SERVICES

The study includes all field works and detailed engineering studies for construction of road from SH-44 to Mines. The scope of services as detailed in TOR is as follows:

- Survey and design the suitable alignment for the proposed road as per MoRTH & IRC guidelines, practicable and cost effective. The Consultant shall furnish land acquisition details as per revenue records/maps for further processing of land acquisition.
- The general scope of services is given in the sections that follow. However, the entire scope of services would, inter-alia, include the items mentioned in the Letter of Invitation and the TOR. The Consultant will also make suitable alternative proposals for the proposed road as per the requirement and land availability.
- To prepare the bid documents including required schedules (as mentioned above) as per EPC/Item Rate documents.
- Consultant shall be responsible for sharing the findings from the preparation stages during the bid process. During the bid process for a project, the consultant shall support the authority in responding to all technical queries, and shall ensure participation of senior team members of the consultant during all interaction with potential bidders including pre-bid conference, meetings, and site visits etc. In

addition, the consultant shall also support preparation of detailed responses to the written queries raised by the bidders.

The scope of consultancy service as set out in the TOR includes the following major tasks:

- Review of all available reports and published information about the project road and the project influence area;
- Detailed reconnaissance;
- Identification of possible alternative alignments for development of road.
- Traffic surveys
- Inventory and condition surveys for cross-drainage structures, other Structures, river Bank training/Protection works and drainage provisions;
- Sub-grade characteristics and strength: investigation of required sub-grade and sub-soil characteristics and strength for road and embankment design and sub soil investigation;
- Identification of sources of construction materials;
- Detailed design of road, its x-sections, horizontal and vertical alignment and design of embankment of height more than 6m and also in poor soil conditions and where density consideration require, even lesser height embankment. Detailed design of structures preparation of GAD and construction drawings and cross-drainage structures etc.
- Preparation of detailed project report, cost estimate, construction drawings, rate analysis, detailed bill of quantities, bid documents for execution of civil works.
- Any other user-oriented facility.

The Consultant shall be guided in its assignment by the Model Agreement for Engineering, Procurement and Constructions (EPC)/ Item Rate Mode and the MoRTH with relevant IRC codes.

0.4 APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

The consultant's approach towards the project is in accordance to the TOR in lines with the project objectives. The prescribed engineering surveys and investigations have been carried out on the Project Road conforming to MORTH/IRC/BIS Specifications / Codes as per TOR to generate adequate database for preparing the most appropriate proposal for construction of proposed road.

0.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On award of the job, detailed survey has been carried out for design of the suitable alignment for the proposed road from SH-44 to Sijimali mines. Various alternative

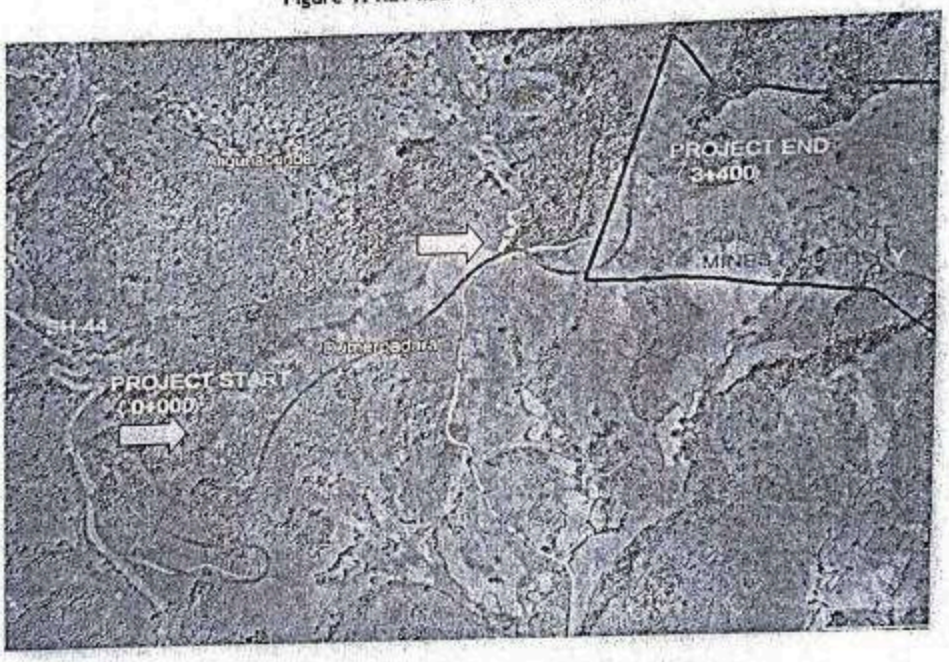
alignment has bene studied and most suitable and economic alignment has been freeze in consultation with the client.

The proposed has been take off from Sh-44 near Sagabari village under Kashipur Tahsil of Rayagada district in the state of Odisha. The proposed road connectivity from Sh-44 to Sijimali Mines is about 3/400 KM long and has been proposed on hilly terrain as per the geometrical requirement for transport of bauxite ore from mine to nearest railway station through SH-44.

The Scope of the Project Work is therefore to start the Road near Sijimali bauxite mines area and terminates at SH-44. The Sijimali bauxite area zone is approximately of 1550 Hectares. By Physical Reconnaissance Survey, and Study of Satellite Maps, alignment of length 3.400 KM was finalized.

The project location map is provided in the figure below.

Figure 1: KEY MAP OF PROJECT ROAD



QR CODE FOR DOWNLOAD OF KML FILE OF THE PRPSOED ROAD ALIGNMENT.

DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED ROAD CONNECTIVITY FROM SIJIMALI MINES TO SH-44 FOR TRANSPORTATION OF BAUXITE ORE FOR M/S VEDANTA LIMITED AT LANJIGARH.

0.5.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The Sijimali mining site is located in the south-western part of Rayagada district in Odisha. The lease area of 1560.40 hectares falls under Thuamul-Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandi district and Kashipur Tehsil of Rayagada district in the state of Odisha. The lease area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet nos. E44F2 and E44F3 and bounded by latitude of 19° 28' 42.42" to 19° 32' 02.35" N & longitude of 83° 06' 04.66" to 83° 09' 49.80" E.

0.5.2 TERRAIN

The whole project road passes majorly hilly terrain passing through large forest patches.

0.5.3 ABUTTING LAND USE

The roadside environment is forest land, Govt. land as well as private land with hilly area and there are no settlements along the proposed route.

0.5.4 RIGHT OF WAY

The Right of Way (ROW) boundary stones are available along the project corridor. The Proposed ROW throughout the stretch is varying 33-48 m.

0.5.5EXISTING STRUCTURES

The list of existing road structures such as Underpass, minor bridge, culverts, etc. are listed in Tables as below:

Table 1: SUMMARY OF EXISTING STRUCTURES

Sl.No.	Features	Description
1	Major Bridge	Nil
2	Minor Bridge	Nil
3	Culverts	Nil
4	Causeway	Nil
5	Median	Nil
6	Junctions	Nil
7	At Grade Railway Crossings	Nil
8	Road Sign Boards	Nil
9	Bus Bays	Nil
10	Truck Lay Bye	Nil
11	Bus Stops	Nil

As it is a newly proposed road from Sijimali mines top to SH-44 so, there is no existence of culverts/structures.

0.6 TRAFFIC ANALYSIS & FORECAST

The traffic surveys have been studied that future initial traffic to & fro movement should be 1410 Nos when the mines will be operated. The baseline traffic characteristics are very important for the assessment of future traffic and travel pattern.

0.6.1 Traffic Projected

The traffic projected for the project stretch with 5.0% traffic growth rate has been tabulated below.

Projected Bauxite Ore Transportation- 9 MTPA (Million Ton Per Annum)

Average carrying capacity of a vehicle- 35 MT (Metric Ton)

So, to and fro movement of vehicle will be 1410 Nos. per day.

(Note: The above vehicle movement has been calculated considering 365 days in a year)

However, transportation of projected traffic will be done in different phases mentioned below:

Phase-1, 3 MTPA in 2025-26, to and fro movement of vehicle will be 470 Nos. per day.

Phase-2, 6 MTPA in 2026-27, to and fro movement of vehicle will be 940 Nos. per day.

Phase-3, 9 MTPA in 2027-28, to and fro movement of vehicle will be 1410 Nos. per day.

Table 2: PROJECTED TRAFFIC FOR 20 YEARS

DURATION	AADT	PCU	
2023	0	0	Construction Period Ends
2024	0	0	
2025	0	0	
2026	0	0	
2027	0	0	
2028	550	2475	1
2029	1024	4608	2
2030	1498	6742	3
2031	1573	7079	4
2032	1652	7433	5
2033	1734	7805	6
2034	1821	8195	7
2035	1912	8605	8
2036	2008	9035	9
2037	2108	9487	10
2038	2214	9961	11
2039	2324	10459	12
2040	2440	10982	13
2041	2562	11531	14

2042	2691	12107	15
2043	2825	12713	16
2044	2966	13349	17
2045	3115	14016	18
2046	3270	14717	19
2047	3434	15453	20

- EquiValency Factor is 4.5, which is mentioned in IRC-64, 1980 (Table-1).

The above traffic is the anticipated traffic projection for 20 years, however as discussed earlier, M/s Vedanta has also planned for a Pipe Conveyor transportation of Bauxite ore from mines to plant directly. The construction work of conveyor system may take 3-5 years to complete and after completion/commissioning of pipe conveyor, road movement will be significantly reduced.

0.6.2 Computation of design traffic

Table 3: MSA CALCULATION

Estimation of Design Traffic in terms of MSA									
Year	Commercial Vehicles Bothway (Vehicles/day)						Equivalent Standard Axles on Design Lane in Million		
	Bus	LCV	2-Axle Truck	3-Axle Truck	MAV	Total	Year Wise	48-Months (Cons. Period)	
Distribution factor	0.75								
VDF values	0.21	0.08	0.13	1.07	5.00				
Growth rate (%)	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%				
2023	0	0	0	0		0			
2024	0	0	0	0		0			
2025	0	0	0	0		0			
2026	0	0	0	0		0			
2027	0	0	0	0		0			
2028	20	10	20	30	470	550	0.65	0.65	1
2029	21	11	21	32	940	1024	1.30	1.95	2
2030	22	11	22	33	1410	1498	1.94	3.89	3
2031	23	12	23	35	1481	1573	2.04	5.93	4
2032	24	12	24	36	1555	1652	2.14	8.07	5
2033	26	13	26	38	1632	1734	2.25	10.32	6
2034	27	13	27	40	1714	1821	2.36	12.68	7
2035	28	14	28	42	1800	1912	2.48	15.16	8
2036	30	15	30	44	1890	2008	2.60	17.76	9
2037	31	16	31	47	1984	2108	2.73	20.50	10
2038	33	16	33	49	2083	2214	2.87	23.37	11

2039	34	17	34	51	2187	2324	3.01	26.38	12
2040	36	18	36	54	2297	2440	3.16	29.54	13
2041	38	19	38	57	2412	2562	3.32	32.86	14
2042	40	20	40	59	2532	2691	3.49	36.35	15
2043	42	21	42	62	2659	2825	3.66	40.01	16
2044	44	22	44	65	2792	2966	3.84	43.86	17
2045	46	23	46	69	2931	3115	4.04	47.89	18
2046	48	24	48	72	3078	3270	4.24	52.13	19
2047	51	25	51	76	3232	3434	4.45	56.58	20

The Calculated Design Traffic MSA for 20 years is 56.58. However, the Recommended Design Traffic MSA for 20 years has been taken as 60.0 MSA.

As per IRC-37, 2018 (Clause-4.4.6) for small projects, in the absence of weigh pad, the axle loads of typical commercial vehicles plying on the road may be estimated approximately from the type of goods carried. Where information on the axle loads is not available and the proportion of heavy vehicles using the road is small, the indicative values of vehicle damage factor given in Table 4.2 (Indicative VDF) can be used. These indicative VDF values have been worked out based on typical axle load spectrums and taking into consideration the legal axle load limits notified in the Gazette of India dated 16th July 2018.

Table 4: EXISTING ROAD CRUST DETAILS OF SH-44

SL NO.	CHAINAGE (KM)	SUB-BASE	BASE	BINDER	WEARING COURSE
1	0.000	GSB - 160	WMM =150	BM = 50	SDBC = 25

0.8 SUBGRADE CHARACTERISTICS AND STRENGTH

The soil analysis has been carried out on the basis of the classification and mechanical characteristics of the soil along the project road. The finding outs are as briefed below:

Table 5: Laboratory Test results of OGL at KM 6+900

LABORATORY TEST RESULTS OF OGL															
Sampling Chanage in Km	Location	Type of sample	Grain size analysis(Retained %)					D.F.S. in %	Atterberg's Limits (%)			Group of soil	MDD in(%)	OMC IN %	Soaked CBR
			Gravel in %	Coarse Sand in %	Medium Sand in %	Fine Sand in %	Silty &Clay in %		Liquid Limit	Plastic Limit	Plasticity Index				
3.000	Hill	DS	0.46	4.86	8.74	20.51	65.43	18	32	18	14	CL	1.87	13.26	6.10
Remark:	A) MDD should not be <1.52 gm/cc for embankment up to height 3.0 mtr & 1.75 gm/cc for subgrade &shoulder.														
	B) LL, PI & DFS value should not be > 70%, 45% & 50% respectively.														
General Remarks: The test results related to the above samples are collected by this laboratory. This laboratory is not responsible for the result of similar other samples tested in this Laboratory or any other laboratory.															

0.10 PROPOSED WIDTH OF CARRIAGEWAY

As per IRC SP-73,2015 (Table-2.8), the project road whose 20-year projected traffic is less than 18000 PCU/day, shall be developed to two lanes. The Proposed carriageway configuration is 7.0 m wide carriageway with 1.50 m of paved shoulders & 2.0m of earthen shoulder on both sides.

The Proposed Carriageway which is connecting to SH-44 is to transport bauxite ore to Lanjigarh railway station, so the entire stretch is considered as plain terrain.

0.11PROPOSED CROSS SECTION

Details of cross section are tabulated below.

Table 6: DETAILS OF CROSS SECTION

SL NO	TYPE OF CROSS SECTION	DETAILS
1	TYPICAL-I	NEW CONSTRUCTION 2-LANE WITH PAVED SHOULDER IN RURAL AREA
2	TYPICAL-2	NEW CONSTRUCTION 2-LANE WITH PAVED SHOULDER WITH HILL ON ONE SIDE & PROTECTION WALL
3	TYPICAL-3	NEW CONSTRUCTION2-LANE WITH PAVED SHOULDER WITH TOTAL CUT FORMATION OPTION
4	TYPICAL-4	NEW CONSTRUCTION 2-LANE WITH PAVED SHOULDER WITH PROTECTION WALL

Detailed figure of Typical cross sections are furnished in Annexure-I

0.12 PROPOSED PAVEMENT COMPOSITION

Proposed Pavement Composition from mines top to SH-44 will be decided by the client as of now using the design chart of IRC: 37-2012&IRC: 58-2015, the total pavement thickness requirements for both the homogenous sections, for the design CBR value of 8% and respective 20 years design traffic for flexible pavement & 30 years design traffic design traffic for rigid pavement are given below.

Table 7: PAVEMENT CRUST DETAILS

Chainage from and to	Design traffic (MSA)	CBR of subgrade (%)	Proposed Pavement Thickness		
			GSB	DLC	PQC
0/000-3/400	60	8	150	150	300

M-40 grade Concrete shall be used in Pavement Quality Concrete (PQC) road with min. cement content of 400kg per Cum.

0.14 PROPOSALS FOR STRUCTURES

0.14.2 BRIDGES & CULVERTS

There are total of 10 nos. of Bridges/culvert has been proposed on the road alignment from Sh-44 to Mines top. List is bridges tabulated below:

Table 8: LIST OF PROPOSED MINOR BRIDGE

Sl No	Chainage	Type	Span Arrangement	Proposed	Proposed Width
1	0+000	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
2	0+365	LVUP	1x 12.0 x 4.0	New Construction	12.00
3	0+585	LVUP	1x 12.0 x 4.0	New Construction	12.00
4	0+595	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
5	1+175	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
6	1+815	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
7	1+963	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
8	2+735	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
9	2+785	LVUP	1x 12.0 x 4.0	New Construction	12.00
10	3+165	LVUP	1x 12.0 x 4.0	New Construction	12.00

0.15 PUBLIC UTILITIES

The proposed road is a greenfield road and no public structures are located or infringed on the proposed road alignment. Utility corridor of 1.5 mtr width has been proposed along the proposed Road inside the proposed ROW .

0.16 LAND ACQUISITION

The land acquisition within the proposed ROW is mentioned below according to following stretches:

- Total road length is 3/400 KM, however land acquisition will be done from 0/00KM to 2/980 Km outside the mine's boundary- 28.005 Acres (New Construction of Rigid Pavement from SH-44 to Mines Top)

19.09.24 Junior Engineer Rayagada (R&B) Sub-Division No-II

19.9.24 Asst. Executive Engineer Rayagada (R&B) Sub-Division No-II

20.09.24 Executive Engineer Rayagada (R&B) Division No-1

0.17 COST ESTIMATE

The general abstract of project cost is worked out according to the improvement proposal is tabulated below:

Table 9: SUMMARY OF PROJECT COST

GENERAL ABSTRACT			
SL. No.	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	QTY	AMOUNT
1	Road Proper	3400 Km	Rs 25,52,29,641.53
2	Road safety & Furnitures		Rs 28,16,552.59
3	Hume Pipe Culvert -8 Nos		
i	New Construction of HP Culvert of 1 x 1.2m dia - 15 width	6 Nos	Rs 25,25,019.02
4	LVUP -4 Nos		
i	New Construction of LVUP of 1x 12.0 x 4.0 - 12 width	4 Nos	Rs 3,87,50,181.81
5	Drainage & Protection Works		
i	RCC Retaining Wall	2930 Mtr	Rs 9,79,69,858.11
ii	Breast Wall	3690 Mtr	Rs 6,26,39,467.36
iii	Lined Drain	3404 Mtr	Rs 96,87,804.59
			Rs 46,96,18,525.01
		Or Say,	Rs 46,96,18,525.00
	Add 9.00% SGST		Rs 4,22,65,667.00
	Add 9.00% CGST		Rs 4,22,65,667.00
	Add QUALITY CONTROL 1.00%		Rs 46,96,185.00
	Add CONTIGENCY 1.00%		Rs 46,96,185.00
	Add Cost for Shifting and Relocation of Public Utilities		
	Add for Land Acquisition		
	Total Cost		Rs 56,35,42,229.00

19.09.24
Junior Engineer (R&B) Section
Rayagada

19.9.24
Asst. Executive Engineer
Rayagada (R&B) Sub-Division No-II

20.09.24
Executive Engineer
Rayagada (R&B) Division No-I

PROJECT BACKGROUND

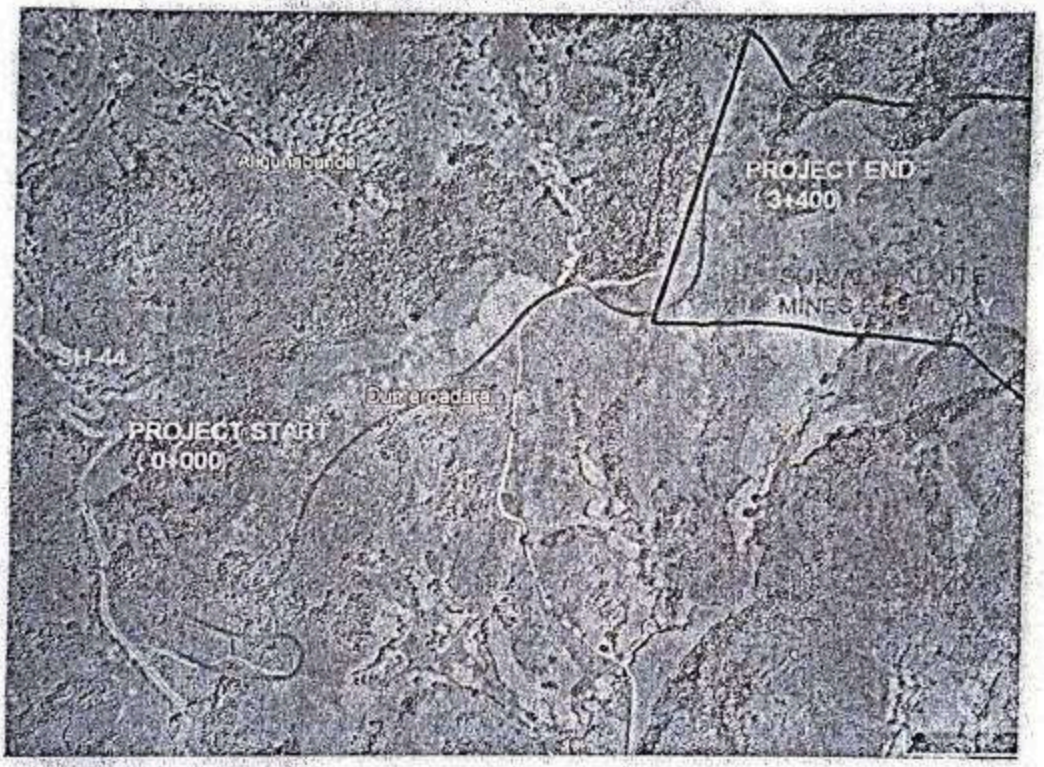
1.1 BACKGROUND

Mythri Infrastructure has decided to take up the construction of road connectivity from SH-44 to Sijimali Mines top i.e; 3.4KM, (to be developed by Mythri) in the state of Odisha.

Mythri Infrastructure Ltd intends to supply the following in Odisha:

- Development of road connectivity from Sh-44 to Sijimali mining area in Rayagada district.

Figure 2: LOCATION MAP OF PROJECT ROAD



1.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the Consultancy service is to establish technical, economic viability of the proposed road connectivity from Sh-44 to Sijimali Bauxite Ore mines.

1. Ensure Enhanced safety of the traffic, the road users and people living close to the road
2. Ensure enhanced operational efficiency of the road
3. Ensure fulfilment of the access needs of the local population
4. Ensure minimal adverse impact on the road users and the local population due to construction

5. Minimal additional acquisition of land
6. Formulation of up-gradation to major road configuration
7. Provide technical assistance including designing and cost estimation
8. Superior operation and maintenance enabling enhanced operational efficiency of the Project Road.

1.3 SCOPE OF SERVICES

The study includes all field works and detailed engineering studies for construction of road from SH-44 to Mines. The scope of services as detailed in TOR is as follows:

- Survey and design the suitable alignment for the proposed road as per MoRTH & IRC guidelines, practicable and cost effective. The Consultant shall furnish land acquisition details as per revenue records/maps for further processing of land acquisition.
- The general scope of services is given in the sections that follow. However, the entire scope of services would, inter-alia, include the items mentioned in the Letter of Invitation and the TOR. The Consultant will also make suitable alternative proposals for the proposed road as per the requirement and land availability.
- To prepare the bid documents including required schedules (as mentioned above) as per EPC/Item Rate documents.
- Consultant shall be responsible for sharing the findings from the preparation stages during the bid process. During the bid process for a project, the consultant shall support the authority in responding to all technical queries, and shall ensure participation of senior team members of the consultant during all interaction with potential bidders including pre-bid conference, meetings, and site visits etc. In addition, the consultant shall also support preparation of detailed responses to the written queries raised by the bidders.

1.4 COMMENCEMENT

The consultancy service has various systematic steps to prepare the detailed project report of Project Road. In the first step, the Feasibility Study was submitted to provide an overview of the project site, the mobilisation process to take up the work. The second phase includes the detailed project report with the strip maps, schedules, clearances and execution plans with bid documents.

The following reports have been submitted in consonance with the terms of reference:

Table 10: SUBMISSION OF DELIVERABLES

Sl No	Deliverables	Date
1	Final DPR	03.05.2024

1.5 PROJECT LOCATION

The project road i.e., SH-44-Sijimali (3.400 km) in the state of Odisha has a great need of improved roads for communication with the state highways and establish interdistrict connectivity for the state.

1.6 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

Main Report comprises the following chapters

Chapter 1: Project Background
Chapter 2: Socia and Economic Analysis
Chapter3: Project Corridor
Chapter 4: Surveys & Investigations
Chapter 5: Improvement Proposals
Chapter 6: Cost Estimation

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROFILE

2.1 GENERAL

The primary purpose of socio - economic analysis is to provide an overview of the state's socio - economic setup and the related status of the project influence area within the states. The details include the present status, the past performance and the perspective growth of the economy, population and urbanization. The profile depicts the spatial distribution of economic activities.

Within the context of Socio-economic analysis, the "broad" and "immediate" influence areas of the project road are delineated; distinguishing the areas directly served by the project road. The broad influence area of the project road is within the district of Kalahandi/Rayagada.

Proposed area of mines near Sijimali for excavation of bauxite block in the district of Kalahandi/Rayagada, Odisha. Rayagada-Kasipur range (Eastern Ghats) is fully availability of natural resources mainly Bauxite Ore, so major corporation are interested in utilising these natural resources for development like L&T Limited, Odisha Mining Corporation, Vedanta Limited etc.

Rayagada district is a district in southern Odisha, a state in India, which became a separate district in October 1992. Its population consists mainly of tribes, primarily the Khonds and the Soras. In addition to Odia, Kui and Sora are spoken by the district's indigenous population. It was founded by Maharajah Biswanatha Deba Gajapati of the Surjyabansha dynasty of Jeypore.

Rayagada covers an area of 7,584.7 square kilometres (2,928.5 sq mi), and is divided into eleven blocks. Agriculture is the chief source of income, and paddy, wheat, ragi, green and black gram, groundnut, sweet potato and maize are the district's major crops.

Table 11: District at a Glance

S.No	Particular	Year	Unit	Statistics
1	Geographical features			
(A)	Geographical Data			
	i) Latitude	2022-23	Degree	19° 09'57.6" North
	ii) Longitude	2022-23	Degree	83° 24' 57.6" East
	iii) Geographical Area	2014-15	Sq. Kms.	7584.7
(B)	Administrative Units			

	i)	Sub divisions	2014-15	Nos.	02
	ii)	Tehsils	2014-15	Nos.	11
	iii)	Sub-Tehsil	2014-15	Nos.	-
	iv)	Patwar Circle	2014-15	Nos.	-
	v)	Number of I	2014-15	Nos.	11
	vi)	Nagar nigam& Nagar Palika	2014-15	Nos	2
	vii)	NAC	2014-15	Nos	1
	viii)	Gram Panchayats	2014-15	Nos	180
	xi)	Census villages(Both Inhabited & Uninhabited)	2014-15	Nos	2667 2467(Inhabited) 200(Uninhabited)
	x)	Assembly Constituencies	2014-15	Nos	3
2.	Population Census	(2011 Provisional)			
(A)	Sex-wise				
	i)	Male	2011	'000 Nos	471
	ii)	Female	2011	'000 Nos	495
(B)	Rural Population		2011	'000 Nos	820
3.	Agriculture				
A.	Land utilization				
	i)	Total Area	2014-15	000 Hectare	193
	ii)	Forest Cover	2014-15	"	281
	iii) Land	Non-Agriculture	2014-15	"	124
	iv)	Barren & Unculturable land	2014-15	"	38
4.	Forest				
	(i) Forest area under revenue 2016 000 Hectare 2 village				
5.	Livestock & Poultry				
A.	Cattle				
	i)	Cattle	2012	'000 Nos	361.5
	ii)	Buffaloes	2012	'000 Nos	112.1

B.	**Other livestock**			
	i) Goats	2012	'000 Nos	158.2
	ii) Pigs	2012	'000 Nos	38.9
	iii) Sheep	2012	'000 Nos	48
	iv) Railways			
	i) Length of rail line	2013-14	Km	117.15
	V) Roads			
	(a) National Highway	2014-15	Km	122.7
	(b) State Highway	2014-15	Km	269.67
	(c) Major District Road	2014-15	Km	121.74
	(d) Other district Roads	2014-15	Km	283.07
	(e) Rural road	2014-15	Km	2342.87
	(f) G.P. Road	2009-10	Km	3812.36
	(g) Panchayat samiti road	2014-15	Km	2537.12
	(H) Forest Road	2014-15	Km	210.51
	(VI) Communication			
	(a) Telephone connection		No	-
	(b) Post offices	2011-12	No.	202
	(c) Telephone Center/Exchange	2011-12	No.	-
	(d) Density of Telephone	2011-12	Nos./100 0 person	-
	(e) Density of Telephone	2011-12	No. per SqKM.	-
	(f) PCO Local	2011-12	No.	-
	(g) PCO STD	2010-11	No.	-
	(h) Mobile	(As on 31.03.12)	No.	-
	These figures are of Rayagada district.			
	(VII) Public Health	2019-20		

(a) Medical college/District Headquarter Hospital	2019-20	No	1
(b) Beds in hospitals	2019-20	No	268
(c) Community health centers	2019-20	No.	11
(d) Primary health centers	2019-20	No.	39
(e) Sub Health Centers	2019-20	No.	236
(f) Pvt. Health Centers	2019-20	No.	9
(VIII) Banking commercial	Upto 31.03.2020		
(a) Commercial Bank	31.03.2020	No.	98
(b) Rural Bank Branches	31.03.2020	No.	60
(c) Semi Urban Branches	31.03.2020	No.	38
(d) Urban Branches	31.03.2020	No.	0
(e)Deposit	31.03.2020	Rs. in Crore	3984.27
(f)Credit	31.03.2020	Rs. in Crore	1754.19
(g)CD Ratio	31.03.2020	%	44.03
(IX) Education			
(a) Primary school	2019-20	No.	1299
(b) Upper Primary Schools	2019-20	No.	609
(c) Secondary schools	2019-20	No.	277
(d) Colleges	2019-20	No.	13
(e) Engineering School & Colleges	2019-20	No.	7

Table 12: Existing Status of Mining Areas in the District of Rayagada

Sl.No.	Name of Minerals	No. of working mines	Area covered (in Hec.)	Production (in MT)	Value (Rs in 000')
1	Graphite	2	119.182	49.047	-
2	Bauxite	1	1388.740	5297.00	3799167
3	Manganese	1	18.894	0.234	3039
	Total	4	1526.416	5346.281	3802206

Source: - http://www.desorissa.nic.in/

2.2 GEOGRAPHY

Rayagada district is located between 1900' and 19058' north latitude and 8205' and 8402' east longitude in the southern part of Odisha. It is bounded by Gajapati district in the east, Koraput and Kalahandi districts in the west, Kalahandi and Phulabani districts in the north and Koraput and Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh) districts in the south. As per 2001 census the district having 7073 sq. kms of geographical area occupies the 8th rank in the state. The charming valleys of the rivers Nagavali and Vamsadhara, vast stretches of hills, evergreen forests, perennial streams, stiff and massive rocks standing like mythological demons and deep holes in the rocky river-beds presenting thrilling sights are the attractive features of the district. Rayagada is the 9th urbanized district in the state having about 13.89 per cent of its population in urban areas whereas about 14.99 per cent of state's population live in urban areas.

2.3 DEMOGRAPHY

Rayagada district had a population of 967,911 in the 2011 Census of India, roughly equal to that of Fiji or the US state of Montana. The district ranked 454th of India's 640 districts, and had a population density of 136 inhabitants per square kilometre (350/sq mi). Its population growth rate from 2001 to2011 was 15.74 percent. Rayagada has a sex ratio of 1,048 females to 1,000 males, and a literacy rate of 50.88 percent. 15.18% of the population lives in urban areas. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes make up 14.41% and 55.99% of the population respectively. Languages of Rayagada district (2011) Odia (41.64%), Kui (33.36%), Telugu (10.43%), Sora (8.37%), Kuvi (3.27%), Others (2.93%). At the

time of the 2011 Census of India, 41.64% of the population in the district spoke Odia, 33.36% Kui, 10.43% Telugu, 8.37% Sora, 3.27% Kuvi and 0.66% Hindi as their first language.

2.4 ECONOMY

Economically, the district is dependent on agriculture primarily. The district is rich in mineral resources such as bauxite and silicon. It is considered as one of the 19 most backward regions of Odisha and receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Program. Paddy, maize, ragi, mung, biri, groundnut, potato, maize are mainly produce here. Ferro manganese factory, Ferro silicon factory, paper mill, sugar factory are main factories established in the district. IMFA, JKPAPER, Birla, L&T, Sterlite are name of the famous industries of the region. Hotel industry is also flourished here due to the contribution of Sai International, Jyotimahal, Vamsikrishna, Tejaswini, Kapilas, Raj Bhawan hotels. Small and mid-scale industries for instance Konark Alum Industries, Satyam Packers and Processors Pvt. Ltd etc. are also boosting the economy of the district. In the year 2011-12 the gross domestic product in the district was Rs. 4,19,468 lakhs at current price and Rs. 2,60,334 lakhs at constant prices in the year 2004-2005. The net domestic product in the district during the period 2011-12 was Rs. 3,58,727 lakh at current price and Rs. 2,16,804 lakh at constant prices in the year 2004-2005. The Per Capita Income or NDDP, At Factor Cost during the period 2011-12 was Rs. 37,018 at current price and Rs. 22,373 at constant prices in the year 2004-2005.

Table 13: Industrial Scenario of Rayagada District

Sr No	Head	Unit	Particulars
1.	Registered Small Scale Industries	No.	1265
2.	Total Industrial Unit (GIP)	No.	10897
3.	Registered Medium & Large Unit	No.	04
4.	Total Employment in Regd. Small Scale Industries	No.	10253
5.	Employment In Large and Medium Industries	No.	3085
6.	No. of Industrial Area	No.	2
7.	Investment In P&M Of Small-Scale Industries	In Lakhs	5389.66
8.	Investment In P&M Of Medium &Large-Scale Industries	In Lakhs	8955.57

Table 14: GROWTH TREND OF INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

	YEAR		NUMBER OF REGISTERED UNITS	INVESTMENT (Lakh Rs.)	EMPLOYMENT
Up to	1991-92		76	119.05	462
During	1992-93		65	89.79	328
	1993-94		63	144.22	424
	1994-95		65	187.12	369
	1995-96		69	275.26	424
	1996-97		85	248.39	429
	1997-98		97	177.04	485
	1998-99		98	519.44	533
	1999-00		105	392.96	609
	2000-01		114	561.85	501
	2001-02		140	388.33	497
	2002-03		123	444.7	467
	2003-04		126	365.35	473
	2004-05		131	1090.73	810
	2005-06		155	807.92	1715
	2006-07		159	950.89	713
	2007-08		156	514	501
	2008-09		156	1297.9	638
	2009-10		160	931.85	564
	2010-11		162	1725.43	780
	2011-12		180	1250.36	864
	2012-13		192	807.73	754
	2013-14		165	531.39	499
	2014-15		978	6498.75	3196
	2015-16		1532	10009.95	7358
	2016-17		1721	9457.16	4544
	2017-18		1571	7763.00	5899
	2018-19		2253	11369.33	7824
	Total		10897	58919.89	42660

The district of Rayagada is a very rich in terms of industrialization. Even, Rayagada is today becoming a hub of Educational Institutions. Particularly The Gandhi group have setup very good quality Engineering & Management colleges in the district. For this, Students from other parts of the district are coming to the district gearing the internet café, small hotels & restaurants, computer training institutes etc to come up in the district. As the craze for higher studies prevails among the students of the urban areas in the district there is a very good scope for coaching Units in the district.

2.5 CLIMATE

The climate of the district is typically tropical to subtropical with three distinct seasons e.g. summer, winter, and monsoon. December is the coldest month with mean daily average temperature of 20◦ C which reaches a maximum of 42◦ C in May. The rain fall in the area is mostly from the south west monsoon lasts from middle of June to October. The average annual rainfall varies from 1030.21 mm to 1569.50 mm.

2.6 SOIL

The distribution of different soil types in the district depends much on its physiographic and lithologic variations. Based on the physical and chemical characteristics, mode of origin and occurrence, soils of the district may be classified into two groups namely Alfisols and Entisols.

Alfisols : It includes red sandy soils and red loamy soils. The red loamy and sandy soils are occurring in throughout the district. The characteristic features of red soils are (1) light texture, porous and friable structure, (2) absence of lime Kankar and free carbonates and (3) soluble salts in a small quantity usually not exceeding 0.05%. These are usually deficient in nitrogen, phosphate, organic matter and lime. These soils are suitable for cultivation of paddy and other crops.

Entisols : These are restricted to the flood plains of Vamsadhara and Nagavalli rivers in the blocks of Ramanguda, Gudari, Padampur, Raygada and Kolnara and consists of sand, silt and clay. This type of soil is alkaline in nature and deficient in nitrogen and humus material. The district belongs to the North Eastern Ghat agro climatic zone.

19.9.24

Junior Engineer

19.9.24

Asst. Executive Engineer
Rayagada (R&B) Sub-Division No- II

20.09.24

Executive Engineer
Rayagada (R&B) Division No-I

PROJECT CORRIDOR

3.1 GENERAL

Utkal Rail Consultants was appointed in January, 2024 to prepare the detailed project report for the project road, and this DPR report is submitted to cover the key aspects of the project. The project road was surveyed in details and the existing features were investigated to familiarise with the project road so as to provide improvement provision in accordance to the requirement.

3.2 DETAILS OF ROAD

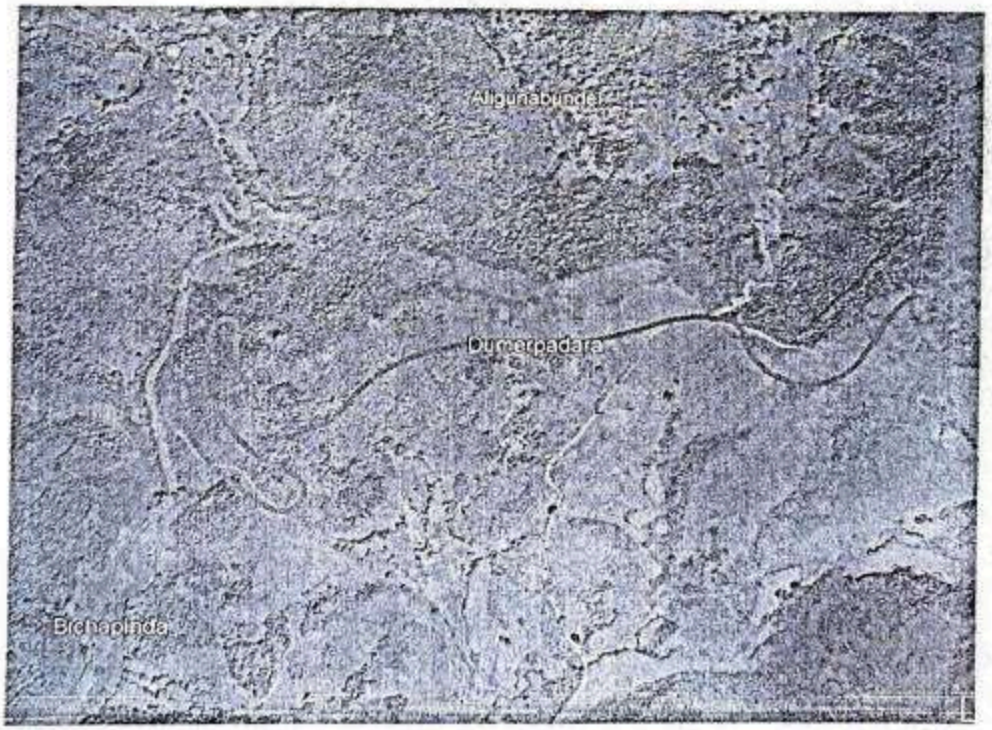
Reconnaissance survey of the project road section was undertaken in the month of January to till now and its salient features are described in the subsequent para.

Table 15: DETAILS OF PROJECT ROADS

Chainage (Km)		Terrain Type	Location	District
From	To			
0/000	3/400	Hilly	SH-44-Sijimali-	Rayagada

The below figure shows the location map of the project road.

Figure 3: LOCATION MAP OF SIJIMALI-SH 44 ROAD



3.3 GENERAL OVERVIEW OF PROJECT ROAD

The project road runs along hilly terrain. As the project road is connecting two districts Rayagada and Kalahandi moving through the districts of Odisha. The project stretch runs through the semi built up, agricultural and govt. & forest areas. The project road starts at a design chainage of 0.000 km at Sh-44 and ends at a design chainage of 3.400 km at Sijimali Mines area in Rayagada district in Odisha state.

3.4 SETTLEMENTS ALONG ROAD

There are no settlements found along the proposed road alignment. The road has been proposed on hilly terrain. The land-use pattern in the project road is mainly Govt and forest land.

Table 16: DETAILS OF VILLAGES & TOWNS ALONG THE PROJECT ROAD

Sl No.	Chainage		Villages
	From (km)	To (km)	Name
1	0/000	3/400	Bichapindha, Porlang, Sagabari, Dumerpadar

Table 17: LIST OF PROPOSED MINOR BRIDGE

Sl No	Site Inventory			Proposed			
	Chainage	Type	Span Arrangement	Chainage	Type	Span Arrangement	Proposed
1	-	-	-	0+365	VUP	1x12.0X4.0	NEW
2	-	-	-	0+585	VUP	1x12.0X4.0	NEW
3	-	-	-	2+785	VUP	1x12.0X4.0	NEW
4	-	-	-	3+165	VUP	1x12.0X4.0	NEW

1	0+000	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
2	0+365	LVUP	1x 12.0 x 4.0	New Construction	12.00
3	0+585	LVUP	1x 12.0 x 4.0	New Construction	12.00
4	0+595	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
5	1+175	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
6	1+815	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
7	1+963	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
8	2+735	Pipe	1 x 1.2m dia	New Construction	15.00
9	2+785	LVUP	1x 12.0 x 4.0	New Construction	12.00
10	3+165	LVUP	1x 12.0 x 4.0	New Construction	12.00

3.5 ALIGNMENT

The horizontal alignment between Sijimali to SH 44 is generally smooth. The said section mainly passes through hilly terrain in most of its length and cater to the design speed of 30/40/50 km/hr to follow the existing road alignment so as need to acquire land acquisition and intrusion into forest section. The proposed alignment has total of 12 curves in the whole project stretch out of which 3 numbers of curves are less than 40 kmph. The details are enlisted as below.

Table 18: PROPOSED CURVE DETAILS WITH DESIGN SPEED

IP Chainage	IP Easting	IP Nothing	R(m)	Ls(m)	V(kmph)	e(%)
0+217.807	719027.716	2158331.816	500	0	50	NC
0+633.923	719573.027	2158037.952	50	20	30	7.00%
0+952.562	719095.482	2158376.672	-350	0	40	NC
1+240.162	719204.769	2158693.983	-30	30	30	7.00%
1+429.447	719210.368	2158485.449	300	0	40	NC
1+651.696	719390.548	2158317.313	100	20	40	7.00%
1+962.827	719623.022	2158580.978	-400	0	40	NC
2+368.317	720047.469	2158486.341	700	0	50	NC
2+641.745	720314.262	2158572.905	-300	0	40	NC
2+764.982	720432.958	2158533.074	-40	25	30	7.00%
3+991.509	720468.710	2158104.714	153	15	40	4.60%
3+368.446	720834.337	2158551.839	-170	15	30	NC

3.6 OTHER EXISTING STRUCTURES

There are no structures like school, colleges, other educational institutions, Petrol Pump, hospital & police station is available along the proposed road. However, the proposed has been crosses the existing village roads at various location. LVUP has been proposed for on village road for uninterrupted movement of villagers.

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS

4.1 GENERAL

Primary consideration for DPR study of a road is that overall cost of transportation (i.e. the cost of initial construction, traffic operation and maintenance) be minimum without adversely affecting the environment and society. All operations need advance planning of methodology in logical sequence. General Scope of services covered is:

The available topographic maps, GT Sheets and photographs are being studied. Detailed reconnaissance surveys have been done to outline the procedure for the detailed investigations to follow. The reconnaissance study identifies:

- Topographic and physical features of the project and surrounding region including environmental features.
- Alignment alternatives, realignment requirements and need for bypasses and grade separators.
- Traffic pattern and homogenous links.
- Locations for conducting diverse traffic surveys.
- Preliminary inventory of pavement, carriageway type, bridges and structures, intersections, urban/congested areas.
- Requirements for conducting supplementary investigations.
- Extent of land available and additional requirements for proposed road.

The various engineering investigations and surveys which have been carried out are as follows:

- Topographical surveys
- Soil and material investigations
- Traffic surveys
- Hydrological data collection

4.3 TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

The topographical survey has been carried out using Total Station. The five categories of surveys are:

- Establishing of control points at 2 km intervals
- Traverse along the existing road and establishment of bench marks (BMS)
- Cross-sections at 50 m intervals and at critical locations.
- Longitudinal section levels along final centre line at 10 m in straight sections including fixation of cardinal points with a pair of reference points.

- Collection of details of all features such as structures (Bridges) utilities, existing road etc.
- For topographic surveys extended to a width of 30m beyond either side of the centre line of the proposed divided carriageway or the land boundary whichever is more is surveyed
- Longitudinal and cross-sections for major and minor streams over 500 meters on both sides of ROW and 100 meters beyond the abutments.
- Location and type of services and utilities

An open traverse could lead to cumulated errors of angles. Hence, every 2 km the traverse has been closed to limit cumulative errors. The benchmarks have been referenced to GTS BMs of the Survey of India. The ground cross-sections and details of features are referred to as the BMs. Separate teams concurrently with the traverse team have carried out these tasks. The levelling of the longitudinal section along the final centre line (FCL) and fixation of cardinal points has been carried out.



Figure 4:DGPS Survey at Project Stretch

The readings from the Total Stations have been registered using data base software and then transferred to the survey model of the MX Road Software to prepare the DTM of the area surveyed. The DTM and the longitudinal profile of the FCL have been computed by MX Road software and drawn using Auto CAD on A2 size sheets showing 500 m sections (1:1000).

For junctions/intersections, additional areas have been surveyed (ground sections, topographical features and utilities) as required. During this Survey, all utilities within the areas surveyed are identified, and noted; complementary data has been collected from the competent bodies to complete the process.

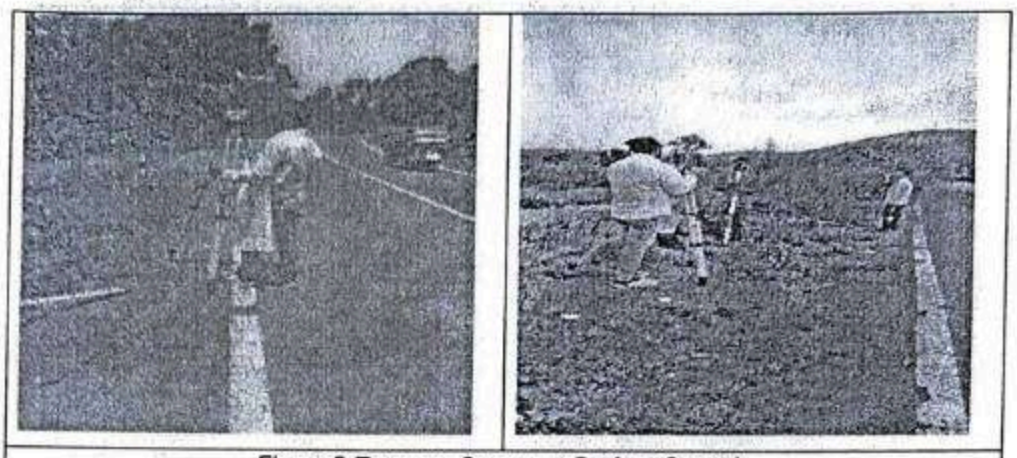


Figure 5:Traverse Survey at Project Stretch

4.4 SUB-SOIL INVESTIGATIONS

4.4.1 Sub grade Characteristics & Strength

The testing of soils for classification & mechanical characteristics has been as per terms of reference. "Testing of three sub-grade soil samples for each design section or three samples for each soil type encountered, whichever is more has been done". Thus testing for sub-grade soil at each test pit includes:

- In-situ density & moisture content
- Field CBR using DCP
- Characterization (Grain size & Atterberg's Limits)
- Laboratory moisture-density characteristics (modified AASHTO compactions)
- Laboratory CBR (uncooked & 4 day soaked compacted at 3 energy levels)

4.4.2 Investigation of Subgrade

The borrow areas were first identified by visual inspection and enquiries along the project road and adjacent areas. The soil samples from the project corridor were collected, and the required tests as per specification & IRC/BIS codes were done. Grain size analysis was done for particles smaller than 4.75 mm. For particles having size between 4.75 mm and 75 microns, sieve analysis was done (wet sieving) and for particles smaller than 75 microns, Hydrometer analysis was done. CBR test, Atterberg's Limit, DCPT and moisture contents were also determined. Material found satisfactory can be used for construction activity. The result sheet of DCPT is attached in the Appendices.

Table 19: CBR OF SUBGRADE SOIL ALONG THE PROJECT STRETCH

LABORATORY TEST RESULTS OF OGL															
Sampling Chanage in Km.	Location	Type of sample	Grain size analysis(Retained %)					D.F.S. In %	Atterberg's Limits (%)			Group of soil	MDD in(%)	OMC IN %	Soaked CBR
			Gravel in %	Coarse Sand in %	Medium Sand in %	Fine Sand in %	Silty &Clay in %		Liquid Limit	Plastic Limit	Plasticity Index				
3.00	Hill	DS	0.46	4.86	8.74	20.51	65.43	18	32	18	14	CL	1.87	13.26	6.10
Remark:	A) MDD should not be <1.52 gm/cc for embankment up to height 3.0 mtr & 1.75 gm/cc for subgrade &shoulder.														
	B) LL, PI & DFS value should not be > 70%, 45% & 50% respectively.														

Table-19A, TBM List

TBM No.	Easting (X)	Northing (Y)	Level (Z)
TBM-1	791061.240	2158603.760	872.038
TBM-2	719074.750	2158614.630	871.251
TBM-3	720867.470	2158576.810	986.421
TBM-4	720877.110	2158577.330	987.594

4.5.4 Investigation of Material for Construction

The investigation of different quarries was conducted from different places where stone aggregates and sand are available. Samples were collected and tests were performed in accordance with IS: 2386 (Part III), IS: 120 (Part I), AASHTOT182, IS: 624-1971, IS: 2380 (Part V). The crushers and other sources are approved by the department.

The borrow areas were identified from Lokaeguda which is around 25 KM from project stretch via SH-45. The suitability of borrow material is established from laboratory testing.

4.5.5 Investigations of Other Construction Materials

Availability and suitability of other construction materials like Fly ash, coarse sand, local sand and bricks were investigated and all materials are available in Kaliapada which is around 30KM from project stretch via SH-44. Samples were collected and required tests performed in the laboratory. Cement, Steel and Bitumen are available from Kashipur, Rayagada city and Vizag respectively.

4.5.6 Investigations for Structures

We have made an inventory of all the structures (bridges, culverts, etc.) along the road under the project. The inventory for the bridgesshall include the parameters required as per the guidelines of IRC-SP: 35-1990. The inventory of culverts was presented in a tabular form covering relevant physical and hydraulic parameters.

4.6 Hydraulic and Hydrological Investigations

Special Publication No. 13 ("Guidelines for the Design of Small Bridges and Culverts") and IRC: 5-1998 ("Standard Specifications & Code of Practice for Road Bridges, Section I General Feature of Design"). Study on topography (topographic maps), storm duration, rainfall statistics, topsoil characteristics, vegetation cover etc. were done so as to assess the catchments areas and hydraulic parameters for all existing and proposed drainage provisions. The findings of the desk study have been further supplemented and augmented by a reconnaissance along the area.4 New L-VUP are being proposed as per requirements.

IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter is intended to give brief descriptions concerning the various proposals for the development of two-lane carriageway facility of the 3.400 km length starting from 0/000 km at Sh-44 and ends at chainage 3/400 km at Sijimali Mines in the Rayagada district of x Odisha state. The improvement proposal is based on the findings from various engineering surveys and investigations carried out on the project road section.

Development proposals for a greenfield road project essentially consist of two components, viz. Geometric and Structural. Geometric improvement deals with visible dimensions of roadway and is dictated by the traffic and economic considerations. Geometric design involves several design elements such as horizontal and vertical alignments, sight distance considerations, cross sectional elements, lateral and vertical clearances, intersection treatment, control of access, etc. The structural component deals with the pavement and embankment design aspects, i.e., the ability of the road to adequately carry and support the vehicle / wheel loads over the design period. The improvement proposals for the proposed upgradation of2-lane with paved shoulder configuration system includes the provision for the following major items:

- Geometric improvements and realignments
- Pavement
- Road junctions
- Bridges and CD structures
- Safety
- Road Appurtenances

5.2 Geometric design proposals

The proposal for the improvement of the geometric elements on the basis of contour intervals.

- Improvement to the cross sectional elements
- Alignment design

5.2.1 Improvement to the Cross Sectional Elements

Lane Width: The width of a basic traffic lane is proposed to be 7.0 m, 1.5 m of Paved Shoulder on both sides .

Earthen Shoulders:

2.0 m earthen shoulders shall be proposed on both sides of the carriageway for open section.

Cross fall:

The cross-fall for the pavement &paved shoulder is 2.5% with a crown in the centre. The cross-fall for granular shoulder is 3%.

Formation/Embankment.

Proposed formation in bank shall be made with compacted earth Morth and IRC guidelines. The embankment will be made with 2:1 side slope, which shall be turfed. In cuttings, side slope of 1:1 shall be provided. However, gentler side slopes shall be provided for soft soils in cutting and stone pitching may be considered at the locations where the depth / height of cutting / filling is high. Similarly, in rocky formation steeper side slope can be provided depending upon the nature of material met with. In the embankments higher than 6m and cuttings in ordinary to hard soil deeper that 6m, 1.5 m wide berms are proposed on each side slope at every 6m below formation level in banks and at every 6m above formation level in cuttings.

As the soil sample collected from site by Utkal Rail Consultants Pvt Ltd. and following the test conducted as per the IS code and MORTH standard and hence concluded that cut slope to be provided as 1:1 on hilly side as per Annexure-VII.

5.2.2 Development Scheme

The most important fact in deciding the propsoed alighmnet is the availability of land. Secondary factors include presence of environmentally; religiously and socially sensitive features such as Heritage Structures, other monument structure and so on. The following criteria have been used with suitable inter-alias weight age in terms of their influence in governing the decision on the construction of propsoed road.

- Available ROW from the existing center line;
- Location of utility lines;
- Abutting land use;
- Adjacent cultural properties;
- Geometric improvements necessary;
- Location and type of trees required to be cut;
- Socio Economic affected person;

The summary of proposed road is represented in the table below:

Table 20: SUMMARY OF NEW PROPOSAL

Sl. No.	From	To	Length(m)	Lane	Remarks
1	0.000	3.400	3.400	2-Lane	NEW

The development schemes are as follows:

Table 21: SUMMARY OF NEW ROAD PROPOSAL

SL NO	TYPE OF CROSS SECTION	DETAILS
1	Type-1	NEW CONSTRUCTION 2-LANE WITH PAVED SHOULDER IN RURAL AREA
2	Type-2	NEW CONSTRUCTION 2-LANE WITH PAVED SHOULDER WITH HILL ON ONE SIDE & PROTECTION WALL
3	Type-3	NEW CONSTRUCTION2-LANE WITH PAVED SHOULDER WITH TOTAL CUT FORMATION OPTION
4	Type-4	NEW CONSTRUCTION 2-LANE WITH PAVED SHOULDER WITH PROTECTION WALL

Proposed Typical Cross-section of carriageway are presented below.

Table 22: CARRIAGEWAY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Sl No.	From	To	Length	TCS-Type	Remarks
1	0+000	0+090	90	TCS-1	-
2	0+090	0+500	410	TCS-2	-
3	0+500	0+660	160	TCS-4	-
4	0+660	0+800	140	TCS-3	-
5	0+800	1+240	440	TCS-2	-
6	1+240	1+500	260	TCS-3	-
7	1+500	2+660	1160	TCS-2	-
8	2+660	2+820	160	TCS-4	-
9	2+820	3+100	280	TCS-2	-
10	3+100	3+400	300	TCS-3	-

5.2.3 Alignment Design

The entire geometric design has been based on the ground modelling by project road MX design software. The design of proposed alignment for two-lane with hard shoulders on both side in the built-up section and earthen shoulders in open sections has been carried out based on the proposed road as discussed above. Earthen drains are provided in open sections on both side of the road.

5.2.3.1 Horizontal Alignment

As per IRC: 73: 1980, the minimum design speed for hilly terrain is 50 kmph basing project road as SH/ODR/Village Road. The horizontal alignment is designed keeping 50/40/30

kmph design speed. The horizontal improvement has been kept as per the existing alignment to acquire extra land acquisition if required and to avoid invasion into the forest.

The proposed alignment has total of 12 curves in the whole project stretch out of which 4 numbers of curves do not meet the speed criteria and are less than 40 kmph.

5.2.3.2 Vertical Alignment

Vertical Alignment is designed for minimum criteria of Intermediate Sight Distance (ISD). The existing road profile is reviewed on the basis of cross-sections taken at regular intervals with the help of Digital Terrain Model (DTM). Additional culverts have been proposed depending upon the site-specific conditions/profile. These curves, known as vertical curves to distinguish them from horizontal curves, are defined by two parameters, which are:

- a comfort factor which provides for a smooth passage from one grade to another, and
- a safety factor which ensures drivers have a safe sight distance over the full length of the vertical curve.

5.3. Design of Rigid Pavement

The rigid pavements are usually referred as a layered structure comprising generally concrete surface like Pavement Quality Concrete (PQC), Dry Lean Concrete (DLC) and Granular Sub-Base (GSB) course of finite thickness, resting on subgrade of minimum thickness of 500 mm. The thickness design of these layers will principally depend on the subgrade CBR and the traffic loads that the pavement has to carry during its design life period which is minimum 30 years.

Principles for Design of Plain Jointed Rigid Pavement

Fatigue Behaviour of Cement Concrete

Due to repeated application of flexural stresses by the traffic loads, progressive fatigue damage takes place in the cement concrete slab in the form of gradual development of micro-cracks especially when ratio between the applied flexural stress and the flexural strength of concrete is high. This ratio is termed as Stress Ratio (SR). If the SR is less than 0.45, the concrete is expected to sustain infinite number of repetitions. As the stress ratio increases, the number of load repetitions required to cause cracking decreases. The relation between fatigue life (N) and stress ratio is given as;

N=unlimited for SR<0.45

N= [4.2577/ (SR-0.4325)] ^3.268 When 0.45≤SR≤0.55

Log10 N= (0.9718-SR)/0.0828 for SR>0.55

The above fatigue criteria have been used for the analysis of bottom-up and top-down cracking and checking the adequacy of pavement slab on the basis of Miner's hypothesis.

Critical Stress Condition

Critical Stress condition considered for design of rigid pavement is the flexural stress due to the simultaneous application of traffic loads and temperature differentials between the top and bottom fibres of a concrete slab.

Bottom-Up Cracking

Flexural stress at the bottom layer of concrete slab is the maximum during the day hours when the axle loads act midway on the pavement slab along with positive temperature differential. This condition causes Bottom-Up Cracking (BUC). This critical stress condition for bottom-up cracking and locations of maximum flexural stress when the tyre imprints are tangential to the longitudinal edge due to single, tandem and tridem axles are presented next.

Top-Down Cracking

During the night hours, the top surface is cooler than the bottom surface and the ends of the slab curl up in a concave shape resulting in loss of support for the slab. Due to the restraint provided by the self- weight of concrete and by the dowel connections, temperature stresses are caused at the top. Figure 2-3 shows the placement of axle loads close to transverse joints when there is negative temperature gradient during night period causing high flexural stresses in the top layer leading to top-down cracking. Positioning of axles of different configurations on the slab with successive axles placed close to the transverse joints is shown in Figure 2-4. These axle positions can initiate Top-Down Cracking (TDC) during the night hours when the pavement has tendency to curl up. Built-up permanent curl induced during the curing of the concrete slab further aggravates the problem.

Design Criteria for Rigid Pavement

If the sum of cumulative fatigue damages (i) due to wheel load and curling stresses at the bottom and (ii) wheel load and curling stresses at the top is less than 1, the pavement is safe. In other words, a pavement is deemed to have failed if sum of cumulative damages is greater than one.

Thus,

If CFD (BUC) + CFD (TDC) <= 1; DESIGN IS SAFE

The design thickness may be increased by 10mm to (i) to permit two retexturing and (ii) grinding to rectify faulting during the service life.

5.4 Crust and Overlay Design

Based on the traffic MSA of 60 and CBR of 8 %, the crust of the pavement to be widened is designed and the overlay thickness is decided basing upon the pavement condition. The table below shows the adopted thickness of each layer of the proposed road.

Table 23: CRUST DETAILS

Chainage from and to	Design traffic (MSA)	CBR of subgrade (%)	Proposed Pavement Thickness		
			GSB	DLC	PQC
0/000-3/400	60	8	150	150	300

M-40 grade Concrete shall be used in Pavement Quality Concrete (PQC) road with min. cement content of 400kg per Cum.

5.5 Design of Structures

The rehabilitation of existing structures and proposal of new structures have been established on the basis of detailed inventory, Horizontal Alignment, vertical profile, geotechnical investigation, hydrological study etc.

5.5.1Underpass

There are total of 4underpasses proposed for new construction.

Table 24: ABSTRACT OF IMPROVEMENT DETAILS ON STRUCTURES IN PROJECT ROAD

Sl. No.	Type	Recommendation	Nos.
1	L-VUP	New	4

Table 25: DETAILS OF CULVERT IMPROVEMENT

Sl No.	Inventory Chainage	Design Chainage	Structure Type	Span Arrangement	Proposal Type
1	-	0+365	L-VUP	1x12.0x4.0	NEW
2	-	0+585	L-VUP	1x12.0x4.0	NEW
3	-	2+785	L-VUP	1x12.0x4.0	NEW
4	-	3+165	L-VUP	1x12.0x4.0	NEW

5.6 Traffic Safety Measures

Design of proper junctions, foot paths, all other measures such as crash barriers, road signs, road marking, turn lanes etc. have been provided as per road safety standards prescribed by MoSRT&H. These have been shown in the drawing volume.

The project stretch accompanies various varying feature throughout its corridor. These varying feature calls to wake for safety consideration. The priority of any road project is its users. And with this responsibility to provide a good communication, comes the safety alert for the road users. A project is valued to be good when the project road is helpful in minimizing the fatalities and provide the best communication facilities.

The road is evaluated viewing the safety of the road user and provisions of safety signs and markings are suggested to be followed for well-being of the road user as well as the project road.

5.6.1 Road Signs at the Curves

Cautionary signs which are triangular in shape with red border with the direction of the curve are provided at the curves. This helps in manoeuvring vehicle accordingly and nullifies the possibility of accident due to sudden appearance of turn. The speed limit signs should also be ruled at sharp curves. These signs are places 200m before the start of the curve. The curves with radius less or equal to 100 m are considered to be sharp curve.

The curves where there is sharp bends and the vehicle is restricted to maintain the design speed, should be marked with speed marker signs showing the speed to be maintained at that stretch.

The sharp curves i.e., the curves with radius less than 100 m should be protected with guard posts or crash barriers.

5.6.2 Provision for Pavement Markings

White Reflective pavement markings consisting of glass beads for reflection is provided to improve the visibility in night time and wet weather conditions.

5.6.3 Road Signs at Built-up Areas

The Built-up areas should be marked with informatory signs signifying the identifying the place with speed limit signs, which should be followed by the road user while entering into the built-up area.

The signs to be provided are Informatory signs and Speed limit signs. These signs should be provided at both the side of the carriageway from both the direction at 200 m before the school. So, total of 6 'School Ahead' signs and 6 speed limit signs should be provided.

The school areas should also be provided with safety barricades during the school's arrival and departure time.

5.6.4 Road Signs for Structures

The road user must also be aware of the structures it is approaching to. So, that they can take precautionary measures before riding over it. The structures include culverts and minor bridges. The objects are too marked with reflectorized paints.

The structures should be indicated as per the markings and devices discussed above. The Object Marking Devices should be provided in one number at every culverts on both the sides of the structure. The minor and major bridges are objectified with two numbers of Object Marking Devices at start of the structure and end of the structure on both the sides of the carriageway.

Effective CBR

Elastic Modulus of embankment Soil, M_{RS} = 10.0 x CBR for CBR ≤ 5 %

= 10.0 x 5.0

= 50 Mpa

Elastic Modulus of Subgrade Soil, M_{RS} = 17.6 x $(CBR)^{0.64}$ for CBR > 5 %

= 17.6 x $(9)^{0.64}$

= 71.82 Mpa

Then calculate the surface deflection at the centre of the load, from input the surface deflection is found to be 2.225mm from IITPAVE

Modulus value of a single layer for same surface deflection of 2.225mm for the same load and for poisson's ratio 0.35.

$$M_{RS} = 2(1-\mu^2)pa/\alpha$$

=66.61 Mpa

Then, effective CBR value is 8%.

COST ESTIMATION

6.1 General

The project highway starts from the 0/000 km at SH-44, and ends at Sijimali mines at 3/400 km. The project stretch is considered as a two lane stretch and is proposed to New two-lane carriageway with paved shoulder throughout the project corridor.

The proposal has been made to provide bridges and culverts at required. The proposal also includes safety structures, longitudinal drains and road furniture's.

6.2 Quantification

The quantification of most of the items which are uniformly occurring are based on the TCS & pavement design for different homogeneous section and are calculated as per Km basis. The quantification of structures is based only on Square meters of new construction for each structure and lump sum provision for rehabilitation on square meter basis.

The construction items covered in cost estimates are: site clearance, earthwork, Pavement in carriageways and shoulders, bridges and culverts, and miscellaneous items such as side drains, road furniture, interchanges / intersections, bus safety structures etc.

6.3 Unit Rates

The rate analysis for the Construction Items has been done based on standard data book published by MORT&H. For items whose rates are not available in the DSR, market rates shall be adapted for its costing.

6.4 Project Costing

6.4.1 Road

The pavement quantities like GSB, WMM& Bituminous items etc. have been worked out based on Typical Cross Sections, pavement design done based on traffic and with subgrade as CBR 8%

6.4.2 Bridges and Culverts

The cost of new of structures has been calculated in detail with volume calculation of each component of structure.

6.4.3 Maintenance during Construction Period

The flexible pavements require a regular maintenance during its life period. The maintenance cost has been fragmented and reflected in the estimate.

6.4.4 Miscellaneous Items

The cost for providing minor junction, overhead signs, Bus bays, passing lanes etc. have been worked out and included in the total cost estimate.

6.5 Construction Cost

The overall construction cost of the Project are attached in Annexure-VII.

19.09.24
Junior Engineer
Rayagada (R&B) Section

19.9.24
Executive Engineer
Rayagada (R&B) Sub-Division No. II

20.09.24
Executive Engineer
Rayagada (R&B) Division No-1

ANNEXURE A23

Saroj Kumar Sethi, IAS
Chief General Manager (Land)

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

No. IDCO/HO/P&A/LAE/8973/2025 27362 **Date:** 16/09/25

To

The Chief- New Business,
M/s Vedanta Ltd.
Module, C/2 Fortune Tower,
Chandrasekharpur,
Bhubaneswar-751023

Sub: Issue of NOC/Permission for construction of the road by M/s Vedanta Ltd. from Sijimali Mines Top to nearest SH-44 on the leased out non forest Govt. land measuring **Ac.15.426** in 3 nos of villages under Kashipur Tahasil in Rayagada district.

Ref:- Letter no-875/Dtd.03.02.2024 of Govt. in industries Deptt.

Sir,

In pursuance to the decision taken in the meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Odisha and communicated vide letter no 875/Dtd.03.02.2024 of Govt. in industries Deptt, and subsequent approval of Land Allotment Committee held on Dtd.18.02.2025 & 15.07.2025, NOC/Permission is hereby issued in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd. for construction of the Road from Sijimali Mines Top to nearest SH-44 on the leased out non forest Govt. land measuring **Ac.15.426** in 3 nos of villages (i.e. Ac.5.821 in village-Bichhapinda,Ac.1.248 in village-Dumerpadar,Ac.8.357 in village-Sagabari) under Kashipur Tahasil in Rayagada district on the following terms and conditions:

01	You have already made payment of **Rs.74,70,946/- (Rupees Seventy Four Lakh Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six)** Only towards Land Cost- **Rs.65,56,050/-**@Rs.4,25,000/- per acre, IDCO Administrative charges @ 10% of Land Cost - **Rs.6,55,605/-** ,Annual Rent @1.75% of the Land Cost-Rs.**1,14,731/-**, Non Refundable Processing fee of IDCO-**Rs.5,000/-** and GST @ 18% on IDCO Admin Charge, on Processing fee & on Annual Rent-**Rs.1,39,560/-** in respect of above said leased out Govt. land measuring **Ac.15.426** in 3 nos of villages (i.e. Ac.5.821 in village-Bichhapinda,Ac.1.248 in village- Dumerpadar,Ac.8.357 in village-Sagabari) under Kashipur Tahasil in Rayagada district.

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
IDCO, Land Division, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar – 751022, Odisha, INDIA
• +91- 0674 2544180, 2540820 | Fax: 2542956 / 2541982
cgmland@idco.in

Saroj Kumar Sethi, IAS
Chief General Manager (Land)

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02	M/s Vedanta Ltd. has no right and title over the land and only permission for construction of Road.
03	M/s Vedanta Ltd. shall be utilized for the purpose for which it is accorded permission i.e. for construction of the road by M/s Vedanta Ltd. from Sijimali Mines Top to nearest SH-44 in 3 nos of villages under Kashipur Tahasil in Rayagada district.
04	M/s Vedanta Ltd. can not infringe upon the communal rights over the land granted permission for utilization as applied for.
05	M/s Vedanta Ltd. shall initiate the Road Construction work in non forest Govt. land measuring **Ac.15.426** in 3 nos of villages under Kashipur Tahasil in Rayagada district without cutting of trees in non forest land and without causing any damage to nearby forest land.
06	No construction work shall be undertaken on forest land until the requisite approvals from the concerned authorities.
07	M/s Vedanta Ltd. have to pay the **annual rent** of the land amounting to Rs.**1,14,731** along with 18% GST charges **Rs.20,652/-** for Non forest Govt. land measuring **Ac.15.426** in 3 nos of villages (i.e. Ac.5.821 in village-Bichhapinda, Ac.1.248 in village- Dumerpadar, Ac.8.357 in village-Sagabari) under Kashipur Tahasil in Rayagada district. The above rate will be subject to revision consequent upon the appropriate decision taken by the concerned Revenue Authority/IDCO from time to time.
08	M/s Vedanta Ltd. shall abide by the guidelines of the Govt. in **Industries Deptt./R&DM Deptt./Steel & Mines** and any revision thereto from time to time.
09	M/s Vedanta Ltd. shall abide by the terms and conditions of **MoU,** if executed with State Government and also obey the Rule and regulation of the State Government/ State Government Agencies.
10	M/s Vedanta Ltd. shall obtain necessary clearances from the State Pollution Control Board for establishment of proposed project on the permissive land before taking up any civil construction / industrial

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	activities and will maintain the environmental balance which might be required at the time of commission of Industries.
11	a) M/s Vedanta Ltd. shall also have to abide by all the applicable **environment related laws / rules & regulations** which are existing and which may be framed by the competent authority from time to time. b) The liquid effluent discharge of / from the industries/project must meet OSPCB prescribed norms.
12	M/s Vedanta Ltd. shall have obtained clearance from **Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India.** M/s Vedanta Ltd. shall abide by the provisions of prevailing forest laws, rule & guidelines issued by the **State / Central Govt.** from time to time.
13	In case of government land for felling of trees, enumeration of the number of trees shall be done and necessary cost shall be deposited with the government. In case of required private land, necessary clearance of the local DFO shall be obtained by the project authority before felling of trees.
14	No waste water of the project shall be released to the **Reservoir / River**. M/s Vedanta Ltd. shall follow the guidelines of the Pollution Control Board.
15	M/s Vedanta Ltd. shall develop green belt both side of the road as per the detail conditions specified in the clearance issued by the **MOEF & State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)**.
16	In addition to the above conditions, the conditions imposed by the State Govt. for allocation of Bauxite Block in the District of **Rayagada** and conditions stipulated in clearance/consent issued by **MOEF Government of India & State Pollution Control Board, Odisha** will be strictly adhered to.
17	M/s Vedanta Ltd. shall have to take necessary clearance of the **local DFO** before felling of trees, if any, in case of both acquired private and Government land for which accorded permission.
18	Deviation of any of the Condition of the Permission shall result in

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	immediate reversion of the land to the Govt. in Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Odisha free from all encumbrances without payment of any compensation for the structure, if any erected on the land or for any improvement that might have been made thereto.

You are therefore requested to convey the letter of acceptance to the undersigned for taking further necessary action at this end.

LAND SCHEDULE

Tahasil	Mouza	Khata No (HAL)	Plot No	Permissive Area (In Ac.)	Kissam
Kashipur	Bichapinda	2/1	23/26	1.948	Patita
			24/27	3.873	Patita
	Sagabari	152/152	31/1612	1.369	Patita
			6/1613	1.768	Patita
			732/1614	1.760	Patita
			733/1615	1.329	Patita
			770/1616	1.946	Patita
			32/1610	0.185	Rasta
	Dumerpadar	68/7	374/513	0.086	Patita
			377/512	1.094	Patita
			375/515	0.068	Patita
			Total	15.426	

BY ORDER OF MD

16/9/2025

Chief General Manager (Land)

Memo No._____/Dated.

Copy to the District Magistrate & Collector, Rayagada/Chief Engineer, DPI & Roads, Nirman Soudha, Keshari Nagar,Unit-V,Bhubaneswar-751001/Special Secretary to Govt. in Industries Deptt., Odisha for information and necessary action.

16/9/2025

Chief General Manager (Land)

Memo No._____/Dtd._____

Copy to the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Division, Dist- Rayagada / Executive Engineer Rayagada (R&D), Division-1, Rayagada for information and necessary action.

16/9/2025

Chief General Manager (Land)

Memo No._____/Dated.

Copy to the Tahasildar Kashipur,Dist-Rayagada/Divisional Head, IDCO Koraput Division for information and necessary action.

16/9/2025

Chief General Manager (Land)

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THE ORISSA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACT, 1980

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THE ORISSA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACT, 1980

(Orissa Act 1 of 1980)

[Received the assent of the President on the 5th January, 1991]

An Act to provide for the establishment of a Corporation for the development of industrial infrastructure in the State of Orissa

Whereas it is expedient to make special provision for securing the orderly establishment of industries in industrial areas and industrial estates in the State of Orissa and to assist generally in the organisation thereof, and for that purpose to establish an Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid;

It is hereby enacted by the Legislature of the State of Orissa in the Thirty-first year of the Republic of India, as follows :

CHAPTER I

Preliminary

1. Short title, extent and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Act, 1980.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Orissa.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions. - In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -

(a) "*amenity"* includes road, railway siding, air strip, warehousing, supply of water or electricity, street lighting, drainage, sewerage, conservancy and such other convenience as the State Government may, by notification, specify to be an amenity for the purpose of this Act;

(b) "*Board"* means the Board of Directors of the Corporation;

(c) "*building"* means any structure or erection, or part of a structure or erection, which is intended to be used for residential, industrial, commercial or other purposes, whether in actual use or not;

(d) "*Collector"* means the Collector of a district, and includes any officer specially empowered by the State Government to perform the functions of a Collector under this Act;

(e) "*Corporation"* means the Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation established under S.5;

(f) *"development"* with its grammatical variations means the carrying out of building, engineering, quarrying or other operations in, on, over or under land or the making of any material change in any building or land, and includes

re-development, but does not include mining operations; and "to develop" shall be construed accordingly;

(g) *"engineering operations"* include the formation or laying out of means of access to a road, rail or waterway or the laying out of means of water-supply, power supply and communication system;

(h) *"industrial area"* means any area declared to be an industrial area by the State Government by notification, which is to be developed and where industries, industrial housing and related services are to be accommodated;

(i) *"industrial estate"* means any site selected by the Stale Government where the Corporation builds factories and other buildings, services and amenities and makes them available for any industry or class of industries;

(j) *"means of access"* includes a road or any means of access, whether private or public, for vehicles or for pedestrians or for rail or for water, power or communication systems;

(k) *"premises"* means any land or building or part of a building and includes -

(i) the garden, grounds and out-houses, if any, appertaining to such building or part of a building: and

(ii) any fittings affixed to such building or part of a building for the more beneficial enjoyment thereof;

(I) *"prescribed"* means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(m) the expression “tend” and the expression “*person interested”* shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them under S.3 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (1 of 1894).

CHAPTER II

Establishment of the Corporation

3. Establishment and incorporation. - (1) For the purpose of securing and assisting in the rapid and orderly establishment and organisation of industries, trade and commerce in industrial areas and industrial estates in the State of Orissa, there shall be established by the State Government, by notification, a Corporation by the name of the Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation.

(2) The Corporation shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued in its corporate name, and shall be competent to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and do all things necessary for the purposes of this Act.

4. Constitution of Board of Directors. - (1) The general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs and business of the Corporation shall vest in a Board of Directors which, with the assistance of an Executive Committee and a Managing Director, may exercise all the powers and discharge all the functions which may be exercised or discharged by the Corporation.

(2) The Board of Directors shall consist of fifteen Directors, namely:

(i) Secretary to Government in the Industries Department;

(ii) Secretary to Government in the Finance Department;

(iii) Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department;

(iv) Director of Industries, Orissa;

(v) Chairman, Orissa State Electricity Board;

(vi) Managing Director, Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa Limited;

(vii) Managing Director, Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Limited;

(viii) Managing Director, Orissa State Financial Corporation;

(ix) Managing Director, Orissa Small Industries Corporation Limited;

(x) Chief Engineer, Public Health Department;

(xi) Managing Director of the Corporation;

(xii) Four Directors nominated by the State Government from amongst persons appearing to it to be qualified as having had experience of, and having shown capacity in, industry or trade or finance, or who, in the opinion of the State Government, are capable of representing the interest of persons engaged or employed therein.

(3) The State Government shall appoint one of the Directors to be the Chairman of the Board.

5. Disqualification for Directorship. - A person shall be disqualified for being nominated as a Director of the Board, if he -

(a) is an employee of the Corporation, not being the Managing Director; or

(b) is of unsound mind, and stands so declared by a competent Court: or

(c) is an undischarged insolvent; or

(d) has a subsisting contract with the Corporation.

6. Term of office and conditions of service of Directors. - (1) The Chairman and the Directors nominated under Cl.(xii) of sub-S. (2) of S.4 shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor.

(2) Subject to the provisions of sub-S. (1), the term of office of the said Directors shall be for a period of three years from the date of their nomination and shall include any further period which may elapse between the expiration of the said period of three years and the date of nomination of their successors.

(3) The nominated Directors shall be entitled to draw such fees and allowances as may be prescribed.

(4) Any person nominated as a Director on one or more occasions shall, unless disqualified, be eligible for renomination.

(5) Where a person is nominated to be or becomes a Director by virtue of holding any office he shall, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, cease to be a Director as soon as he ceases to hold that office.

7. Meetings of the Board. - (1) The Board shall meet at such times and places, and shall, subject to the provisions of sub-S. (2), observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of its business as may be provided by regulations made under this Act.

(2) A Director, who is directly or indirectly concerned or interested in any contract, loan, arrangement or proposal entered into or proposed to be entered into, by or on behalf of the Corporation, shall at the earliest possible opportunity disclose the nature of his interest to the Board, and shall not present at any meeting of the Board when any such contract, loan arrangement or proposal is discussed, unless his presence is required by the other Directors for the purpose of eliciting information, but no Director so required to be present shall vote on any such contract, loan, arrangement or proposal.

8. Cessation of Directorship. - If a Director -

(a) becomes subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in S.5; or

(b) tenders his resignation in writing to, and such resignation is accepted by the State Government; or

(c) is absent without the Board's permission from three consecutive meetings of the Board, or from all meetings of the Board for three consecutive months; or

(d) is convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude; he shall cease to be a member of the Board.

9. Vacancies how to be filled. - Any casual vacancy in the Board shall be filled as early as practicable, in like manner as if the appointment were being made originally :

Provided that during any such vacancy the continuing members may act as if no vacancy had occurred.

10. Temporary absence of Chairman. - If the Chairman of the Board is by reason of illness or otherwise rendered temporarily incapable of carrying out his duties, or is granted leave of absence by the State Government or is otherwise unable to attend to his duties in circumstances not involving the cessation of his Directorship, the State Government may appoint the Managing Director or any other Director to act as the Chairman and carry out his duties and functions by or under this Act until the Chairman resumes his duties.

11. Proceeding presumed to be good and valid. – No disqualification of. or defect in the appointment of any person acting as the Chairman or a Director of the Board, shall vitiate any act or proceeding of the Board, if such act or proceeding is otherwise in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

12. Officers and servants of the Corporation. - (1) The State Government shall appoint a Managing Director who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation.

(2) The Board may appoint such other officers and servants, subordinate to the Managing Director, as it considers necessary for the efficient performance of its duties and functions.

(3) The conditions of appointment and service of the officers and servants and their scales of pay shall -

(a) as regards the Managing Director, be such as may be prescribed; and

(b) as regards the other officers and servants, be such as may be determined by regulations made under this Act.

(4) If the Managing Director of the Corporation is temporarily absent or rendered incapable of performing his duties for any reason whatsoever, not involving the vacation of his office, the State Government may, after consultation with the Board, appoint another person to act in his place during his absence. Such person shall vacate office on the date the Managing Director resumes his duties.

13. Corporation to absorb certain staff and to assume obligations of State Government in respect of matters to which this Act applies. - (1) The Corporation shall take over and employ such of the existing staff serving for the purposes of the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Limited and the Orissa Small Industries Corporation Limited as the State Government may direct, and every person so taken over and employed shall be subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder;

Provided that the conditions of service of the members of the staff who are taken over by the Corporation shall in no way be less advantageous than those which were applicable to them immediately prior to their absorption.

(2) All obligations incurred, all contracts entered into and all matters and things engaged to be done. before the first establishment of the Corporation, by, with or for the State Government or the Corporations aforesaid for any of the purposes of this Act, in respect of any schemes for the development of industrial estates or industrial areas entrusted to the Corporation, shall be deemed to have been incurred, entered into or engaged to be done, by, with or for the Corporation; and accordingly all suits or other legal proceedings instituted or which might have been instituted by or against the State Government or the Corporations aforesaid, as the case may be, may be continued or instituted by or against the Corporation.

(3) Alt expenditure which the State Government or the Corporations aforesaid may have incurred before the date of the coming into force of this Act in connection with any of the purposes of this Act shall be deemed to be a grant to the Corporation under S. 21 on that date, and all assets acquired by such expenditure shall vest in the Corporation.

CHAPTER III

Functions and powers of the Corporation

14. Functions. - The functions of the Corporation shall be -

(i) generally to promote and assist in the rapid and orderly establishment, growth and development of industries, trade and commerce in the State; and

(ii) in particular, and without prejudice to the generality of Cl. (i) to-

(a) establish and manage industrial estates at places notified by the State Government;

(b) develop industrial areas notified by the State Government for the purpose and make them available for undertakings to establish themselves;

(c) undertake schemes or works, either jointly with other corporate bodies or institutions, or with Government or local authorities, or on an agency basis, in furtherance of the purposes for which the Corporation is established and all matters connected therewith;

(d) provide or cause to be provided amenities and common facilities in industrial estates and industrial areas and construct and maintain or cause to be maintained works and buildings thereof;

(e) make available buildings on hire or sale to industrialists or persons intending to start industrial undertakings;

(f) construct buildings for the housing of the employees of such industries and employees of the Corporation.

15. General powers of the Corporation. - Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Corporation shall have power :

(a) to acquire and hold such property, both movable and immovable, as the Corporation may deem necessary for the performance of any of its activities, and to lease, sell, exchange or otherwise transfer any property held by it on such conditions as may be deemed proper by the Corporation;

(b) to purchase by agreement or to take on lease or under any form of tenancy any land to erect such buildings and to execute such other works as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out its duties and functions;

(c) to allot plots, factory sheds or buildings or part of buildings, including residential tenements, to suitable persons in the industrial estates established or developed by the Corporation;

(d) to modify or rescind such allotments, including the right and power to evict the allottees concerned on breach of any of the terms or conditions of the allotment;

(e) to constitute advisory committees to advise the Corporation;

(f) to engage suitable consultants or persons having special knowledge or skill to assist the Corporation in the performance of its functions;

(g) to enter into and perform all such contracts as it may consider necessary or expedient for carrying out any of its functions; and

(h) to do such other things and perform such acts as it may think necessary or expedient for the proper conduct of its functions and the carrying into effect the purposes of this Act.

16. Authentication of orders and documents of Corporation. -

All permissions, orders, decisions, notices and other documents of the Corporation shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation.

17. Power to levy service charge. - Notwithstanding anything contained in any contract or any law for the time being in force, it shall be lawful for the Corporation to levy development cost. fees or service charges to cover its expenses on construction and maintenance of roads, drainage, water-supply and such other services and amenities as may be provided by it including provision of street lighting, at such rates as may be prescribed from time to time and such cost, fees and charges may be levied on the plot holders or other persons receiving benefit of the services or amenities.

18. Directions by the State Government. - The State Government may issue to the Corporation such general or special directions as to policy as it may think necessary or expedient for carrying out the purposes of this Act, and the Corporation shall be bound to follow and act upon such directions.

CHAPTER IV
Finance, accounts and audit

19. Application of Corporation's assets. - All property, fund and other assets vesting in the Corporation shall be held and applied by it, subject to the provisions and for the purposes of this Act.

20. Corporation's fund. -The Corporation shall have and maintain its own fund, to which shall be credited -

(a) all amounts received by the Corporation from the State Government by way of grants, subventions, loans, advances or otherwise;

(b) all fees, costs and charges received by the Corporation under this Act;

(c) all amounts received by the Corporation from the disposal of lands, buildings and other properties movable and immovable and other transactions;

(d) all amounts received by the Corporation by way of rents and profits or in any other manner or from any other source;

(e) all amounts received by the Corporation from Government undertakings, Companies, Financial Institutions, Commercial Banks or from any other source.

21. Grants, subventions, loans and advances to the Corporation. - The State Government may after due appropriation made by the State Legislature by law in this behalf, make such grants, subventions, loans and advances to the Corporation as it may deem necessary for the performance of the functions of the Corporation under this Act; and all grants, subventions, loans and advances made shall be on such terms and conditions as the State Government may after consulting the Corporation determine.

22. Power of Corporation to borrow and guarantee of loans. -

(1) The Corporation may, from time to time, with the previous sanction of the State Government and subject to the provisions of this Act and to such conditions as may be prescribed in this behalf, borrow any sum required for the purposes of this Act.

(2) Rules made by the State Government for the purposes of this section may empower the Corporation to borrow by the issue of bonds or stock or otherwise.

(3) The maximum amount which the Corporation may at any time have on loan under sub-S. (1) shall be fifty crores of rupees, unless the State Government with the approval of the State Legislative Assembly, fixes a higher maximum amount.

(4) The State Government may guarantee in such manner as it thinks fit the payment of the principal and interest of any loan proposed to be raised by the Corporation or of either the principal or the interest;

Provided that the State Government shall, so long as any such guarantees are in force, lay before the State Legislature in every year during the first session of the Legislature, a statement of the guarantees, if any, given during the current financial year and an up-to-date account of the total sum, if any, which have been paid out of or into the State Revenues towards repayment of any money so paid out.

23. Deposits. - The Corporation may accept deposits on such terms and conditions as it deems fit from persons, authorities or instructions, to whom allotment or sale of land, buildings or sheds is made or is likely to be made in furtherance of the objects of this Act.

24. Reserve and other funds. - (1) The Corporation shall make provisions for such reserve and other specially denominated funds as the State Government may, from time to time, direct.

(2) The management of the funds referred to in sub-S. (1), the sum to be transferred from time to time to the credit thereof and the application of money comprised therein shall be determined by the Corporation.

(3) None of the funds referred to in sub-S. (1) shall be utilised for any purpose other than that for which it was constituted without the previous approval of the State Government.

25. Expenditure from funds. - (1) The Corporation shall have the authority to spend such sums as it thinks fit for the purposes authorised under this Act from out of the general funds of the Corporation referred to in S.20 or from the reserve and other funds referred to in S.24, as the case may be.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the power conferred by sub-S. (1), the Corporation may contribute sums, as it thinks fit, towards expenditure incurred or to be incurred by any local authority or statutory public undertaking in the performance, in relation to any of its industrial estates or industrial areas, of any of the statutory functions of such authority or undertaking, including expenditure incurred in the acquisition of land.

(3) The Corporation shall have authority to advance loans, with or without security on interest, to its employees.

26. Budget and programme of work. - (1) The Corporation shall, by such date in each year as may be prescribed, prepare and submit to the State Government for approval an annual financial statement and the programme of work for the succeeding financial year.

(2) The annual financial statement shall show the estimated receipts and expenditure during the succeeding financial year in such form and detail as may be prescribed.

(3) The Corporation shall be competent to make variations in the programme of work in the course of the year; provided that all such variations and reappropriations out of the sanctioned budget are brought to the notice of the State Government by a supplementary financial statement.

(4) A copy each of the annual financial statement and the programme of work and the supplementary financial statement, if any, shall be placed before the State Legislature as soon as may be after their receipt by the State Government.

27. Accounts and audit. - (1) The Corporation shall maintain books of accounts and other books in relation to its business and transactions in such form, and in such manner, as may be prescribed.

(2) The accounts of the Corporation shall be audited by an au9itor appointed by the State Government, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor- General of India.

(3) As soon as the accounts of the Corporation are audited, the Corporation shall send a copy thereof together with the copy of the report of the auditor thereon to the State Government.

(4) The State Government shall cause the accounts of the Corporation together with the audit report thereon forwarded to it under sub-S.(3) to be laid annually before the State Legislature.

28. Concurrent and special audit accounts. -(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the last preceding section, the State Government may, by order, direct that there shall be concurrent audit by such person as it thinks fit of the accounts of the Corporation relating to any particular transaction or class or series of transactions or to a particular period.

(2) When an order is made under sub-S. (1), the Corporation shall present or cause to be presented for audit such accounts and shall furnish to the persons appointed under sub-S. (1), such information as the said person may require for the purpose of audit.

CHAPTER V
Applicability of certain laws

29. Application of Orissa Public Premises (Eviction) Act, 1972, to Corporation premises. - (1) The State Government may. by notification, provide that from such date as is stated there in the Orissa Public

Premises (Eviction of-Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1972 (Orissa Act 7 of 1972) shall, subject to the provisions of sub-S.(2), apply to the premises belonging to vesting in, or leased by the Corporation.

(2) On a notification being issued under sub-S. (1). the aforesaid Act and the rules made thereunder shall apply to premises of the Corporation with the following modifications, namely :

(a) the State Government shall appoint an officer of the Corporation who is holding or has office other whether under the Government or the Corporation, which in the opinion of the State Government is not lower in rank than that of a Deputy Collector or an Assistant Engineer, to be the Estate Officer for the purposes of the aforesaid Act and one or more officers may be appointed as Estate Officers for different areas or for the same area;

(b) reference to "public premises" in that Act and those rules shall be deemed to be reference to premises of the Corporations and references to "the State Government" in S.6, 12 and 15 thereof shall be deemed to be references to the Corporation.

30. Non-applicability of certain Acts. - (1) The Orissa House Rent Control Act, 1967 (Orissa Act 4 of 1968) shall not apply -

(a) to any premises belonging to or vesting in the Corporation under or for the purposes of this Act;

(b) as against the Corporation to any tenancies or like relationship created by the Corporation in respect of any premises; but shall apply to any premises let to the Corporation.

(2) The provisions of the Orissa Town Planning and Improvement Trust Act, 1956 (Orissa Act 10 of 1957), shall not apply to the premises belonging to or vested in the Corporation or to any industrial estate for a period of ten years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(3) The State Government may, by notification, exempt any such premises or estate as aforesaid from any of the provisions of the Orissa Municipal Act, 1950 (Orissa Act 23 of 1950) for such period, not exceeding ten years, as may be specified in the notification.

CHAPTER VI
Acquisition and disposal of land

31. Acquisition of land. - (1) Whenever any land is required, by the Corporation for any purpose of furtherance of the objects of this Act, but the Corporation is unable to acquire it by agreement, the State Government may, upon an application of the Corporation in that behalf, order proceedings to be taken under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (1 of 1894) for acquiring the same on behalf of the Corporation as if such lands were needed for a public purpose within the meaning of that Act.

(2) The amount of compensation awarded and all other charges incurred in the acquisition of any such land shall be forthwith paid by the Corporation and thereupon, the land shall vest in the Corporation.

32. Transfer of Government lands to the Corporation. - (1) For the furtherance of the objects of this Act the State Government may. upon such conditions as may be agreed upon between the Government and the Corporation, place at the disposal of the Corporation any land vested in the State Government.

(2) After any such land had been developed by or under the control and supervision of the Corporation it shall be dealt with by the Corporation in accordance with the regulations made under this Act and the directions given by the State Government in that behalf.

33. Disposal of land by the Corporation. - (1) Subject to any directions given by the State Government the Corporation may dispose of-

(a) any land acquired by the State Government and transferred to it, without undertaking or carrying out any development thereon; or

(b) any such land after undertaking or carrying out such development as it thinks fit.

to such person in such manner and subject to such terms and conditions, as it considers expedient for securing the purposes of this Act.

(2) The powers of the Corporation with respect to the disposal of land under sub-S. (1) shall be so exercised as to secure, so far as practicable, that -

(a) where the Corporation proposes to dispose of by sale any such land which is surplus to its requirement, the Corporation shall offer the land in the first instance to the persons from whom it was acquired, if they desire to purchase it, subject to such requirements as to its development and use as the Corporation may think fit to impose.

(b) persons who are residing or carrying on business or other activities on any such land shall, if they desire to obtain accommodation on land belonging to the Corporation and are willing to comply with any requirements of the Corporation as to its development and use have an opportunity to obtain thereon accommodation suitable to their reasonable requirements on terms settled with due regard to the price at which any such land has been acquired from them.

(3) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as enabling the Corporation to dispose of land by way of gift, but subject as aforesaid; reference in this Act to the disposal of land shall be construed as reference to the disposal thereof in any manner whether by way of sale, mortgage, exchange, or lease or by the creation, of any easement, right or privilege or otherwise.

34. Acquisition of unutilised surplus lands in industrial areas and allotment to other industries. - (1) With a view to ascertaining whether any plot allotted in an industrial area developed by the Corporation has been utilised for industrial purposes or not, the Board shall carry out six-monthly review as to how much unutilised area of each plot is capable of

sub-division and whether the unutilised area can be utilised for any other purpose under this Act after sub-division, and shall issue notice to the plot holders in the industrial area calling upon them to furnish to it relevant information in the prescribed form and when so called upon each plot holder shall be bound to furnish true and correct information required within one month from the date of receipt of such notice by him.

(2) For the purpose of enabling the Board to determine whether there is any unutilised portion of any plot in the industrial area and whether such portion is capable of sub-division so as to make it useful for any other purpose under this Act after sub-division, it shall be lawful for any officer of the Corporation, either generally or specially authorised by the Board in this behalf, and for his servants and workmen at all reasonable hours -

(i) to enter upon and survey the plot;

(ii) to set out the boundaries of the utilised portion of the plots; and

(iii) to do all other acts necessary for the purposes aforesaid,

(3) If the Board is satisfied that any plot holder has not utilised the maximum area of his plot suitable for construction of buildings for a period of three years or more from the date on which possession of the plot was delivered to him by the Board and the utilised portion is capable of subdivision so as to make it useful for any other purpose under this Act, the Board may, notwithstanding anything contained in any contract or in any law for the time being in force, issue to the plot holder and all other persons interested in the plot notice to show cause why such unutilised portion should not be acquired for the purpose of being utilised for any other purpose under this Act. The Board shall also cause public notice to be given in the manner laid down in S.46.

(4) When any such notice is issued, the Board shall give a reasonable opportunity of being heard to the plot holder and other persons interested in the plot and it shall be open to the plot holder or any other person interested in the plot to appear and object to such resumption on the ground that the unutilised portion is required by the plot holder himself for the purpose of immediate expansion of his own industry and that he has already taken effective steps for utilising such portion.

(5) If after giving a reasonable opportunity of being heard, the Board is satisfied that the holder of the plot has failed to utilise or is not likely to utilise the unutilised portion for industrial purposes within a reasonable period, and such unutilised portion can be used for any other purpose under this Act, the Board may, notwithstanding anything contained in any contract or in any law for the time being in force, for the purpose of enabling the Corporation to properly discharge its functions of promoting rapid growth and development of industries under this Act on such unutilised portion, resume the unutilised portion of the land by giving a notice to the holder of the plot. On and from the date of such notice the unutilised portion of land specified in the notice shall vest absolutely in the Corporation, free from all encumbrances.

(6) Where any land is vested in the Corporation under the last preceding sub-section, the Board may, by notice in writing, order any person who may be in possession of the land to surrender or deliver possession thereof to the Board or any person duly authorised by it in this behalf within thirty days of the service of the notice.

(7) If any person refuses or fails to comply with an order made under the last preceding sub-section, the Board may take possession of the land, and may for the purpose use such force as may be necessary.

(8) Where any land is resumed by the Board under this section the Corporation shall pay for such resumption an amount not exceeding the proportionate amount of premium paid by the plot holder or his predecessor-in-title claiming under the Corporation in respect of the land so resumed, with interest thereon at six per cent per annum from the date of payment of the premium, and where the lease is a rental lease the amount to be awarded shall not exceed an amount equal to three times the net average yearly proportionate rent payable by the plot holder to the Corporation in respect of the land so resumed.

CHAPTER VII
Supplementary and miscellaneous provisions

35. Power of the Corporation in case of certain defaults by owner of land in industrial area. - (1) If the Corporation, after holding a local enquiry or upon report from any of its officers or other information in its possession, it satisfied that the owner of any land in an industrial area has failed to provide any amenity in relation to the land which in the opinion of the Corporation ought to be provided or to carry out any development of the land for which permission has been obtained under this Act, the corporation may serve upon the owner a notice requiring him to provide he amenity or carry out the development within a reasonable time to be specified in the notice.

(2) If any such amenity is not provided or any such development is not carried out within the time specified in the notice, the Corporation may itself provide the amenity or carry out the development or have it provided or carried out through such agency as it deems fit;

Provided that, before taking any action under this sub-section, the s Corporation shall afford reasonable opportunity to the owner of the land to show cause as to why such action should not be taken.

(3) All expenses incurred by the Corporation or the agency employed by it in providing the amenity or carrying out the development together with interest, at such rate as the State Government may by order fix, from the date which a demand for the expenses is made until payment shall be recoverable by the Corporation from the owner.

36. Order of demolition of building. - (1) Where the erection of any building in an industrial estate or industrial area has been commenced, or is being carried on, or has been completed, or any existing building is altered, in contravention of the terms on which such building or the land on

which it stands is held or granted under this Act, any officer of the Corporation empowered by it in this behalf may. in addition to any prosecution that may be instituted under this Act, make an order directing that such erection shall be demolished by the owner thereof within such period not exceeding two months as may be specified in the order, and on the failure of the owner to comply with the order, the officer may himself cause the erection to be demolished and expenses of such demolition shall be recoverable by the Corporation from the owner :

Provided that no such order shall be made unless the owner has been given a reasonable opportunity to show cause why the order should not be made.

(2) Any person aggrieved by an order made under sub-S. (1) may prefer an appeal against that order within thirty days from the date thereof to the Executive Commissioner of the Corporation. Such Committee may after hearing the parties to the appeal either allow or dismiss the appeal or reverse or vary any part of the order.

(3) The decision of the Committee on the appeal and subject only to such decision, the order made by the officer under sub-S. (1) shall be final.

37. Power to stop building operations. - (1) Where the erection of any building in an industrial estate or industrial area has been commenced or is being carried on or any existing building is altered, in contravention of the terms in which such building or the land on which it stands is held or granted under this Act, any officer of the Corporation empowered in this behalf may, in addition to any prosecution that may be instituted under this Act, make an order requiring the building operations in relation to such erection to be discontinued on and from the date of the service of the order.

(2) Where such building operations are not discontinued in pursuance of the requisition under sub-S. (1), the Corporation or the officer empowered as aforesaid may require any police officer to remove the person by whom the erection of the building has been commenced and all his assistants and workmen from the place of the building within such time as may be specified in the requisition and such police officer shall comply with the requisition accordingly.

(3) After a requisition under sub-S. (2) has been complied with, the Corporation or the officer empowered as aforesaid may depute by a written order a police officer or an officer or employee of the Corporation to watch the place in order to ensure that the erection of the building is not continued.

(4) Any person failing to comply with an order made under sub-S.(1) shall, on conviction, be punishable with fine, which may extend to two hundred rupees for every day during which such non-compliance continues after the service of the order.

(5) No compensation shall be payable to any person for any damage or loss which he may sustain in consequence of any order made under this section.

38. Penalty for construction or use of land and buildings contrary to terms of holding. - (1) Any person who, whether at his own instance or at the instance of any other person, undertakes or carries out construction of or alterations to any building in an industrial estate or industrial area contrary to the terms under which he holds such building or land under this Act, shall on conviction, be punishable with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees, and in the case of a continuing contravention, with a further fine which may extend to two hundred rupees for every day during which such offence continues after conviction for the first commission of the offence.

(2) Any person who uses any land or building in an industrial estate or industrial area contrary to the terms under which he holds such land or building under this Act or in contravention of the provisions of any regulations made in this behalf shall, on conviction, be punishable with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees.

39. Power to lay pipelines, etc. - (1) Within any area taken up for development under paragraph (b) of Cl. (ii) of S.14, and for the purposes of (a) carrying gas, water or electricity from a source of supply to, or (b) constructing any sewers or drains necessary for carrying off the workings and waste liquids of an industrial process through any intervening area, the Board or any person empowered in this behalf by the State Government by notification (hereinafter in this section referred to as "the authorised person") may lay down, place, maintain, alter, remove or repair any pipes. pipelines, conduits, supply or service lines, posts or other appliances or apparatus in, on, under, over, along or across any land in such areas.

(2) The Board or the authorised person may at any time enter upon any land in any such area and in such event the provisions of S.40 shall, mutatis mutandis, apply.

(3) While exercising the power conferred by sub-S.(1) the Board or the authorised persons shall cause as little damage as possible to property; and compensation for any damage sustained by them in consequence of the exercise of such powers as aforesaid shall be paid to all persons interested by the Corporation, or in the case of the authorised persons, by the State Government.

(4) Nothing herein shall authorise or empower the Corporation or the authorised person to lay down or place any pipe or other works into, through or against any building or in any land not dedicated to public use without the consent of the owners and occupiers thereof, except that the Corporation or such person may at any time enter upon and lay or place any new pipe in the place of an existing pipe in any land wherein any pipe has been already lawfully laid down or placed in pursuance of this Act, and may repair or alter any pipe so laid down :

Provided that nothing in the aforesaid provision shall be construed to mean that the Corporation or other person is forbidden from having the said land acquired at any time by the State Government in the normal course.

40. Power of entry. - Any officer of the State Government, any Director of the Board, and any person either generally or specially authorised by the Board in this behalf, may enter into or upon any land or building with or without assistance of workmen for the purpose of -

(a) making any inspection, survey, measurement, valuation or enquiry or taking levels of such land or building;

(b) examining works under construction and ascertaining the course of sewers and drains;

(c) digging or boring into the sub-soil;

(d) setting out boundaries and intended lines of work;

(e) marking such levels, boundaries and lines by placing marks and cutting nrethes;

(f) doing any other thing necessary for the efficient administration of this Act;

Provided that -

(i) no such entry shall be made except between the hours of sunrise and sunset and without giving reasonable notice to the occupier, or if there be no occupier, to the owner of the land or building;

(ii) sufficient opportunity shall in every instance be given to enable women, if any, to withdraw from such land or building; and

(iii) due regard shall always be had, so far as may be compatible with the exigencies of the purpose for which the entry is made, to the social and religious usages of the occupants of the land or building entered.

41. Officers of the Corporation may be vested with other powers.-

The State Government may, by notification nominate any officer of the Corporation to be a controller or licensing authority under any law for the time being in force relating to the procurement or distribution of any commodity in respect of the industrial undertakings established or to be established in industrial estates or industrial areas entrusted to or developed by the Corporation and no such nomination shall be called into question merely on the ground that such officer is not an officer of the State Government.

42. Overriding powers of Government to issue directions to local authorities. - Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, or in any license or permit, if the State Government is satisfied either on a recommendation made in this behalf by the Board or otherwise, that the setting up of an industrial undertaking, whether within an industrial area or outside, is impeded by a local authority's refusal to grant, or by such authority's insistence on conditions which the State Government considers

unreasonable for the grant of any amenity, the State Government may direct the local authority to grant the said amenity on such conditions as the State Government may consider fit, and thereupon the amenity shall be granted :

Provided that the charge to be paid for granting or continuing such amenity to the local authority concerned shall not be less than the cost incurred by the local authority or licensee concerned for providing such amenity;

Provided further that, no such direction shall be made by the State Government without giving the local authority a reasonable opportunity to show cause why any such direction should not be made.

43. Restriction on lease permission in adjoining areas in certain cases. - If any person or company applies to the Collector or any other competent authority for lease of Government land or for permission to convert agricultural land into non-agricultural use for setting up of an industrial undertaking or for locating a brick kiln, quary or for any other use which may be detrimental to the orderly growth of an industrial estate and if such Government land or agricultural land is situated within a radius of five kilometers of the outer boundary of the said industrial area or estate, the Collector or the competent authority shall not grant such lease or permission without prior consultation with the Board :

Provided that where the Collector or the competent authority overrides the objection of the Board, he will give reasons therefor in writing to the Board, whereupon the Board may appeal to the prescribed authority;

Provided further that no action shall be taken on the order of the Collector or the competent authority till such appeal is disposed of;

Provided also that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any village industry, cottage industry or tiny sector industry.

Explanation. For the purposes of this section -

(i) the expressions "village industry" and "cottage industry" shall have the same meaning as assigned to them under the Orissa State Aid to Industries Act, 1978 (Orissa Act 32 of 1978);

(ii) "tiny sector industry" shall mean such industry as may be declared by the State Government, from time to time, to be a tiny sector industry.

44. Executive Committee. (1) There shall be an Executive Committee which shall consist of -

(a) the Chairman of the Board of Directors;

(b) the Managing Director of the Corporation; and

(c) three other members elected by the Board from among the Directors of whom at least one shall be a Director nominated under Cl.(xii) of sub-S. (2) of S.4.

(2) The Chairman of the Board shall preside over the meetings of the Committee and the business of the Committee shall be conducted in such manner as may be provided in the Regulations made under this Act.

(3) The Committee shall render all such assistance to the Board as it may require from time to time and shall perform such other functions as are assigned to it by or under this Act.

45. Service of notices, etc. - (1) All notices, orders and other documents required by this Act or any rule or regulation made thereunder to be served upon any person shall, save as otherwise provided in this Act or such rule or regulation, be deemed to be duly served -

(a) where the person to be served in a company, it the service is effected in accordance with the provisions of S.51 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);

(b) where the person to be served is a firm, if the document is addressed to the firm at its principal place of business, identifying it by the name or style under which it business is carried on. and is either -

(i) sent by registered post; or

(ii) left at the said place of business;

(c) where the person to be served is a statutory public body or a corporation or a society or other body, if the document is addressed to the secretary, treasurer or other chief executive officer of that body, corporation or society at its principal office, and is either -

(i) sent by registered post; or

(ii) left at that office;

(d) in any other case, if the document is addressed to the person to be served and -

(i) is given or tendered to him; or

(ii) if such person cannot be found,

is affixed on some conspicuous part of his last known place of residence or business or is given or tendered to some adult member of his family or is affixed on some conspicuous part of the land or building to which it relates; or

(iii) is sent by registered post to that person.

(2) Any document which is required or authorised to be served on the owner or occupier of any land or building whose name is not known, may be addressed to "the owner" or "the occupier", as the case may be, of that land or building (naming that land or building) without further name or description, and shall be deemed to be duty served -

(a) if the document so addressed is sent or delivered in accordance with Cl.(d) of sub-S. (1); or

(b) if the document so addressed or a copy thereof so addressed, is given or tendered to some person on the land or building who appears to be occupying the same or, where there is no such

person on the land or building to whom it can be delivered, is affixed to some conspicuous part of the land or building.

(3) Where a document is served on the firm in accordance with this section, the document shall be deemed to be served on each partner.

(4) For the purpose of enabling any document to be served on the owner of any property, the occupier, if any, of the property may be required by notice in writing by the State Government or the Corporation as the case may be, to state the name and address of the owner thereof.

46. Public notices how to be made known. - Every public notice given under this Act or any rule or regulation made thereunder shall be in writing over the signature of the officer concerned and shall be widely made known in the locality to be affected thereby by affixing copies thereof in conspicuous public places, within the said locality, or by publishing the same by beat of drum or by advertisement in a local newspaper, or by any two or more of these means, and by any other means that the officer may think fit.

47. Notices, etc. to fix reasonable times. - Where any notice, order or other document issued or made under this Act or any rule or regulation made thereunder, requires anything to be done for the doing of which no time is fixed in this Act or the rule or regulation, the notice, order or other document shall specify a reasonable period of time for doing the same or complying therewith.

48. Furnishing of returns, etc. - (1) The Board shall furnish to the State Government returns, statistics, reports, accounts and other information with such respect to its conduct of affairs, properties or activities or in regard to any proposed work or scheme as the State Government may, from time to time, require.

(2) The Board shall, in addition to the audit report referred to in S.27 furnish to the State Government an annual report of its working as soon as may be after the end of each financial year in such form and with such details as may be prescribed, and a copy of the annual report shall be placed before the State Legislature as soon as may be after it is received by the State Government.

49. Transfer of existing areas and estates to the Corporation. -

The State Government may by notification and subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified therein, place any industrial area or industrial estate established prior to the date of commencement of this Act under the management and control of the Corporation, and thereupon, the provisions of this Act shall apply to such industrial area and industrial estate as if the industrial area were declared and the industrial estate were established under this Act.

50. Withdrawal of area or estate or part thereof - Where the State Government is satisfied that with respect to any particular industrial estate or industrial area, or any part thereof, the purpose for which the Corporation was established under this Act has been substantially achieved so as to render the continued existence of such estate or area or part thereof under the Corporation unnecessary, the State Government may, by notification, declare that such industrial estate or industrial area or part thereof has been removed from the jurisdiction of the Corporation. The State Government may also make such other

incidental arrangements for the administration of such estate or area or part thereof as the circumstances require.

51. Default in performance of duty. - (1) If the State Government is satisfied that the Board has made a default in performing of any duty or obligation imposed or cast on it by or under this Act, the State Government may fix a period for the performance of that duty or obligation and give notice to the Board accordingly.

(2) If in the opinion of the State Government, the Board fails or neglects to perform such duty or obligation within the period so fixed for its performance, it shall be lawful for the State Government to supersede and reconstitute the Board.

(3) After the super session of the Board and until it is reconstituted in the manner laid down in Chapter II, the powers, duties and functions of the Corporation under this Act shall be carried on by the State Government or by such officer or officers or body of officers as the State Government may appoint for this purpose from time to time.

(4) All property vested in the Corporation shall, during the period of super session, vest in the State Government.

52. Dissolution of Corporation. - (1) Where the State Government is satisfied that the purposes for which the Corporation was established under this Act have been substantially achieved so as to render the continued existence of the Corporation in the opinion of the State Government unnecessary, it may, by notification, declare that the Corporation shall be dissolved with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, and the Corporation shall be deemed to be dissolved accordingly.

(2) From the said date -

(a) all properties, funds and dues which are vested in, or realisable by, the Corporation shall vest in or be realisable by, the State Government:

(b) all liabilities which are enforceable against the Corporation shall be enforceable against the State Government.

53. Authority for prosecution. - Unless otherwise expressly provided, no Court shall take cogninance of any offence relating to any property belonging to, or vested by or under this Act in, the Corporation, punishable under this Act, except on the complaint of, or upon information received from, the Board or some person authorised by the Board by general or special order in this behalf.

54. Composition of offences by Board. - (1) The Board or any person authorised by the Board by general or special order in this behalf may, either before or after the institution of the proceedings, compound any offence punishable by or under this Act.

(2) Where an offence has been compounded, the offender, if in custody, shall be discharged and no further proceedings shall be taken against him in respect of the offence so compounded.

55. Offences by companies. - (1) Whenever an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who at the time the offence was committed, was in charge of, or was responsible to the company, as well as the company shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly :

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment under this Act if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge and that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-S.(1), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation. For the purposes of this section -

(a) "company" means any body corporate, and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and

(b) "director", in relation to a firm. includes a partner or proprietor of the firm.

55. Penalty for obstruction. - Any person who obstructs the entry of a person authorised under S. 40 to enter into or upon any land or building or molests such person after such entry or who obstructs the lawful exercise by him of any power conferred by or under this Act, shall, on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

57. Recovery of dues. - Any money payable to the Corporation in respect of which the person liable to pay the same has agreed by a written instrument that it shall be recoverable as a public demand, shall, on an application made by the Corporation in that behalf, be recoverable as such demand.

58. Power to make rules. - (1) The State Government may, after consultation with the Corporation in regard to matters concerning it, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act :

Provided that consultation with the Corporation shall not be necessary on the first occasion of the making of rules under this section.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :

(a) the fees and allowances payable to the Directors;

(b) the conditions of appointment and service and the scale of pay of the Managing Director;

(c) the conditions subject to which the Corporation may borrow;

(d) the date by which the annual financial statement and programme of work shall be submitted by the Corporation to the State Government and the form and manner of preparing such statement;

(e) the manner of maintaining accounts;

(f) the form of, and the details to be given in the annual report;

(g) the fees which may be charged by the Corporation;

(h) the conditions subject to which the Corporation may dispose of land, buildings and amenities;

(i) any other matter which has to be or may be prescribed.

(3) All rules made under this Act, shall, as soon as may be after they are made, be laid before the State Legislature for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one or more sessions and if during the said period the State Legislature makes modifications, if any, therein, the rules shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form, so, however, that such modification shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under the rules.

59. Power to make regulations. - (1) The Corporation may, with the previous approval of the State Government make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder, the carry out the purposes of this Act, and without prejudice to the generality of this power, such regulations may provide for-

(a) the time and place of meetings of the Board and the procedure to be followed in regard to the transaction of business at such meetings;

(b) the conditions of appointment and service and the scales of pay of officers and servants of the Corporation, other than the Managing Director;

(c) deployment of funds of the Corporation and the officers of the Corporation who may operate its accounts;

(d) the terms under which the Corporation may dispose of land, buildings and amenities;

(e) the additional terms and conditions subject to which lands and buildings in industrial estates and industrial areas may be held or used;

(f) the conduct of business of the Executive Committee;

(g) any other matter which has to be or may be provided by regulations.

(2) All regulations made under this Act, shall, as soon as may be after they are made be laid before the State Legislature for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one or more sessions and if during the said period the State Legislature makes modifications, if any, the regulations shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form, so however that such modification shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under the regulations.

60. Protection of action taken in good faith. - No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith

done or intended to be done under this Act or any rule or regulation made thereunder.

61. Directors, officers and staff of Corporation to be public servants. - The Directors of the Board and the officers and servants of the Corporation shall, when acting or purporting to act, in pursuance of any of this Act. be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of S.21 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860).

62. Effect of provisions inconsistent with other laws – The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law.

63. Power to remove doubts and difficulties. - If any doubt or difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order, make provision or give such direction not inconsistent with the express provisions of this Act, as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for the removal of the doubt or difficulty and the order of the State Government, in such cases, shall be final:

Provided that no such order shall be made or direction shall be given after the expiration of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS (CENTRAL) FOR PROPOSAL NO. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025

The proposal pertains to the diversion of 4.911 hectares of forest land in favour of the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) for the construction of an access road from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to State Highway-44 (SH-44), to facilitate the transportation of bauxite in Rayagada district, Odisha.

The site inspection was carried out by Mr. Sujoy Dutta, Assistant Commissioner (Forests), Sub-Office Kolkata, Regional Office Bhubaneswar, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), on 2nd and 4th July 2025.

I concur with the facts as reported in the SIR. In view of the recommendation of the State Government, the proposal is recommended for consideration under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, subject to the following conditions:

i. Although the proposed access road is an ancillary activity integral to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine, it does not fall within the approved Mining Lease area or the sanctioned Mining Plan. The proposal for diversion of forest land pertaining to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine is presently under consideration by the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, and the 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval is yet to be granted. **Accordingly, the competent authority may consider the present proposal for the access road in conjunction with the Sijimali Bauxite Mine project, to enable integrated appraisal to avoid any fait accompli situation.**

ii. The Forest Department shall undertake plantation of tall indigenous tree species along both sides of the proposed road, at the cost of the User Agency, to mitigate dust pollution resulting from the movement of heavy vehicles associated with mining activities.

iii. Considering that the proposed area features a medium slope and the road will be used by heavy vehicles, the User Agency shall implement appropriate engineering and safety measures to prevent soil erosion.

iv. The User Agency shall ensure that the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are cleared of all encroachments prior to handing them over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall, ensure that the CA sites are free from encroachments, properly fenced, and duly planted at the cost of the User Agency.

(Dr. S. Senthil Kumar)
Dy. Director General of Forests (Central)

Site Inspection Report in respect of proposal for diversion of 4.911 ha forest land in favour of Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate Bauxite transportation in Rayagada district of Odisha (Online proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025).

Name of the Inspecting Officer: Sujoy Dutta, Assistant Commissioner (F), Sub Office at Kolkata, Regional Office Bhubaneswar, MoEF&CC

Date of Inspection: 2nd & 4th July 2025.

Officials present from the State Forest Department:
(i) Shri Sachin Annasaheb Ohol, DFO, Rayagada Forest Division
(ii) Shri Sandip Kumar Prusty, ACF, Rayagada Forest Division

1. **Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:**

   Legal status pf the proposed forest is DLC forest.

   Total Non-Forest land involved in the proposal is 6.403 ha.

2. **Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.**

   The User Agency has furnished component wise break up of forest & Non-forest land as follows:

Component	**Forest Land (ha)**	**Non-forest Land (ha)**
Road Carriage Way	0.982	1.184
Paved Area	0.421	0.464
Earthen Shoulder	0.534	0.622
Earth Work Slope	0.764	0.943
Drain Breast wall, Retaining wall and LUVPs etc	2.21	3.19
Total	**4.911**	**6.403**

   Total length of the access road from Sijimali Mines top to SH-44 is 2980 m. The details are as follows:

Item	**Forest Area**			**Non-Forest Area**			**Total Area (ha)**	**Total length (m)**
	Length (m)	**Width (m)**	**Area (ha)**	**Length (m)**	**Width (m)**	**Area (ha)**		
Proposed Access Road	1370.2	35.84	4.911	1609.8	39.776	6.403	11.314	2980

3. **Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:**

Not applicable.

4. **Total cost of the project at present rates:**

The total cost of the project is Rs.56.35 Cr.

5. **Wildlife:** During Site Visit presence of wildlife has not been observed within the proposed area. The concerned Forest Officials confirmed the presence of Barking Deer, Wild Boar, Indian Peacock and Indian Hare in the surrounding forest.

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:

The proposal is linear in nature and having very less impact from wildlife point of view.

6. **Vegetation:**

Mixed Forest has been observed during the site visit.

The vegetation density is reported 0.35, which is found correct.

(a) Total number of trees to be felled:

Total 91 no of trees are proposed for felling.

Important species: Tree species available in the proposed forest area are – Sal, Kaju, Jamu etc.

(b) Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

The removal of trees for project activities is expected to have a minimal impact on the general ecosystem of the area.

7. **Background Note on the proposal:**

M/s Vedanta Limited has been granted the mining lease for the Sijimali Bauxite Ore Mines located in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha. The company proposes to transport approximately 9 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) of bauxite ore from the mine site to its Alumina Refinery Plant situated at Lanjigarh, utilizing a combination of road and rail transport.
As there is currently no existing road connectivity from the Sijimali mine top to State Highway-44 (SH-44), it has become imperative to construct a new road to enable transportation of bauxite ore using bulkers/trucks. Accordingly, it has been decided to undertake the construction of a new 3.4 km long road from the mine top to SH-44 within the State of Odisha by the State Government.

In this regard, a meeting was convened on 25.01.2024 at 10:30 AM, under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Odisha to deliberate on issues pertaining to the transportation of bauxite from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines and key decisions were taken:

(a) Vedanta to submit the land schedule from Mine top to SH-44 road.
(b) IDCO to facilitate acquisition and transfer of land to PWD and giving NoC to Vedanta for construction of road.
(c) PWD will remain as the owner of the road.

Pursuant to the above decisions, IDCO has submitted an online application for the construction of the proposed road from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines to SH-44.

The proposal for the construction of the approach road was submitted to the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar for approval. Upon examination of the proposal, the Regional Office raised an EDS (Essential Details Sought) on 19.05.2025. In response, the State Government informed that, apart from facilitating connectivity for the mining operations, the proposed road will also provide vital road access to five villages—Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda, and Malipadar—which currently lack connectivity to the mainland.

However, it was also noted that the alignment and proposed width of the road indicate its primary function is to support the movement of heavy vehicles associated with the Sijimali Bauxite Mine.

Accordingly, the proposal has been forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi for further consideration in terms of the provisions of Para 1.10(ii) of Chapter 1 regarding site-specificity of roads based on their proposed width, and sub-para (f) of Para 7.8.i of Chapter 7 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

8. Compensatory afforestation:

The State Government has identified 6.07 ha of Government Non-Forest land in Tingerjhola Village under Kolnara Tahasil of Rayagada District. ANR Plantation @ 200 seedlings per ha has been proposed which can accommodating 1214 nos of seedling.

As per the DSS analysis, the 4 ha of the proposed Government non-forest land is categorized as MDF & VDF, i.e. 4 ha of proposed CA land bears vegetation of 0.4 canopy density or more. Para 13 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 elaborates that *if the non-forest land being made available for compensatory afforestation already bears vegetation of 0.4*

canopy density or more, there shall not be an additional requirement of planting of trees on such land but a programme for improvement of the forest crop shall be implemented by the Forest Department in a time-bound manner.

Further, the State Govt. has identified of 5.00 ha of degraded forest land in Pedakonda RF of Rayagada Forest Division to carry out AR @1000 plantation to accommodate the plantation of balance seedling against forest land proposed to be diverted which is over and above the mandatory requirement.

(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:

The proposed non-forest Government land has been **found suitable for Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) plantation** at a density of 200 seedlings per hectare. The area is undulating with a medium slope. Instances of shifting cultivation were observed in small pockets within the proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land, while the remaining area is predominantly covered with bushes.

Additionally, the identified 5.00 hectares of degraded forest land have been assessed as **suitable for Artificial Regeneration (AR) plantation at a density of 1,000 seedlings per hectare**.

(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/ other encumbrances:

During the site visit and analysis using Decision Support System (DSS), instances of shifting cultivation were observed on the proposed non-forest Government land as well as on degraded forest land.

It was informed during the field inspection that the seasonal cultivation activities being carried out by local villagers on the non-forest Government land can be discontinued at any time, as per the concerned Tahsildar.

With respect to the proposed degraded forest land identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation (Addl. CA), the concerned Forest Officials have informed that all existing encroachments shall be removed prior to the initiation of plantation activities.

(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:

During site inspection no structure of religious and Archaeological importance in the proposed CA land has been found or reported.

(d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:

The proposed non-forest Government land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and the degraded forest land identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation (Addl. CA) are in a single patch.

(e) Total financial outlay:

The total financial outlay of the CA and ACA Schemes pertaining to Rayagada Forest Diversion comes to Rs.1,13,21,600/- (Rs.59,06,200/- for CA with cost norm of 20 years maintenance + Rs. 54,15,400/- for Addl CA) approved by the PCCF (Nodal), Odisha.

9. Whether proposal involves violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:

The proposal does not involve violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:

This construction of approach road proposal does not involve displacement of any persons.

11. Reclamation Plan:

Not Applicable

12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:

Not Applicable.

Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:

Not Applicable

13. Cost Benefit Ratio:

Not Applicable.

14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:

The Forest Department, Government of Odisha has recommended the proposal for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mining (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation.

15. Dy. Director General of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:

Attached separately.

16. Utility of the project:

The proposed road is intended for the transportation of bauxite ore from the Sijimali Bauxite Mine to the Alumina Refinery Plant located at Lanjigarh, which is connected through State Highway-44 (SH-44) and an existing rail network. To establish connectivity from the Sijimali Mine Top to SH-44, the construction of this road is proposed with a Right of Way (RoW) of approximately 35 to 40 meters.

17. (a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious value:

Not reported.

(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:

Not reported.

(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:

Not reported.

18. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

The forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Elephant Corridors, Tiger Reserve etc. It was also reported that the proposed forest area does not come under eco-sensitive zone of any protected area.

19. Any other information relating to the project:

- The State Government informed that M/s Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) applied for diversion of the proposal. However, as per the decision of the State Government, the IDCO will facilitate acquisition of the land and transfer the land to PWD. The M/s Vedanta will construct the road after getting NoC from IDCO. The IDCO shall be the primary User Agency for the proposed road project. Any change in the ownership or custodianship of the road, after its construction, shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Consolidated

Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

- The RoW of the road varies from 35.84 m to 39.776 m, which indicates that the road is proposed for movement of heavy vehicles. The approach road is planned to be constructed as a concrete road.
- The associated mining proposal (proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024) for diversion of 708.204 ha forest land for Sijimali Bauxite Mine is currently under consideration of the Ministry, New Delhi.
- The concerned Forest Officials have confirmed the presence of wildlife species such as Barking Deer, Wild Boar, Indian Peacock, and Indian Hare in the surrounding forest areas. However, no separate Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) has been recommended by the State Government specifically for the proposed road project. Nevertheless, an approved SSWLCP has been furnished in respect of the Sijimali Bauxite Mine, which may be considered applicable for the associated ancillary activities, including the construction of the proposed approach road.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the proposal for diversion of 4.911 ha forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 may be considered with following additional stipulations:

i. Though the proposed access road is an integral ancillary activity linked to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine, it does not fall within the approved Mining Lease area or the sanctioned Mining Plan. The proposal for diversion of forest land related to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine is presently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi, and the 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval is yet to be accorded. In this context, the current proposal for the access road may be considered holistically along with the Sijimali Bauxite Mine project, to enable integrated appraisal and to avoid any fait accompli situation.

ii. The Forest Department shall undertake roadside plantation of tall indigenous tree species on both sides of the proposed road. This plantation shall serve as a natural barrier to mitigate dust pollution arising from the movement of heavy vehicles associated with mining activities. The selection of species and plantation strategy shall be decided by the State Forest Department to ensure ecological suitability and long-term sustainability at the cost of the User Agency.

iii. As the proposed area is characterized by medium slope and the road is intended for the movement of heavy vehicles, the User Agency shall ensure the implementation of appropriate engineering and safety measures. These shall include provision of proper drainage systems, construction of

retaining walls wherever necessary, and adoption of surface stabilization techniques to prevent soil erosion and ensure road stability.

iv. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site shall be made free from all encroachments prior to the commencement of any plantation activities. The site must be adequately fenced to ensure its protection and to prevent any unauthorized access or future encroachments. Only after these protective measures are in place, the State Forest Department shall take up plantation and related afforestation works.

Sujoy Dutta
14/07/2025

(Sujoy Dutta)
Assistant Commissioner (F)

Pictures of the forest land proposed for diversion:



ANNEXURE A26

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Agenda for Advisory Committee

Agenda ID	FC/AGENDA/AC/111951/2025
Title of Meeting	7th Meeting of the Advisory Committee
Meeting Venue	Krishna Conference Hall 4th Floor Jal Wing
Meeting Mode	Physical
Agenda Creation Date	29/07/2025
Meeting Dates & Time	Start Date : 30/07/2025 End Date : 30/07/2025

Proposals to be discussed:

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
1	FP/AP/HYD/IRRIG/423651/2023	Chintapalli	Pumped Storage Project(9X150MW) at Upper Sileru village , Godem Kotha Veedhi (M)	Hydel / Irrigation	193.01	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
2	FP/AR/MINOIL/431651/2023	Nampong Forest Division,Jairampur	Diversion of 3.33 Ha. of Forest land for drilling at Location KHAR in the Namphur Reserve Forest under Nampong Forest division, Arunachal Pradesh	Mining of Mineral Oil	3.33	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
3	FP/AR/MINOIL/451999/2023	Namsai Forest Division,Namasi	Forest Diversion Proposal for oil & gas well drilling at Loc. OCKA located in Lohit Reserved Forest in Namsai District under OALP Block AA-ONHP-2017/13 in the State of Arunachal Pradesh	Mining of Mineral Oil	4.88	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
4	FP/A	Gola	ONGC, Exploratory Drilling Location	Mining of	1.87	Form-A (Part-I): Di

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
	S/MINOIL/426966/2023	ghat Division	DPAE	Mineral Oil	7	version of Forest Land
5	FP/AS/MINOIL/426742/2023	Golaghat Division	ONGC, Exploratory Drilling Location KHBO	Mining of Mineral Oil	1.74	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
6	FP/AS/MINOIL/424232/2023	Golaghat Division	ONGC, Exploratory Drilling Location CJAA	Mining of Mineral Oil	1.77	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
7	FP/AS/MINOIL/426530/2023	Golaghat Division	ONGC,Exploratory Drilling Location KHBN	Mining of Mineral Oil	1.904	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
8	FP/AS/MINOIL/426584/2023	Golaghat Division	ONGC, Exploratory Drilling Location BWNB.	Mining of Mineral Oil	1.709	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
9	FP/AS/MINOIL/422315/2023	Golaghat Division	Forest Clearance for the location BWNA	Mining of Mineral Oil	2.2864	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
10	FP/BR/PetrolPump/41532 8/2023	Tirhut Division	DIVERSION OF 0.0225 HA OF FOREST LAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACH ROAD FOR OPENING BIOFUEL RETAIL OUTLET ON SIDE OF NH-57 MUZAFFARPUR-DARBHANGA IN MUZAFFAPUR DISTRICT OF BIHAR	Petrol Pump	0.0225	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
11	FP/BR/PetrolPump/41470 2/2023	Tirhut Division	Diversion of 0.02025 ha of forest land for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of Reliance BP Mobility Ltd. on Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga Road in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar.	Petrol Pump	0.0203	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
12	FP/HP/ROAD/51421 5/2024	WL Spiti Division	Construction of road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad km 0/00 to 12/460	Construction / Widening of Road including approach road to roadside establishments including bridges	7.5479	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
13	FP/HP/REDIV/532704/2025	Shimla Division	Project Name: Change of land use for placement of crusher unit for 0.50 ha. within already diverted land of Sunni Dam Hydroelectric Project (382 MW).	Hydel / Irrigation	N/A	Form-E (Part-I): Re-Diversion i) Land Use Change ii) Laying of Overhead/ Under Ground OFC/ drinking water pipeline/ slurry pipeline/ electric cable/ CNG/PNG within RoW
14	FP/HR/PetrolPump/48268 9/2024	Kaithal Division	Diversion of Forest Land For access to the existing petrol pump of HPCL ON GULHA-PEHOWA ROAD, AT VILLAGE CHEEKA, NEAR KM STONE NO. 134, TEHSIL GULHA, DISTRICT-KAITHAL, STATE-HARYANA. Bearing Khasra No.- 45//2/2.	Petrol Pump	0.022	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
15	FP/KA/HYD/IRRIG/447501/2023	Shimoga Wildlife Division	Sharavathy Pumped Storage Project (2000 MW)	Hydel / Irrigation	54.155	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
16	FP/GJ/OTHER	Surat Division	AMNS 15.6 / 21 MTPA Steel Complex Expansion	Others (please specify)	48.6512	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
	S/464635/2024					
17	FP/MH/MIN/QRY/409811/2022	Nagpur Division	Diversion of 61.45 ha forest land for Ramdongri Manganese ore minge	Mining / Quarrying	61.45	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
18	FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/458645/2024	Chhindwara South(T) Division	CIC Balancing Reservoir (Pandhurna Dam)	Hydel / Irrigation	136.724	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
19	FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024	Kalahandi South Division	Sijimali Bauxite Mines	Mining / Quarrying	708.204	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
20	FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025	Rayagada Division	Proposed acess road connecting from Sijimali bauxite mines (Hill Top) to SH-44	Others (please specify)	4.911	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
21	FP/OR/IND/422562/2023	Rourkela Division	For obtaining Stage-I clearance for capacity enhancement of Sponge Iron Plant to Integrated Steel Plant by M/s B R Sponge & Power Limited under FC Act 1980 in village Badatumkela under Lahunipara Tahasil of Sundargarh District.	Industry	4.775	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
22	FP/TG/ROAD/492664/2024	NIZAMABAD DIVISION	Four Laning of Road from Km 4/8 to Km 24/6 of Nizamabad to Armoor of Nizamabad of Jagadalpur Section of NH - 63 in Nizamabad District	Construction / Widening of Road including approach road to roadside establishmen	7.4494	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
				ts including bridges		
23	FP/WB/MIN/QRY/452568/2023	Durgapur Division	Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine	Mining / Quarrying	109.459	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
24	FP/OR/REDIV/499340/2024	Koraput Division	PANCHPATMALI CENTRAL AND NORTH BLOCK BAUXITE MINE	Mining / Quarrying	N/A	Form-E (Part-I): Re-Diversion i) Land Use Change ii) Laying of Overhead/ Under Ground OFC/ drinking water pipeline/ slurry pipeline/ electric cable/ CNG/PNG within RoW
25	FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/471582/2024	Sheopur(T) Division	Munjri Irrigation Project	Hydel / Irrigation	740.1592	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
26	FP/TG/REHAB/504796/2024	NAGARKURNOOL DIVISION	Denotification of 1501.88 ha of forest land in Compt. No.465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472 and 473 of Bacharam RF of Lingal Range in Achampet Division for Relocation of Kollam penta, Sarlapally, Kudichinthala bailu, Thatigundal penta and Vatvarlapally villages from Core area of Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Nagarkurnool District, Telangana State.	Rehabilitation from Protected Area	1501.88	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
27	FP/RJ/PWR_TRANS/451503/2023	Jodhpur Territorial Division	Diversion of 0.2309 ha. of roadside protected forest for construction of proposed 400 kV S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-II SS near Village Kaansinghki Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur,	Power Transmission Line	16.5972	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
			Rajasthan			
28	FP/MP/MIN/QRY/465369/2024	Chhatarpur(T) Division	Shobha Minerals Mardeora Rock Phosphate Buxwaha Chhatarpur (M.P.)	Mining / Quarrying	5.572	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

Other Item Details:

AC Members Details:

S.No.	Name	Designation	Email ID
1	Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi	DGF&SS, MoEFCC	dgfi****@nic.in
2	Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey	Additional Director General of Forest, MOEFCC	rame*********@nic.in
3	Nityanand Srivastav	AC MEMBER	nity*******@yahoo.co.in
4	Shri R Raghu Prasad	Inspector General of Forest, MEF	ragh********@gov.in
5	Manoj Pant	AC MEMBER	mpan*****@gmail.com
6	Kr Sree Harsha	Member (EAC)	sree***************@gmail.com
7	Dr. Mehraj A. Shaikh	AC MEMBER	ac.n*******@gov.in

Remarks:

May be placed before the Advisory Committee

Pl publish the agenda

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Minutes of Meeting for Advisory Committee

MoM ID	FC/MOM/AC/278834/2025
Agenda ID	FC/AGENDA/AC/111951/2025
Title of Meeting	7th Meeting of the Advisory Committee
Meeting Venue	Krishna Conference Hall 4th Floor Jal Wing
Meeting Mode	Physical
Meeting Dates & Time	Start Date : 30/07/2025 End Date : 30/07/2025

List of AC Members:

S.No.	Name	Designation	Email ID
1	Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi	DGF&SS, MoEFCC	dgfi****@nic.in
2	Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey	Additional Director General of Forest, MOEFCC	rame*********@nic.in
3	Nityanand Srivastav	AC MEMBER	nity*******@yahoo.co.in
4	Shri R Raghu Prasad	Inspector General of Forest, MEF	ragh********@gov.in
5	Manoj Pant	AC MEMBER	mpan*****@gmail.com
6	Kr Sree Harsha	Member (EAC)	sree***************@gmail.com
7	Dr. Mehraj A. Shaikh	AC MEMBER	ac.n*******@gov.in

Proposals considered during Meeting:

1. Project Name	Diversion of 0.2309 ha. of roadside protected forest for construction of proposed 400 kV S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-II SS near Village Kaansingh ki Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan
Proposal Number	FP/RJ/PWR_TRANS/451503/2023
User Agency	ADANI RENEWABLE ENERGY HOLDING FOUR LIMITED
Forest Land Area(Ha)	16.5972

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved by the DGF&SS through E-Office a nd the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH 2.0 portal.

Recommendation Remark:

recommended

7. Project Name	For obtaining Stage-I clearance for capacity enhancement of Sponge Iron Plant to Integrate d Steel Plant by M/s B R Sponge & Power Limited under FC Act 1980 in village Badatumk ela under Lahunipara Tahasil of Sundargarh District.
Proposal Number	FP/OR/IND/422562/2023
User Age ncy	SHASHANK GARG
Forest La nd Area(Ha)	4.775
Division	Rourkela Division
Recomm endation	Raise EDS

Brief Description of Project:

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved by the DGF&SS through E-Office a nd the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH 2.0 portal.

Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved by the DGF&SS through E-Office a nd the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH 2.0 portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Defer

8. Project Name	Proposed acess road connecting from Sijimali bauxite mines (Hill Top) to SH-44
Proposal Number	FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025
User Agency	Ashok Kumar Mishra
Forest Land Area(H a)	4.911
Division	Rayagada Division

Recommendation Raise EDS

Brief Description of Project:

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved by the DGF&SS through E-Office a nd the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH 2.0 portal.

Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved by the DGF&SS through E-Office a nd the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH 2.0 portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Defer

9. Project Name	Sijimali Bauxite Mines
Proposal Number	FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024
User Agency	Purnendu Pandey
Forest Land Area(Ha)	708.204
Division	Kalahandi South Division
Recommendation	Raise EDS

Brief Description of Project:

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved by the DGF&SS through E-Office a nd the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH 2.0 portal.

Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved by the DGF&SS through E-Office a nd the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH 2.0 portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Defer

10. Project Name	CIC Balancing Reservoir (Pandhurna Dam)
Proposal Number	FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/458645/2024
User Agency	Kumkum Kaurav Patel
Forest Land Area(Ha)	136.724
Division	Chhindwara South(T) Division
Recommendation	Accepted

section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 136.724 ha Forest land in favour of Water Resource Department, Chhindwara for the construction of CIC (Chhindwara Irrigation Complex Project) Balancing Reservoir (Pandhurna Dam) under Pandhurna District (Formally in Chhindwara District) of Madhya Pradesh State subject to general and standard and following conditions:

i. The State Government shall follow all the regulations of dam safety as per the Dam Safety Act,2021

Agenda No. 24

Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024

Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam SSub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 708.204 ha (564.581 ha in Rayagada Forest Division + 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division) of Forest land (including 11.195 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within total Mining Lease land in 1548.786 ha of Sijimali Bauxite Mines in Rayagada Forest Division & Kalahandı (South) Forest Division under Rayagada and Kalahandi District respectively in respect of M/s Vedanta Limited (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024)-reg.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 30.07.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DIGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
    i. The Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0017-2025-8268/FE&CC dated 08.04.2025 submitted the above subject proposal through PARIVESH 2.0 portal and uploaded on 09.04.2025 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
    ii. Vedanta Limited has been allocated the Sijimali Bauxite mine spread over Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha in March 2023, having an estimated reserve of around 311 Million Tonnes for meeting the increased requirement of raw material, Vedanta intends to operate Sijimali block for dispatching Bauxite from mines to its Refinery.

iii. An e-Auction process was conducted in accordance with the tender document for the Sijimali Mineral Block and Vedanta Limited was declared as the "Preferred Bidder" under Rule 9(9)(1) or Rule 10(1A) of Auction Rules dated 09.02.2023. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules and the terms of the tender document of steel & Mines Department, Government of Odisha, issued Letter of Intent for grant of mine lease for Sijimali Bauxite Block over 1549.022 ha (Geo referenced DGPS Area 1549.022 ha, ROR Authenticated area-1548.786 ha) vide letter No SM-MC2-MC-0006-2023/2103/5&M, Bhubaneswar, dated 01 03 2023.

iv. M/s Vedanta Ltd has the proposal to operate the Sijimali Bauxite Mine with peak Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity of 9.00 Million TPA. The block is located in 18 villages under Thuamul Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandı district and under Kashipur Tahsil of Rayagada district in the State of Odisha.

v. As M/s Vedanta Limited has an existing alumina refinery plant at Lanjigarh of Kalahandı district of Odisha which very soon will be operated at granted EC capacity of 6.0 Million TPA, due to which the total bauxite requirement will be 18.0 Million TPA at a ratio of 3:1 to meet the partial requirement of the bauxite, Vedanta Ltd is proposing the Sijimalı Bauxite Mine with 9.0 Million TPA Capacity, 3. Million TPA from OMC Kodingamali Mine through long term linkage and remaining 60 Million TPA from import.

vi. The area under consideration is well connected by rail and road to all important business and industrial centres of the country. Nearest Railway station is Sikarpai Railway station at a distance of 20 km in SE direction. The Nearest Port and International Airport are at Visakhapatnam at a distance of 194 Km in SSE direction, Distance of SH-44 from the lease area is 1.5 km in West direction from the project site.

vii. The Sijimali Bauxite Block has been explored in different phases with 91 bore holes with a total meterage of 2241.61m The boreholes have been drilled at an interval of about 400m grid pattern within the mineralized land in 12.38 sq. km The bore hole density is about 07 (735) BHs/Sq Km.

viii. The entire geological block land in 1549.022 Ha (As per DGPS) will be brought under mining and allied activities to excavate bauxite. The cross-sectional method has been adopted for estimation of resources of bauxite in the approved mining plan 15 sets of vertical cross sections namely AA', BB', CC' etc in 1.10000 scale have been prepared in E-W direction taking into account 87 boreholes located along the section lines and a few holes adjacent to the section lines are projected. In order to estimate the mineable reserve, development sections were drawn through the block The non-mineable bauxite portions considered

for estimation of mineable reserve from geological resource are as follows. (a) bauxite occurring within 7.5 m along the lease boundary for the purpose of safety zone (b) Blocked bauxite under and outside the ultimate pit slope Production of maximum 9267402 79 TPA bauxite has been planned in the approved mining plan.

ix. Mining operations will be carried out by a fully mechanized opencast method. The extractable bauxite reserve of 299.58 Million tonnes is proposed to be excavated in 31 years. Life of mine is considered as 31 years with two years of construction period including surface reorganization.

x. The total ML area of the Sijimali Bauxite Block is 1548.786 ha. In the applied mining lease area, forest land involved is 708.204 Ha. Non-forest land involved in the Mining Lease is 840.582 ha out of which non-forest private land is 129.089 ha and non-forest Govt. land is 711.493 ha.

xi. The State Govt. has reiterated / clarified that 0.66 ha of land in village Tadader and 1.57 ha of land in village Tijamali (both under Thuamul Rampur Tahasil of Kalahandı District) have been included in the Forest Diversion Proposal as FRA land. The kisam of the above mentioned land (0.66 ha in Tadader village and 1.57 ha in Tijamali village) are of "Unsurveyed Category" in the Sabik record and 'Donger' in the Hal record over which Title under FRA have been issued to individuals by the Collector, Kalahandi. In this context he has informed that, 0.66 ha of land in village Tadades and 1.57 ha in village Tijamali have been included in the Forest Diversion Proposal as FRA land as reported by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division.

xii. As per the SIR of DFO, Kalahandi (South, it is revealed that the forest land proposed for diversion is located over 11 patches spreading over 04 no of villages. The Tahasildar Rampur has furnished the land schedule as on 25.10.1980 regarding forest and non-forest land involved in the ML coming under Kalahandi district as well as in Kalahandı (South) forest Division, DFO, Kalahandi (South) has furnished a certificate regarding minimum use of forest land over 143.623 ha.

xiii. The total district wise forest and non-forest land involved in the Mining Lease is tabulated below:

ABSTRACT OF TOTAL LAND of SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES									
Sl. No.	**District Name**	**Area in Hectares**							
		Revenue Forest	**PF/ FRA Forest**	**Sabik Forest**	**DLC Forest**	**Total Forest**	**Pvt. land**	**Non-Forest Govt.**	**Total**

								land	
1	Kalahandi	12.408	65.512	3.699	62.004	143.623	28.531	565.138	737.292
2	Rayagada	0.000	0.000	6.236	558.345	564.581	100.558	146.355	811.494
Total area in Ha		**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**129.089**	**711.493**	**1548.786**

xiv. The details of Existing Land Use of total lease area in Ha are as mentioned below:

EXISTING LAND USE OF SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES										
Sl. No.	**District Name**	**Item**	**All figures are in Hectares**							
			Revenue Forest	**PF/ FRA Forest**	**Sabik Forest**	**DLC Forest**	**Total Forest**	**Pvt. land**	**Non-Forest Govt. land**	**Total**
1	Kalahandi	Existing Undisturbed area	12.408	65.512	3.699	62..004	143.623	28.531	565.138	737.292
2	Rayagada	Existing Undisturbed area	0.000	0.000	6.236	558.345	564.581	100.558	146.355	811.494
	Total in Ha		**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**129.089**	**711.493**	**1548.786**

xv. Component wise break up of forest land proposed for diversion in the Sigimali Mining Lease has been mentioned in the SIR of DFO, Rayagada and SIR of DFO, Kalahandi (South) The detailed pattern of use of Forest land is tabulated below:

PROPOSED LAND USE PATTERN (DISTRICT WISE)											
S. No.	District Name	Component	Forest Area in Ha					Non-Forest area in ha			
			Revenue Forest	PF/ FRA Forest	Sabik Forest	DLC Forest	Total Forest	Govt. land	Pvt. Land	Total NFL	Total Area Ha
1	Kalahandi	Mined out Area	12.408	32.900	3.699	49.852	98.859	400.557	28.531	429.088	527.947
2		Safety		2.97		0.62	3.59	15.11		15.1	18.71

		Zone Area		0		8	8	7		17	5
3		Untouched Area		29.642		11.524	41.166	149.464		149.464	190.630
Total			**12.408**	**65.512**	**3.699**	**62.004**	**143.623**	**565.138**	**28.531**	**593.669**	**737.292**
1	Rayagada	Mined out Area			6.235	475.351	481.586	96.880	98.717	195.597	677.183
2		Safety Zone Area				7.897	7.597	6.558		6.558	14.155
3		Untouched Area			0.001	75.397	75.398	42.917	1.841	44.758	120.156
Total					6.236	558.345	564.581	146.355	100.558	246.913	811.494
Grand Total			**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**711.493**	**129.089**	**840.582**	**1548.786**

xvi. The consolidated forest land use pattern of the ML area pertaining to both the Forest Divisions is furnished below:

ABSTRACT OF PROPOSED LAND USE PATTERN OF TOTAL AREA											
S. No.	**District Name**	**Component**	**Area in ha**					**Non-Forest area in ha**			
			Revenue Forest	**PF/ FRA Forest**	**Sabik Forest**	**DLC Forest**	**Total Forest**	**Govt. land**	**Pvt. Land**	**Total NFL**	**Total Area Ha**
1	Kalahandi Rayagada	Mined out area	12.408	32.900	9.934	525.203	580.445	497.437	127.248	624.685	1205.130
2		Safety Zone Area	0	2.970	0	8.225	11.195	21.675	0	21.675	32.870
3		Untouched Area	0	26.642	0.001	86.921	116.564	192.381	1.841	194.222	310.786
		Total	**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**711.493**	**129.089**	**840.582**	**1548.786**

xvii. The area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes, vegetation loss and mining disturbances leading to rapid

runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation Factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion.

xviii. The total extent of safety zone in the ML area over 1548.786 ha is 32.87 ha Out of which, 11.195 ha comes under forest land, 21.675 ha comes under Non-Forest Government land within the limit of both the forest divisions. The classification of safety zone over different Kissam of land as well as over the different division jurisdiction is furnished below:

Details of safety zone involved within the Sijimali Bauxite Mines NFL in ha											
Sl. No.	District	Component	Forest land in ha					NFL in ha			
			Rev.	PF/ FRA	Sabik	DLC	Total	Govt.	Pvt.	Total	Total in Ha
1	Kalahandi	Safety Zone	0	2.97	0	0.628	3.598	15.117	0	15.117	18..715
2	Rayagada	-do-	0	0	0	7.597	7.597	6.558	0	6.558	14.155
				2.97	**0**	**8.225**	**11.195**	**21.675**	**0**	**21.675**	**32.870**

xix. The proposed area includes Tropical dry deciduous forest. The vegetation is basically mixed Sal Forest with other miscellaneous species. Further, Wildlife species like Barking deer, wild boar, Monkey, Indian peacock and Indian hare are present in the area.

xx. The presence of bauxite is characterized by long stretches of Plateau land on hilltop with little or no vegetation and vegetation is usually seen in hill slopes.

xxi. No rare and endangered species are available in the Mining lease area coming under Rayagada Forest Division However, as per report of DFO, Kalahandı (South), Elephant habitat in Bijepur RF comes within 10 Kms impact zone. The applied area is not found important from an archaeological point of view. The proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor or any protected area declared under any law of the State or central Government.

xxii. The DFO, Rayagada has taken up tree enumeration through Range Officer, Kashipur over proposed 564.581 ha forest land of Sijimali Bauxite Block of Vedanta Limited adopting direct counting technique. Due to sparse vegetation on the plateau, the ecological impact of tree felling in this area will be minimal. The plateau's current ecosystem supports limited biodiversity, with most species reliant on valley

vegetation for survival. DFO Rayagada has mentioned that the felling of trees near valley areas could lead to disruption of wildlife habitats and potential displacement of species, increased soil erosion and sedimentation of nearby water bodies.

xxiii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 724.23 ha of Non-forest Government land measuring 565.50 ha in Rayagada District and 158.73 ha Government NFL in Kalahandi District against the proposed diversion of forest land over 708.204 ha for Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd.

xxiv. The details of area identified for CA in Rayagada district and Kalahandi district are tabulated below:

Rayagada Division:							
S. No.	**Tehsil**	**RI Circle**	**Mouza**	**Khata No.**	**Plot No.**	**Area in ha**	**Total Area (Ha)**
1	Muniguda	Raghubari	Alibhata	11	1	9.70	36.75
					2	11.73	
					3 (P)	15.32	
2	Muniguda	Raghubari	Baringpadar	12	1(P)	8.0	38.24
					43(P)	16.01	
					44	14.23	
3	Muniguda	Raghubari	Baringpadar	3	1	14.14	87.81
					2	16.26	
					3	15.68	
					4(P)	5.74	
					10	4.05	
					11	19.77	
					14(P)	12.17	
4	Muniguda	Raghubari	Baratarana	9	4(P)	7.47	34.09
					23(P)	5.84	
					24	9.31	
					25	11.47	
5	Muniguda		Dambalu	21	1(P)	3.27	3.279
6	Muniguda	Raghubari	Demupadar	10	129	9.49	58.00
					132(P)	7.71	
					133	7.08	
					134	7.63	
					135(P)	7.76	
					136	11.48	
					137(P)	6.84	

7	Munigud a	Raghubari	Jambapada fr	7	4(P)	2.388	40.40
					6	8.26	
					25	6.576	
					46(P)	13.242	
					47	9.935	
8	Munigud a	Kumudaba li	Kauguda	9	44(P)	24.136	38.95
					46(P)	14.816	
9	Munigud a	Tikarapad a	Lidipanga	59	208(P)	11.882	46.22
					362	15.714	
					363	12.562	
					364	6.066	
10	Munigud a	Raghubari	Pidel Padar	9	2	16.19	77.81
					3	15.27	
					4	16.39	
					5	15.19	
					219(P)	14.78	
11	Munigud a	Raghubari	Umbere	11	46(P)	7.49	69.66
					87	16.60	
					88(P)	15.24	
					91	12.79	
					92	17.54	
12	Munigud a	Raghubari	Madagalu	4	1	17.179	34.29
					3	5.868	
					5	11.242	

Kalahandi (South) Forest Division							
Sl. No.	Village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Kissam		Area in Ac.	Suitable Area For plantation in Ac
1	Sampala	29	103(P)	Dangar	AAA	25.42	23.65
2			104	Dangar	AAA	32.70	32.70
3			105	Dangar	AAA	36.25	36.25
4			106	Dangar	AAA	42.00	42.00
5			107(P)	Dangar	AAA	41.38	40.07
6			108(P)	Dangar	AAA	38.50	35.28
7	Kanjiguda	32	240(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	32.50	30.00
8			237(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	37.50	35.00
9			241(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	36.15	33.00

10			242(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	41.73	37.85
11	Malatipadar	38	302	Dangar	AAA	22.50	22.50
12			307(P)	Dangar	AAA	31.50	23.78
						Total area in ac	**392.08**
						Total area in ha	**158.73**

xxv. The CA schemes have been prepared in respect of Rayagada and Kalahandi (South) forest Divisions to the diversion proposal.It has been proposed to adopt chain link wire mesh fencing for the protection of the planted species over the entire area in 17 patches coming under 12 villages. The perimeter proposed for fencing over 17 patches.

xxvi. The total forest land proposed for diversion in the proposal is 708.204 ha. The user agency has provided 565.50 ha NFL in Rayagada forest Division and 158.73 ha NFL in Kalahandi (South) division against the proposed forest land for diversion. Thus, the user agency has provided 724.23 ha NFL land for CA It is required to plant 7,08,204 nos. seedlings in the CA However, both the DFOs have made schemes to plant 2,28,157 + 69,986=2,98,143 nos. seedlings Balance seedlings of 7,08,204 - 2,98,143 = 4,10,061 nos. seedlings will be planted through Additional CA schemes in Rayagada Forest Division. The DFO, Rayagada has identified 546.0 ha of notified degraded forest land in his division to take up the additional CA Plantation.

xxvii. The financial outlay approved by the APCCF (Nodal) for the Addl. CA plantations proposed in Rayagada Division comes to ₹44,71,21,000/-

xxviii. The total financial outlay of the CA and Additional CA schemes pertaining to Rayagada and Kalahandı (South) Forest Division come ₹107,63,89,300 (₹53,09,26,800+ ₹9,83,41,500 + ₹44,71,21,000) The user agency has furnished undertaking to pay the amount of ACA plantation as per the demand of DFO, Rayagada.

xxix. The DFO, Rayagada has prepared the Cost-Benefit analysis of the project pertaining to both the Forest Divisions. The cost of the forest is assessed as ₹42401.893 Lakh and the benefit of the project is estimated at ₹2,76,27,164 65 lakhs The Cost-Benefit ratio comes to 1:651.554.

xxx. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (IA Division) have issued Term of Reference (TOR) vide File No IA-J-11015/6/2023-IA-II(NCM) dt 14.08.2023 for mining of Sijimali Bauxite Block over 1549.022 ha for peak rated Capacity of 9.0 MTPA along with installation of two crushers (2x1200 TPH) located at Thuamul and Kasipur Tahasılsof Kalahandı and Rayagada Districts

respectively/MIN/439954/2023 dt 06.11.2023 to the user agency The ToR would be valid for a period of three years.

xxxi. The Mining plan including Progressive Mine closure plan has been approved by the Regional Controller of Mines, Office of the Regional Controller of Mines, BBSR (IBM) over 1549.022 ha in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block in Tehsil Rampur and Kasipur Tahasils of Kalahandi and Rayagada Districts in the state of Odisha in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd vide L: No MCDR- MIFLOBXT/4/2023-BBS-IBM RO BBS dt 16.08.2023 with 17 no of terms and conditions The approval of Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has been accorded by the Indian Bureau of Mines.

xxxii. The field Inspection envisages that the project involves displacement of 100 nos. of families in 02 villages i. e. Malipadar under Rayagada District and Tijamali Under Kalahandi District In this regard the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Rayagada to submit the approved R & R Plan in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s5 Vedanta Ltd in Rayagada and Kalahandı Districts to the Competent Authority immediately after its approval under Section 16 of LARR Act, 2013. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Kalahandı (South) to submit the approved R&R Plan in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd in Rayagada and Kalahandı Districts to the competent authority immediately after its approval under section 16 of LARR Act, 2013.

xxxiii. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the project has been approved by the PCCF (WL) and CWLW, Odisha vide Memo No 9718 dt 16.08.2024 The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Rayagada to bear the cost of SSWLCP.

xxxiv. As stated by the Additional PCCF, Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, there are no court cases pending against the user agency on the applied area as revealed from the Site Inspection Reports of report of the DFO, Rayagada and DFO, Kalahandi (South) Divisions. **However, a Writ Petition was filed before the Hon'ble High Court vide WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & others-Vrs-Union of India & others) by the Petitioners with the following prayers:**

a. Issue a writ of certiorarı or any other appropriate writ quashing the Gram Sabha resolutions dated 08.12.2023 [Annexure 2 (Series) and Annexure 3 (Series)) and the subsequent certificate issued by the Collector, Kalahandı (Annexure 8) as the same are fraudulent and are against the provisions of FRA, 2006 and the Constitution of India.
b. Issue of writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Ops to accept the resolutions passed by the Gram Sabha

held between 30.08.2024 to 04.09.2024 [Annexure 9 (series)] wherein no consent for the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes have been given by the villagers of the said villages.

c. Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Opposite Parties not to take any further steps pertaining to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine Project till the rights of the villagers in the project affected areas are settled as per the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

d. Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writs constituting a judicial inquiry into the illegalities committed in the alleged Gram Sabhas which took place on 08.12.2023 in the villagers of Kantamal, Sagaban, Dumerpadar, Aligana, Chulbari, Tijimali, Pelanakona, Katıbhata, Malıpadar and Bondel and an action taken report be submitted before this Hon'ble Court in a time bound manner.

e. Union of India through Secretary, MoEF&CC, Ministry of Tribal Affairs through its Secretary, State of Odisha through Secretary, Department of Revenue & Disaster Management, State of Odisha through Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Department of Steel & Mines, Collector, Kalahandi, Collector, Rayagada and M/s Vedanta Ltd. were Opposite Parties No 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 respectively.

f. The Hon'ble High Court vide Order No 1 dated 12.02.2025 had directed the State to issue written instruction on Petitioners allegation recorded in their order and directed to list on 19.02.2025 In the matter, the Collector & District Magistrate, Kalahandi and Collector & District Magistrate, Rayagada were requested to furnish the instruction/ PWC on the aforesaid Writ Petition to the O/o the AG, Odisha, Cuttack at the earliest under intimation to this Department vide this Department Letter No 6289/FE&CC dated 12.03.2025.

g. The Hon'ble High Court vide Judgement dated 05.03.2025 has disposed of the Writ Petition. In the said judgement, the Hon'ble High Court in Para 7 has directed as follows.

"7 Mr. Mohanty submits, his clients have not conceded but on the contrary maintained that Impugned Gram Sabha resolutions were fraudulently got made. He submits, subsequent to impugned resolutions, the Gram Sabhas convened between 30th August, 2024 and 4th September, 2024. They resolved that no consent for diversion was duly obtained. Mr. Mohanty points out, there has not been process duly undertaken to grant recognition to his clients, who are forest dwellers in the area. Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha

proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. ***The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no 8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note*****"**

xxxv. The aforesaid order dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court passed in WP No 3729 of 2025 (Shri Gobinda Majhi & others Vrs Union of India & others) has been received in this Department on 26.03.2025 from the Superintendent of the High Court of Orissa vide his Issue No 8805 (3) dated 13.03.2025. *The copy of the aforesaid letter of the Superintendent of the High Court of Orissa along with a copy of the Order dated. 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa is enclosed for favour of kind information and necessary action of the Ministry.*

xxxvi. The Collector, Rayagada has issued certificate in Form-II under Schedule Tribe and other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 for forest land of 565.70 Ha involved in the Sijimali Bauxite Block leased out in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd On 24.01.2024

xxxvii. The Collector, Kalahandi has issued certificate in Form No -II under Schedule Tribe and other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 for forest land of 133.95 Ha involved in the Sijimali Bauxite Block leased out in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd. on 18.01 2024.

xxxviii. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) to submit the FRA certificate for the balance forest land over 03 villages coming in Kalahandi district after obtaining from the Revenue authority.

xxxix. The State has informed that the user agency does not have any other existing bauxite mines in Odisha. This will be their first bauxite mine in Odisha. The user agency, Vedanta Ltd., has been declared the Preferred Bidder for this block in the auction held on 09.02.2023 under the MMDR Act, 1957. However, they do operate the Jamkhani opencast coal mine in Sundargarh district with a lease area of 847 ha, a reserve of 222.13 million tonnes, and a capacity of 2.6 MTPA.

xl. The State has informed that the valley area is non-mineralized, has no bauxite presence, and will be left untouched. It is proposed to be developed as a greenbelt.

xli. The State has given justification for the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation which are seen in the forest area. The State has clarified that these features are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar, which fall within the mining lease area. These villages will be rehabilitated and resettled as per the LARR Act, 2013. A notification under Section 11(1) has already been issued. Seasonal agricultural use is non-permanent and can be vacated anytime.

xlii. The State Govt. has clarified that 116.5 ha of forest area marked as 'untouched' because as per Para 2.11 of the mining plan, this area, part of a non-mineralized valley, was included in the lease block but will remain undisturbed. The total untouched area is 311.02 ha, including 116.5 ha of forest.

xliii. The State has clarified that cultivation and settlements are seen within the lease boundary because the seasonal cultivation is done by local villagers on a temporary basis and does not indicate permanent land use. The settlements are located in Tijimali and Malipadar, which are private lands. These villages are to be relocated under the R&R plan per the LARR Act.

xliv. The State has clarified the requirement of water, electricity, and evacuation from the mine

a. **Water:** Will be drawn from groundwater (approval from CGWA obtained).
b. **Power:** To be supplied through Diesel Generators.
c. **Evacuation:** Bauxite will be transported via PWD road from Malipadar to SH-44, then via rail from Singarama siding to Lanjigarh refinery. A separate proposal has been submitted for diversion of 4.911 ha forest land for constructing an access road to SH-44.

xlv. The State has informed that cultivation is visible on CA land because of seasonal signs of cultivation, but the land is still classified as degraded forest. These signs do not indicate permanent land use and the land is suitable for afforestation, as per the approved CA Plan.

xlvi. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the 10 km impact zone has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha, with a budget of ₹34.44 Cr. Funds will be deposited in State CAMPA and used in Kalahandi South and Rayagada Forest Divisions. Activities will be implemented under DFO guidance, with a 5-year plan period and monitoring provisions.

xlvii. The Regional Office has inspected the area proposed for diversion and proposed CA land. The DDGF (Central), RO Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:

i. A total of 310.786 hectares of land located within the mining lease boundary (beyond the safety zone), shall remain undisturbed, as submitted by the User Agency. This area shall

be maintained as a green belt owing to the absence of bauxite reserves. The User Agency shall ensure that no tree felling or mining activity is undertaken in the said forest area.

ii. The State Government shall ensure that 8.082 hectares of forest land, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) and have also been included in the present proposal, are compensated by identifying and providing an alternative CA site for the said project. Approval for the partial change in CA site shall be obtained from the competent authority for Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017.

iii. As mining is proposed at the hilltop and may affect the natural catchment area, the User Agency shall implement comprehensive soil conservation measures on the hillock and adjoining forest areas. These measures shall aim to prevent surface runoff from leaving the mining zone and to safeguard downstream ecosystems.

iv. The User Agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, along with the restoration schedule and forest land surrender schedule, to the Ministry prior to the grant of final approval.

v. A separate proposal (Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025) involving the diversion of 4.911 hectares of forest land in favour of the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) for the construction of an access road from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hilltop) to State Highway-44 (SH-44) is presently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for "in-principle" approval. As this road is an ancillary component of the Sijimali Bauxite Mines project, the competent authority may consider appraising both proposals concurrently to ensure an integrated evaluation and to avoid any fait accompli situation.

vi. The User Agency shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are free from encroachments before being handed over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall ensure that the CA sites are properly fenced, cleared of encroachments, and planted, at the cost of the User Agency.

vii. The State Forest Department (SFD) shall implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.

xlviii. The Hon'ble High Court vide Judgement dated 05.03.2025 have disposed of the Wnt Petition In the said judgement, the Hon'ble High Court in Para 7 have directed as follows:

"7 Mr. Mohanty submits, his clients have not conceded but on the contrary maintained that Impugned Gram Sabha resolutions were fraudulently got made. He submits, subsequent to impugned resolutions, the Gram Sabhas convened between 30th August, 2024 and 4th September, 2024. They resolved that no consent for diversion

was duly obtained. Mr. Mohanty points out, there has not been process duly undertaken to grant recognition to his clients, who are forest dwellers in the area. Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no 8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note" order.

xlix. Further, the committee has also noted that a separate proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. Diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO has been submitted by the State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2025-10894/FE&CC dated 09.05.2025 to the RO Bhubaneswar (Online proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025). The RO has submitted this proposal to the Ministry for holistic decision.

l. Further, the DDGF (Central) has mentioned that:

   a. The instant proposal pertains to the construction of a road submitted by the Government of Odisha, with the primary objective of facilitating the transportation of bauxite ore via bulkers/trucks from the mines of M/s Vedanta Limited to State Highway 44 (SH-44).
   b. In response to the EDS raised by the Regional Office on 19.05.2025, the State Government has clarified that, apart from serving the aforesaid purpose, the proposed road is also intended to connect the villages of Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda, and Malipadar, which presently lack road connectivity.
   c. However, as per the KML file submitted, the specifications of the proposed road (width) indicate that it is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles.
   d. In this context, it is pertinent to mention that the associated mining proposal—vide proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024—is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi. The in-principle approval for the same is yet to be granted. In the event that the mining proposal is not favourably considered by the competent authority, positive consideration of the road proposal at this

stage by the Regional Office may lead to a fait accompli situation.

li. The committee further observed that the road proposal has been submitted by the other agency i.e. by IDCO,however the road is primarily proposed keeping in view the requirement of mineral evacuation in the instant mine.The separate proposal for the road construction may be allowed, However, the proposal for road can only be considered for approval once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the mining lease is approved.

4. **Decision of the Advisory the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee **deferred** the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:

   i. Keeping in view the Judgement dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha w.r.t. the WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & others-Vrs-Union of India & others), the state shall ensure strict compliance of the order of the Hon’ble Court and submit a detailed report.

   ii. The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the justification and plan to mitigate the soil erosion shall be submitted.

   iii. An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The state shall give justification for keeping this area in the diversion proposal. The State shall provide the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area and intimate as to how this area will be compensated.

   iv. The State has informed that the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation seen in the forest area are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter and submit a report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.

   v. The State shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments. In this regard, a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation area shall be provided.

Agenda No. 25

Online Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. Diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 30.07.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DIGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
    i. Being a linear category proposal, the State Govt. letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2025-10894/FE&CC dated 09.05.2025 has submitted the above mentioned proposal to the RO Bhubaneswar. However, the proposal is linked with main proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024 which is currently under consideration with the Ministry. The 'in-principle' approval for the same is yet to be granted. In the event that the mining proposal is not favourably considered by the competent authority, positive consideration of the road proposal at this stage by the Regional Office may lead to a fait accompli situation and forwarded the proposal to the Ministry.
    ii. The Govt. of Odisha has informed that M/s Vedanta Limited has now got the lease for excavation of Sijimali Bauxite ore mines under Kashipur Tehsil of Rayagada district. M/s Vedanta intends to transports the bauxite ore of 9 MTPA from mines to Alumina Refinery plant situated at Lanjigarh through road and rail transport. Since, the road connectivity from Sijimali Mines top to SH-44 is not available at site; it was decided to construct suitable road connectivity from Mines top to SH-44 for transportation of Bauxite ore through Bulkers/trucks. It has been decided to take up the construction of new road from Sijimali Mines top to SH-44 up to a distance 3.4 Km in the State of Odisha. In this connection, a meeting was held on 25.01.2024 at 10.30 AM in the conference room of Chief Secretary under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Odisha on issue of transportation of bauxite from Sijimali Bauxite Mines. In the meeting following points were discussed and decisions taken:
        a. Vedanta to submit the land schedule from Mine top to SH-44 road.
        b. IDCO to facilitate acquisition and transfer of land to PWD and giving NoC to Vedanta for construction of road.
        c. PWD will remain as the owner of the road.

d. As per the above decision IDCO applied online for construction of road of Sijimali Bauxit Mines to SH-44.

iii. The Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) has submitted a proposal seeking the diversion of **4.911 hectares of forest land** for the **construction of an access road** from **Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44**. This project is intended to facilitate bauxite transportation and is located in **Kashipur Tahasil** of **Rayagada District**, within the jurisdiction of the **Rayagada Forest Division**, Odisha.

iv. The proposed site lies in **Rayagada district**, Odisha. The forest land involved falls under the **Rayagada Forest Division** and is categorized as **DLC Forest**, with a **vegetation density of less than 0.4**, which falls under **Eco Value Class-III**. An enumeration conducted over the 4.911 ha forest area recorded a total of **91 trees**, while an additional 6.403 ha of non-forest land in the vicinity shows no forest growth.

v. According to the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), the proposed site has steep slopes and sparse vegetation, making it highly prone to erosion. Any further disturbance such as deep cutting and soil compaction may accelerate erosion and lead to serious soil degradation due to increased runoff.

vi. The proposed site is approximately 2.642 km from the nearest forest boundary. It does not fall within any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, or Elephant Corridor. Additionally, no rare, endangered, or unique species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area. However, commonly found tree species include Shorea robusta (Sal), Terminalia belerica (Bahada), Syzygium cumini (Jamun), Mangifera indica (Amba), and Emblica officinalis (Anla). The fauna reported in the area include barking deer, wild boar, peacock, and Indian hare.

vii. The DFO confirms that no archaeological, heritage, or defense structures are located within the proposed site.

viii. Moreover, no violation of the under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 or any related guidelines has been reported.

ix. The user agency has adhered to all necessary legal frameworks, including the FRA certificate issued by the Collector of Rayagada (Order No. 150/XI-117/25, dated 31.01.2025).

x. To compensate for the diversion of forest land, the State Government has identified 6.07 ha of non-forest land (classified as Kisam: Pahad) in Tingarjhola village, Kolnara Tahasil for compensatory afforestation. This land has been certified as encroachment- and encumbrance-free by the Tahasildar and Collector of Rayagada. The CA Scheme has been prepared in Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) plantation mode, proposing to plant 1,214 seedlings at the rate of 200 seedlings per hectare. The scheme has been technically approved by the Additional PCCF (Nodal), Odisha with a financial outlay of ₹59,06,200 and includes 20 years of maintenance.

xi. Additionally, 5.00 ha of degraded forest land in Pedakona Extension RF under the Rayagada Forest Division has been earmarked for planting 3,697 additional seedlings under the Additional Compensatory

Afforestation (Addl. CA) Scheme. This has been planned in Artificial Regeneration (AR) mode at 1000 seedlings per hectare, with a financial outlay of ₹54,15,400 and 10 years of maintenance. Both CA and Addl. CA schemes include native species such as Jamun, Sissoo, Neem, Gambar, Karanja, Amla, Panasa, Bahada, Harida, and Khair.

xii. The State Government has clarified that the project does not require Environmental Clearance, and it does not involve any displacement of human habitation; thus, no Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan is needed. Furthermore, as per MoEF&CC guidelines dated 29.12.2023, a Cost-Benefit Analysis is not required for this diversion proposal.

xiii. Further, the State Govt. has informed that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi has been requested to consider the proposal for diversion of 708.204 ha (564.581 ha in Rayagada Forest Division + 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division) of Forest land (including 11.195 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within total Mining Lease land over 1548.786 ha in Rayagada Forest Division & Kalahandi (South) Forest Division under Rayagada and Kalahandi District respectively and convey their approval under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Vedanta Limited, subject to certain conditions (FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024) vide this Department Letter No.8268/FE&CC dtd.08.04.2025.

xiv. Giving justification, State Govt. reported that as per Minutes of the meeting held on 24.01.2024 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Odisha on the issue of transportation of Bauxite from Sijimali Mines in Rayagada district, a road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines to SH-44 over a length of around 3.4 Km is required, for which the land will be acquired by IDCO and in turn would be transferred to PWD. Vedanta Limited has been allocated with Sijimali Bauxite mine spread over Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha in March, 2023, having estimated reserve of around 311 Million Tonnes. For meeting the increased requirement of raw material, Vedanta intends to operate Sijimali block for dispatching Bauxite from mines to its Refinery. In this regard, the total involvement of area is 11.314 Ha in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District, out of which, 4.911 Ha comes under Forest Category and requires forest clearance under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

xv. Three alternative routes have been selected for the proposed access road from the point adjacent to lease area and have been examined. The details are furnished below and also depicted on SoI Toposheet No.E44F2 and E44F3. Comparative Assessment of Surveyed three proposed alignments:

Alternatives	Route Length	Approx. Cost of the project in crore	Total land requirement in ha	Forest area required in ha	Non-forest required in ha	Nature of Ground	Remarks
ALT-1	3.4	54.412	11.314	4.911	6.403	Plain,	Less

	Km					undulating and hilly area	Forest land
ALT-2	3.45 Km	55	11.74	5.95	5.79	Plain, Hilly & Undulating and passes through private land	More forest land
ALT-3	5.63 Km	90	18.594	7.66	10.934	Plain, Hilly & Undulating and passes through private land	

xvi. Keeping in view the above stated parameters among the three surveyed sites the alignment selected (ALT-1) is most suitable and hence considered over the other two sites.

xvii. The total length of the access road from Sijimali Mines top to SH-44 is 2980 mtr. The details are furnished below.

Item	Forest area			Non-forest area			Total area in ha	Total length
	Length in m	Width in m	Area in ha	Length in m	Width in m	Area in ha		
Proposed access road	1370.2	35.84	4.911	1609.8	39.776	6.403	11.314	2980 mtr

xviii. Total land involved in this project is 11.314 ha comprising of 4.911 ha of DLC forest land, 6.243 ha of non-forest Govt. land and 0.160 ha of Private land. The authenticated land schedule of forest land and non-forest land involved in the project has been furnished with the proposal. The Tahasildar, Kashipur has submitted the Hal/Sabik status as per Govt. record as on 25.10.1980 with the proposal. The purpose wise break up of total land involved in this project is given below:

Sl. No.	Item	DLC forest (in ha)	Total forest (in ha)	Pvt. land (in ha)	Non-forest Govt. land (in ha)	Total non-forest land (in ha)	Total (in ha)
1.	Road carriage way	0.982	0.982	0.033	1.151	1.184	2.166

2.	Paved Area	0.421	0.421	0.014	0.450	0.464	0.885
3.	Earthen Shoulder	0.534	0.534	0.017	0.605	0.622	1.156
4.	Earthwork slope	0.764	0.764	0.005	0.938	0.943	1.707
5.	Drain, Breast wall, Retaining Wall & LUVP's etc	2.210	2.210	0.091	3.099	3.190	5.400
	Total	4.911	4.911	0.160	6.243	6.403	11.314

xix. As per Para (ii) of Ministry's letter No.FC-11/158/2024-FC dated 17.01.2025 "Approach road are an integral and ancillary feature related to mining. In such cases, single approval is invariably granted by the Ministry as per proposals submitted by the State Government. However, there may be cases wherein such approach roads may not be included in the mining leases and Mining Plan. Such cases of linear projects linked to mining and conceived subsequently by the User Agency as outlined above shall be treated as stand alone linear projects and shall be dealt and disposed off by the concerned Regional Office of the MoEFE&CC in accordance with the provisions of Guideline given at Para 7.8 (i)(e) of the Consolidated Guidelines.

xx. Upon examination of the forest diversion proposal for the construction of an access road from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines to State Highway-44, the RO observed that the mining lease proposal for the Sijimali project has already been submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) under proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024, and Stage-I approval is currently awaited. A separate forest diversion proposal for the road component has also been submitted to the Regional Office under proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025, treating it as a standalone project.

xxi. However, in reference to Para 7.8(i)(f)(1) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, it is specified that "approach roads, conveyor belts, and other ancillary activities related to mining shall be considered as part of the mining project and should therefore be processed accordingly." At the same time, the guidelines state that "supplementary linear projects linked to mining, conceived after the start of the original mining, shall be considered as standalone linear projects" and are to be dealt with by the REC/IRO as per the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. In light of this provision, the State Government was requested to re-examine the proposal and take appropriate action.

xxii. In compliance with this request, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Rayagada has clarified that the User Agency (IDCO) has informed that the proposed road is a government road owned by the Public Works Department (PWD), Government of Odisha, and IDCO is acting as the project proponent solely for land acquisition and forest diversion purposes. This road is not being developed exclusively for the

operationalization of Vedanta Limited's mining lease, but as a public infrastructure project that will serve a broader purpose.

xxiii. The DFO further reported that the proposed PWD road will significantly improve connectivity for five remote villages—Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda, and Malipadar—which currently have no road access to the valley and the mainland. These villages, with a combined population of approximately 1,500 residents, face serious hardships due to the lack of road connectivity, especially in accessing healthcare, markets, and essential services. The road will also enhance the ability of the tribal community residing in the inaccessible hilltop areas to transport horticultural produce and engage more fully with the market economy.

xxiv. Therefore, the road project is not solely intended to serve the mining lease area but is a general-purpose linear infrastructure project being implemented by the PWD, and should not be treated as an ancillary activity of the mining project. In light of the above facts and circumstances, the State Government has concluded that the proposed road does not fall under the scope of sub-para (f) of Para 7.8 of Chapter 7 of the Consolidated Guidelines. Consequently, it should be considered a normal linear project, and processed accordingly under the relevant provisions for linear projects in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

xxv. After the examination of the above reply, the DIGF (Central) has mentioned that:

xxvi. "Since, this proposal pertains to a mining road which is a standalone project. As evident from the title of the project, where it is explicitly mentioned that this road will expedite bauxite transportation, we may place the proposal for further discussion and advise."

xxvii. Further, the DDGF (Central) has mentioned that:

xxviii. "The instant proposal pertains to the construction of a road submitted by the Government of Odisha, with the primary objective of facilitating the transportation of bauxite ore via bulkers/trucks from the mines of M/s Vedanta Limited to State Highway 44 (SH-44).

xxix. In response to the EDS raised by the Regional Office on 19.05.2025, the State Government has clarified that, apart from serving the aforesaid purpose, the proposed road is also intended to connect the villages of Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda, and Malipadar, which presently lack road connectivity.

xxx. However, as per the KML file submitted, the specifications of the proposed road (width) indicate that it is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles.

xxxi. In this context, it is pertinent to mention that the associated mining proposal—vide proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024—is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi. The 'in-principle' approval for the same is yet to be granted. In the event that the mining proposal is not favourably considered by the competent authority, positive consideration of the road proposal at this stage by the Regional Office may lead to a fait accompli situation.

xxxii. In view of the above, the instant proposal is forwarded in terms of the provisions of Para 1.10(ii) of Chapter 1 regarding the site specificity of the road-based on its proposed width, and as per sub-para (f) of Para 7.8.i of Chapter 7 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, for consideration by the competent authority.

xxxiii. Site inspection report has been carried out by the RO Bhubaneswar in the instant proposal and the DDGF (Central) RO Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal subject to the following:

i. Although the proposed access road is an ancillary activity integral to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine, it does not fall within the approved Mining Lease area or the sanctioned Mining Plan. The proposal for diversion of forest land pertaining to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine is presently under consideration by the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, and the 'in-principle' (Stage-l) approval is yet to be granted. Accordingly, the competent authority may consider the present proposal for the access road in conjunction with the Sijimali Bauxite Mine project, to enable integrated appraisal to avoid any fait accompli situation.

ii. The Forest Department shall undertake plantation of tall indigenous tree species along both sides of the proposed road, at the cost of the User Agency, to mitigate dust pollution resulting from the movement of heavy vehicles associated with mining activities.

iii. Considering that the proposed area features a medium slope and the road will be used by heavy vehicles, the User Agency shall implement appropriate engineering and safety measures to prevent soil erosion.

iv. The User Agency shall ensure that the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are cleared of all encroachments prior to handing them over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall, ensure that the CA sites are free from encroachments, properly fenced, and duly planted at the cost of the User Agency.

xxxiv. The committee observed that the road proposal has been submitted by the other agency i.e. by IDCO, however, the available details and the specifications of the proposed road indicate that it is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles for the mineral evacuation from the concerned mine. Therefore, the proposal for road should be considered once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the mining lease is approved.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee deferred the proposal with the following observation:

i. The proposed road is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles for the mineral evacuation from the Sijimali Bauxite

Mine. Therefore, the proposal for road construction can only be considered once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the said mining lease is approved. The State government shall therefore submit the proposal after obtaining the in-principle approval for the diversion of forest land in the Sijimali Bauxite Mine.

Agenda No. 26

Online Proposal No. FP/OR/IND/422562/202

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Envam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s B.R. Sponge & Power Ltd for non-forestry use of 4.775 ha of forest land for Capacity enhancement of Sponge Iron Plan to Integrated Steel Plant in village Bad-Tumakala under Lahunipara Tahasil of Sundargarh District of Rourkela Forest Division.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 30.07.2025. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
    i. The projects envisage for capacity enhancement of Sponge Iron Plant to Integrated Steel Plant by M/s B.R. Sponge & Power Ltd. The proposed project is situated in the state of Odisha, specifically in the Sundargarh District. The State Govt. has submitted the instant proposal on 06.05.2024 to the Regional Office Bhubaneswar under Scenario 4.
    ii. After the examination of the proposal the RO has returned the proposal to the State Govt. by stating that the proposal is involves violation of the Adhiniyam, 1980 therefore, the proposal as per the Rule 10 (2) (v) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 for “ex-post” facto approval of the Central Government for regularization of the violation shall be examined and disposed of by the Central Government at the Ministry level.
    iii. After that, the State Government has submitted the instant proposal under Scenario 7 directly to the Ministry through online PARIVESH 2.0 portal on 08.08.2024.
    iv. The State Govt. has informed that M/s B.R. Sponge Iron and Power Ltd. has an existing DFI Kiln of 2 x 100 TPD configuration and Iron Ore of 1 x 50 TPH. The State Level Single Window Clearance in its meeting held on 09.10.2020 accorded in-principal approval to the proposal of M/s B.R. Sponge Iron and Power Ltd. The IPICOL has also

(Protection) Act, 1972, after extinguishing all existing rights over the land as per legal provisions.

xxxii. As per the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued by MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi in its Gazette Notification no.686 dated 29.11.2023, at chapter 3.5 and 12.8 (h), the category of Relocation of villages form the National Parks/ Sanctuary to alternate forest land has been exempted by the Ministry from payment of Net Present Value (NPV) and the Compensatory Afforestation(CA).

xxxiii. The Committee was apprised of the status of funding of the programme by the Nodal Officer and other State Government officials.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the IGF (Central), Sub-Office, Hyderabad and Nodal Officer, Government of Telangana. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Telangana, the Committee recommended the proposal for grant of ***'in-principle'*** approval subject to the General, Standard and following specific conditions:

   i. An area of 20 ha was taken up for Compensatory Afforestation against Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) during year 2020-21 in Battikunta, within the area proposed for diversion. The State Govt. shall ensure that the 20 ha CA land which are going to be diverted for instant project shall be raised over alternative degraded forest land. The State Govt shall provide CA scheme, KML files and site suitability for the new CA site with Stage-I compliance report.

   ii. The State Government shall provide the details of the schemes where funds have been allocated/ approved for relocation of the villages.

   iii. The State Govt. shall provide the present legal status of the five villages inside the core area of ATR which area proposed for relocation.

   iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the proposal fulfils all the conditions laid down by the Ministry's guidelines in the dated.29.12.2023 mentioned under Para 12.8 and 12.9.

(*Confirmed through e-mail*)
Pro. KR Sree Harsha
(non-official Member)

(*Confirmed through e-mail*)
Shri Nityanand Srivastava
(non-official Member)

(*Confirmed through e-mail*)
Shri Manoj Pant
(non-official Member)

(*Confirmed through e-mail*)
Dr. Mehraj AS
Deputy Commissioner (NRM)
(Member)

(*Confirmed through e-mail*)
Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey
Additional Director General of Forests

(*Confirmed through e-mail*)
Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey
Additional Director General of Forests

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(FC)
(Member)

(WL)
(Member)

(***Confirmed***)
Shri R. Raghu Prasad
Inspector General of Forests
(Member Secretary)

(*Approved*)
Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi
(Director General of Forests and Special Secretary)
(Chairperson)

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Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Agenda for Advisory Committee

Agenda ID	FC/AGENDA/AC/788435/2025
Title of Meeting	12th AC meeting
Meeting Venue	Krishna Conference Hall
Meeting Mode	Physical
Agenda Creation Date	30/11/2025
Meeting Dates & Time	Start Date : 02/12/2025 End Date : 02/12/2025

Proposals to be discussed:

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
1	FP/AP/OTHERS/455305/2023	Anakapalli	Diversion of 148.15 ha. of forest land In compartment no.620 of Robertson RF, Anakapalli Forest Division of Anakapalli District in Visakhapatnam circle of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of New Project of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) In favour of Controller, BARC, Mumbai. Detail	Others (please specify)	148.15	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
2	FP/AS/DEF/518961/2025	Nagaon Division	Underground Storage Facility	Defence	299.201	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
3	FP/AS/MINOIL/432400/2023	Digboi Division	Diversion of 3.73 Ha. of Forest land for drilling four no. of wells DJM, Well A, Well B, Well C at old Plinth of Bogapani-2in the Upper Dehing Reserved Forest (West Block) under Digboi Forest Division, Assam	Mining of Mineral Oil	3.73	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
4	FP/BR/RAIL/	Tirhut Division	Hajipur- Sugauli New Rail line project	Railway	2.76	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
	532531/2025					
5	FP/CG/HYD/IRRIG/536341/2025	KAWARDHA DIVISION	Construction of Headwork & Cannals of Baroda Khurd Minor Tank Scheme in Karranala river near village Baroda Khurd in Tehsil and Block Sahaspur Lohara of District Kabirdham	Hydel / Irrigation	82.25	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
6	FP/HR/OTHERS/497879/2024	Faridabad Division	Diversion of Forest land falling in PLPA area in Sector-21C-II, 21C-III with Gym Khana Club, Sector-44-47, Sector-45 & Sector-46, Faridabad	Others (please specify)	67.68	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
7	FP/HR/ROAD/467134/2024	Sonipat Division	Construction of 2 lane Relief Highway from Ghoripur to Delhi Border (Near Hareveli Village) Section from Ch. 57+250 (Panipat-Sonipat at District Border) to Ch. 82+700 (Barwasni) Falling in Sonipat Distt. Including Improvement with Bituminous Overlay from Ch. 82+700 (Barwasni) to Ch. 104.042 (Delhi Border) in the State of Haryana	Construction / Widening of Road including approach road to roadside establishments including bridges	0.5627	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
8	FP/HR/REDIV/469434/2024	Jhajjar(Central Rohtak) Division	Re -Diversion of 0.807 Hectares Forest land for laying of 200 MM diameter underground carbon steel pipeline from RD 5.75 to RD 23.70 on Bahadurgarh - Jhajjar Road, Haryana	Pipeline	N/A	Form-E (Part-I): Re-Diversion i) Land Use Change ii) Laying of Overhead/ Under Ground OFC/ drinking water pipeline/ slurry pipeline/ electric cable/ CNG/PNG within RoW
9	FP/HP/MIN/QRY/523305/2025	Parbati Division	River Bed Dredging	Mining / Quarrying	13.281	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
10	FP/KA/ROAD/464144/2024	Bagalkot Division	Widening to 2L+PS from Km 71.00 to 104.00 of Sarjapur to Pattadkallu on Bhanapur-Gaddankeri section of NH 367 in the State of Karnataka. Job No NH-367-KNT-2022-23-972	Construction / Widening of Road including approach road to roadside establishments including bridges	4.1479	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
11	FP/KA/ROAD/487310/2024	Bangalore Rural Division	Construction of Road, RCC drain, high level causeway for the existing mud road. In addition, dining hall and pump house construction at Kouchugal Sri. Muneshwara swami temple Survey No: 53, Majara Mylanahalli Kavalu, Mylanahalli village , Solur Hobli , Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District.	Construction / Widening of Road including approach road to roadside establishments including bridges	0.3865	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
12	FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/516717/2024	Rewa(T) Division	M/S Marshall Small Hydel Power Project	Hydel / Irrigation	9.08	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
13	FP/MP/MIN/QRY/508237/2024	Tikamgarh(T) Division	MACHIGARH PYROPHYLLITE AND DIASPORE DEPOSIT	Mining / Quarrying	10.07	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
14	FP/MP/MIN/QRY/437171/2023	Rewa(T) Division	MINING LEASE FOR TIKAR BAUXITE PHASE-1 (28.379 HA.)	Mining / Quarrying	31.4161	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
15	FP/MP/MIN/QRY/4	Umaria(T) Division	Proposed Pathora West Coal Block (Sohagpur Coalfield) has an area of 640.520 ha and the project area is 554.0843 ha with targeted production capacity of	Mining / Quarrying	149.6878	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
	64461/2024		0.80 MTPA (Peak-rated capacity of 1.2 MTPA) located in the Villages of Ghunghuti, Githauri, and PatnarKalan, Tehsil Pali, District Umaria, State Madhya Pradesh. It is an underground mechanized Coal Mine.			
16	FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/468270/2024	Sendhwa(T) Division	Kalamba Tank	Hydel / Irrigation	50.745	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
17	FP/MP/MIN/QRY/504139/2024	Shahdol South(T) Division	Damini underground Coal Mine	Mining / Quarrying	9.621	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
18	FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/483015/2024	Chhindwara East(T) Division	SHAKKAR PENCH LINK COMBINED PROJECT PHASE-1 HARD DAM	Hydel / Irrigation	513.4	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
19	FP/MH/MIN/QRY/407839/2022	Central Chanda Division	Diversion of 17.00 Ha. Forest land for Mining lease of Naranda Limestone Block in favour of M/S. Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited,	Mining / Quarrying	17	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
20	FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/515850/2024	Alibag Division	Saidongar-1 Karjat (3000 MW) Off-stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project	Hydel / Irrigation	233	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
2	FP/O	Bona	Raikela Iron Ore Mines, Shiv Dutt Sha	Mining / Qu	7	Form-A (Part-I): Di

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
1	R/MIN/QRY/505523/2024	i Division	rma	arrying		version of Forest Land
22	FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445466/2023	Malkanagiri Division	Proposed Kottameta Limestone Mine (Auctioned Block) (ML Area: 802.25 ha) with total excavation of 7.6 million TPA (Limestone Production Capacity – 3.0 Million TPA, Soil 0.5 Million TPA and Waste 4.1 Million TPA) along with 1000 TPH Crusher located at Village – Katamater, Tehsil & District – Malkangiri, Odisha by M/s. Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd.	Mining / Quarrying	575.16	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
23	FP/OR/MIN/QRY/500511/2024	Bonai Division	Diversion of 100.797 ha.(100.439 ha lease area + 0.358 ha. for connecting road & 11 KV Power transmission line) of forest land in respect of Kedesala North East Iron Ore Block of M/s. Rungta Mines Ltd.	Mining / Quarrying	100.797	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
24	FP/OR/HYD/IRRIG/500690/2024	Kalahandi South Division	Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project	Hydel / Irrigation	107.596	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
25	FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024	Kalahandi South Division	Sijimali Bauxite Mines	Mining / Quarrying	708.204	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
26	FP/PB/REDIV/469166/2024	SAS Nagar Division	Acess for path to the site of Perch dam reservoir's already diverted land proposed to be re-diverted for the purpose of restoring the reservoir's original capacity and further processing the desilted material.	Others (please specify)	N/A	Form-E (Part-I): Re-Diversion i) Land Use Change ii) Laying of Overhead/ Under Ground OFC/ drinking water pipe

S. No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
						line/ slurry pipeline/ electric cable/ CNG/PNG within RoW
27	FP/RJ/REHAB/414712/2023	Tonk Territorial Division	Diversion of Forest Land for Rehabilitation of Bhairupura Village from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to Kumhariya, Forest Block- Devli Main under Forest Division- Tonk in the State of Rajasthan	Rehabilitation from Protected Area	198.488	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
28	FP/RJ/WATER/464011/2024	Udaipur (North) Territorial Division	PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF DEWAS III & IV DAMS, TEHSIL GOGUNDA, DISTRICT UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN STATE	Drinking Water	174.1106	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
29	FP/SK/OTHERS/484235/2024	Gangtok Division	Diversion of 63.73 Ha of forest land for regularization (8.0 ha in Gangtok District, 39.84 ha in Namchi District and 15.89 ha in Pakyong District) pre- 1980 settlements in Forest Land-Conversion of Forest Village into Revenue Village in the State of Sikkim by RDD, GoS	Others (please specify)	56.67	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
30	FP/SK/DEF/483603/2024	Gangtok Division	Diversion 0.263 ha for construction of Border Intelligence Post at Sherathang by the Sibsidiary Intelligence Bureau, Govt. of India	Defence	0.263	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
31	FP/SK/OTHERS/514965/2024	Namchi Division	Diversion of forest land for construction of Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility at Payong, Melli, Namchi District by Health & Family Welfare Deptt. GoS	Others (please specify)	2.4281	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
32	FP/TR/MINOIL/51	North District Fores	Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling Waste-pit and Approach Road of Exploratory location AA-ONO-212-KPA-A	Mining of Mineral Oil	2.2068	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

S.No.	Proposal No.	Division	Project Name	Project Category	Forest Land Area(ha)	Form Type
	4247/2024	t Division				
33	FP/RJ/OTHERS/509218/2024	Bharatpur Territorial Division	Beautification and Renovation work in Kaila Devi Temple Jheel Ka Bada, Bayana, Bharatpur	Others (please specify)	4.487	Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

Other Item Details:

AC Members Details:

S.No.	Name	Designation	Email ID
1	Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi	DGF&SS, MoEFCC	dgfi****@nic.in
2	Shri Santosh Tewari	Additional Director General (FC)	bh15*@ifs.nic.in
3	Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey	Additional Director General of Forest, MOEFCC	rame*********@nic.in
4	Shri R Raghu Prasad	Inspector General of Forest, MEF	ragh********@gov.in
5	Manoj Pant	AC MEMBER	mpan*****@gmail.com
6	Dr. Mehraj A. Shaikh	AC MEMBER	ac.n*******@gov.in
7	Kr Sree Harsha	Member (EAC)	sree**************@gmail.com

Remarks:

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Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Minutes of Meeting for Advisory Committee

MoM ID	FC/MOM/AC/473103/2025
Agenda ID	FC/AGENDA/AC/788435/2025
Title of Meeting	12th AC meeting
Meeting Venue	Krishna Conference Hall
Meeting Mode	Physical
Meeting Dates & Time	Start Date : 02/12/2025 End Date : 02/12/2025

List of AC Members:

S.No.	Name	Designation	Email ID
1	Manoj Pant	AC MEMBER	mpan*****@gmail.com
2	Shri Sushil Kumar A wasthi	DGF&SS, MoEFCC	dgfi****@nic.in
3	Shri Santosh Tewari	Additional Director General (FC)	bh15*@ifs.nic.in
4	Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey	Additional Director General of Fores t, MOEFCC	rame*********@nic.in
5	Shri R Raghu Prasad	Inspector General of Forest, MEF	ragh********@gov.in
6	Dr. Mehraj A. Shaikh	AC MEMBER	ac.n*******@gov.in
7	Kr Sree Harsha	Member (EAC)	sree***************@gmail. com

Proposals considered during Meeting:

1. Project Name	Beautification and Renovation work in Kaila Devi Temple Jheel Ka Bada, Bayan a, Bharatpur
Proposal Number	FP/RJ/OTHERS/509218/2024
User Agency	Chhailbihari Sharma
Forest Land Area(Ha)	4.487
Division	Bharatpur Territorial Division
Recommendation	Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Deferred.

8. Project Name	Acess for path to the site of Perch dam reservoir's already diverted land proposed to be re-diverted for the purpose of restoring the reservoir's original capacity and further processing the desilted material.
Proposal Number	FP/PB/REDIV/469166/2024
User Agency	Harmanpreet Singh
Forest Land Area(Ha)	
Division	SAS Nagar Division
Recommendation	Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

9. Project Name	Sijimali Bauxite Mines
Proposal Number	FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024
User Agency	Purnendu Pandey
Forest Land Area(Ha)	708.204
Division	Kalahandi South Division
Recommendation	Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

10. Project Name	Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project
Proposal Number	FP/OR/HYD/IRRIG/500690/2024
User Agency	Jogesh Chandra Sahu
Forest Land Area(Ha)	107.596
Division	Kalahandi South Division
Recommendation	Raise EDS

Brief Description of Project:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Deferred.

11. Project Name	Diversion of 100.797 ha.(100.439 ha lease area + 0.358 ha. for connecting road & 11 KV Power transmission line) of forest land in respect of Kedesala North East Iron Ore Block o f M/s. Rungta Mines Ltd.
Proposal Number	FP/OR/MIN/QRY/500511/2024

ii. The site-specific Wildlife and Biodiversity Management Plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency.
iii. As per DSS analysis, out of 143.968 ha non forest land within the project area, 18.25 ha was found within forest boundary. The state has clarified that the overlap reflected in DSS arises solely from boundary-layer generalisation at map-scale and does not represent any additional forest land requiring inclusion. In this regard the State shall take up the matter with FSI for the correction of digital boundaries.
iv. The State Government shall ensure that the land-use plan indicated in the proposal remains unchanged. A copy of the document or approval issued by the competent authority, confirming a land-use plan consistent with that submitted in the proposal, shall be furnished along with the compliance report.
v. The State Government shall ensure that muck is disposed of, only at designated sites located in non-forest areas. The State Government shall adopt controlled blasting mitigation measures and ensure that no blasting materials are stored within forest areas.
vi. The Catchment Area Treatment Plan, duly approved by the PCCF/competent authority shall be implemented at the project cost.

Agenda No. 38

Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024

Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 708.204 ha (564.581 ha in Rayagada Forest Division + 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division) of Forest land (including 11.195 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within total Mining Lease land in 1548.786 ha of Sijimali Bauxite Mines in Rayagada Forest Division & Kalahandı (South) Forest Division under Rayagada and Kalahandi District respectively in respect of M/s Vedanta Limited (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024)-reg.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and APCCF and CCF in the office of Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

i. The Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0017-2025-8268/FE&CC dated 08.04.2025 submitted the above subject proposal through PARIVESH 2.0 portal and uploaded on 09.04.2025 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

ii. Vedanta Limited has been allocated the Sijimali Bauxite mine spread over Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha in March 2023, having an estimated reserve of around 311 Million Tonnes for meeting the increased requirement of raw material, Vedanta intends to operate Sijimali block for dispatching Bauxite from mines to its Refinery.

iii. An e-Auction process was conducted in accordance with the tender document for the Sijimali Mineral Block and Vedanta Limited was declared as the "Preferred Bidder" under Rule 9(9)(1) or Rule 10(1A) of Auction Rules dated 09.02.2023. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules and the terms of the tender document of steel & Mines Department, Government of Odisha, issued Letter of Intent for grant of mine lease for Sijimali Bauxite Block over 1549.022 ha (Geo referenced DGPS Area 1549.022 ha, ROR Authenticated area-1548.786 ha) vide letter No SM-MC2-MC-0006-2023/2103/5&M, Bhubaneswar, dated 01 03 2023.

iv. M/s Vedanta Ltd has the proposal to operate the Sijimali Bauxite Mine with peak Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity of 9.00 Million TPA. The block is located in 18 villages under Thuamul Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandı district and under Kashipur Tahsil of Rayagada district in the State of Odisha.

v. As M/s Vedanta Limited has an existing alumina refinery plant at Lanjigarh of Kalahandı district of Odisha which very soon will be operated at granted EC capacity of 6.0 Million TPA, due to which the total bauxite requirement will be 18.0 Million TPA at a ratio of 3:1 to meet the partial requirement of the bauxite, Vedanta Ltd is proposing the Sijimalı Bauxite Mine with 9.0 Million TPA Capacity, 3. Million TPA from OMC Kodingamali Mine through long term linkage and remaining 60 Million TPA from import.

vi. The area under consideration is well connected by rail and road to all important business and industrial centres of the country. Nearest Railway station is Sikarpai Railway station at a distance of 20 km in SE direction. The Nearest Port and International Airport are at Visakhapatnam at a distance of 194 Km in SSE direction, Distance of SH-44 from the lease area is 1.5 km in West direction from the project site.

vii. The Sijimali Bauxite Block has been explored in different phases with 91 bore holes with a total meterage of 2241.61m The boreholes have been drilled at an interval of about 400m grid pattern within the mineralized land in 12.38 sq. km The bore hole density is about 07 (735) BHs/Sq Km.

viii. The entire geological block land in 1549.022 Ha (As per DGPS) will be brought under mining and allied activities to excavate bauxite. The cross-sectional method has been adopted for estimation of resources of bauxite in the approved mining plan 15 sets of vertical cross sections namely AA', BB', CC' etc in 1.10000 scale have been prepared in E-W direction taking into account 87 boreholes located along the section lines and a few holes

adjacent to the section lines are projected. In order to estimate the mineable reserve, development sections were drawn through the block. The non-mineable bauxite portions considered for estimation of mineable reserve from geological resource are as follows. (a) bauxite occurring within 7.5 m along the lease boundary for the purpose of safety zone (b) Blocked bauxite under and outside the ultimate pit slope Production of maximum 926740279 TPA bauxite has been planned in the approved mining plan.

ix. Mining operations will be carried out by a fully mechanized opencast method. The extractable bauxite reserve of 299.58 Million tonnes is proposed to be excavated in 31 years. Life of mine is considered as 31 years with two years of construction period including surface reorganization.

x. The total ML area of the Sijimali Bauxite Block is 1548.786 ha. In the applied mining lease area, forest land involved is 708.204 Ha. Non-forest land involved in the Mining Lease is 840.582 ha out of which non-forest private land is 129.089 ha and non-forest Govt. land is 711.493 ha.

xi. The State Govt. has reiterated / clarified that 0.66 ha of land in village Tadader and 1.57 ha of land in village Tijamali (both under Thuamul Rampur Tahasil of Kalahandı District) have been included in the Forest Diversion Proposal as FRA land. The kisam of the above mentioned land (0.66 ha in Tadader village and 1.57 ha in Tijamali village) are of "Unsurveyed Category" in the Sabik record and 'Donger' in the Hal record over which Title under FRA have been issued to individuals by the Collector, Kalahandi. In this context he has informed that, 0.66 ha of land in village Tadades and 1.57 ha in village Tijamali have been included in the Forest Diversion Proposal as FRA land as reported by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division.

xii. As per the SIR of DFO, Kalahandi (South), it is revealed that the forest land proposed for diversion is located over 11 patches spreading over 04 no of villages. The Tahasildar Rampur has furnished the land schedule as on 25.10.1980 regarding forest and non-forest land involved in the ML coming under Kalahandi district as well as in Kalahandı (South) forest Division, DFO, Kalahandi (South) has furnished a certificate regarding minimum use of forest land over 143.623 ha.

xiii. The total district wise forest and non-forest land involved in the Mining Lease is tabulated below:

ABSTRACT OF TOTAL LAND of SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES									
Sl. No.	**District Name**	**Area in Hectares**							
		Revenue Forest	**PF/FRA Forest**	**Sabik Forest**	**DLC Forest**	**Total Forest**	**Pvt. land**	**Non-Forest Govt. land**	**Total**
1	Kalahandi	12.408	65.512	3.699	62.004	143.623	28.531	565.138	737.292

2	Rayagada	0.000	0.000	6.236	558.345	564.581	100.558	146.355	811.494
Total area in Ha		**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**129.089**	**711.493**	**1548.786**

xiv. The details of Existing Land Use of total lease area in Ha are as mentioned below:

EXISTING LAND USE OF SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES										
Sl. No.	**District Name**	**Item**	**All figures are in Hectares**							
			Revenue Forest	**PF/FRA Forest**	**Sabik Forest**	**DLC Forest**	**Total Forest**	**Pvt. land**	**Non-Forest Govt. land**	**Total**
1	Kalahandi	Existing Undisturbed area	12.408	65.512	3.699	62..004	143.623	28.531	565.138	737.292
2	Rayagada	Existing Undisturbed area	0.000	0.000	6.236	558.345	564.581	100.558	146.355	811.494
	Total in Ha		**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**129.089**	**711.493**	**1548.786**

xv. Component wise break up of forest land proposed for diversion in the Sigimali Mining Lease has been mentioned in the SIR of DFO, Rayagada and SIR of DFO, Kalahandi (South) The detailed pattern of use of Forest land is tabulated below:

PROPOSED LAND USE PATTERN (DISTRICT WISE)										
S. No.	District Name	Component	Forest Area in Ha					Non-Forest area in ha			
			Revenue Forest	PF/FRA Forest	Sabik Forest	DLC Forest	Total Forest	Govt. land	Pvt. Land	Total NFL	Total Area Ha
1	Kalahandi	Mined out Area	12.408	32.900	3.699	49.852	98.859	400.557	28.531	429.088	527.947

2		Safety Zone Area		2.970		0.628	3.598	15.117		15.117	18.715
3		Untouched Area		29.642		11.524	41.166	149.464		149.464	190.630
Total			**12.408**	**65.512**	**3.699**	**62.004**	**143.623**	**565.138**	**28.531**	**593.669**	**737.292**
1	Rayagada	Mined out Area			6.235	475.351	481.586	96.880	98.717	195.597	677.183
2		Safety Zone Area				7.897	7.597	6.558		6.558	14.155
3		Untouched Area			0.001	75.397	75.398	42.917	1.841	44.758	120.156
Total					6.236	558.345	564.581	146.355	100.558	246.913	811.494
Grand Total			**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**711.493**	**129.089**	**840.582**	**1548.786**

xvi. The consolidated forest land use pattern of the ML area pertaining to both the Forest Divisions is furnished below:

ABSTRACT OF PROPOSED LAND USE PATTERN OF TOTAL AREA											
S. No.	**District Name**	**Component**	**Area in ha**					**Non-Forest area in ha**			
			Revenue Forest	**PF/ FRA Forest**	**Sabik Forest**	**DLC Forest**	**Total Forest**	**Govt. land**	**Pvt. Land**	**Total NFL**	**Total Area Ha**
1	Kalahandi	Mined out area	12.408	32.900	9.934	525.203	580.445	497.437	127.248	624.685	1205.130

2	Rayagada	Safety Zone Area	0	2.970	0	8.225	11.195	21.675	0	21.675	32.870
3		Untouched Area	0	26.642	0.001	86.921	116.564	192.381	1.841	194.222	310.786
		Total	**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**711.493**	**129.089**	**840.582**	**1548.786**

xvii. The area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes, vegetation loss and mining disturbances leading to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation Factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion.

xviii. The total extent of safety zone in the ML area over 1548.786 ha is 32.87 ha Out of which, 11.195 ha comes under forest land, 21.675 ha comes under Non-Forest Government land within the limit of both the forest divisions. The classification of safety zone over different Kissam of land as well as over the different division jurisdiction is furnished below:

Details of safety zone involved within the Sijimali Bauxite Mines NFL in ha											
Sl. No.	District	Component	Forest land in ha					NFL in ha			
			Rev.	PF/FRA	Sabik	DLC	Total	Govt.	Pvt.	Total	Total in Ha
1	Kalahandi	Safety Zone	0	2.97	0	0.628	3.598	15.117	0	15.117	18..715
2	Rayagada	-do-	0	0	0	7.597	7.597	6.558	0	6.558	14.155
				2.97	**0**	**8.225**	**11.195**	**21.675**	**0**	**21.675**	**32.870**

xix. The proposed area includes Tropical dry deciduous forest. The vegetation is basically mixed Sal Forest with other miscellaneous species. Further, Wildlife species like Barking deer, wild boar, Monkey, Indian peacock and Indian hare are present in the area.

xx. The presence of bauxite is characterized by long stretches of Plateau land on hilltop with little or no vegetation and vegetation is usually seen in hill slopes.

xxi. No rare and endangered species are available in the Mining lease area coming under Rayagada Forest Division However, as per report of DFO, Kalahandı (South), Elephant habitat in Bijepur RF comes within 10 Kms

impact zone. The applied area is not found important from an archaeological point of view. The proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor or any protected area declared under any law of the State or central Government.

xxii. The DFO, Rayagada has taken up tree enumeration through Range Officer, Kashipur over proposed 564.581 ha forest land of Sijimali Bauxite Block of Vedanta Limited adopting direct counting technique. Due to sparse vegetation on the plateau, the ecological impact of tree felling in this area will be minimal. The plateau's current ecosystem supports limited biodiversity, with most species reliant on valley vegetation for survival. DFO Rayagada has mentioned that the felling of trees near valley areas could lead to disruption of wildlife habitats and potential displacement of species, increased soil erosion and sedimentation of nearby water bodies.

xxiii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 724.23 ha of Non-forest Government land measuring 565.50 ha in Rayagada District and 158.73 ha Government NFL in Kalahandi District against the proposed diversion of forest land over 708.204 ha for Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd.

xxiv. The details of area identified for CA in Rayagada district and Kalahandi district are tabulated below:

Rayagada Division:							
S. No.	**Tehsil**	**RI Circle**	**Mouza**	**Khata No.**	**Plot No.**	**Area in ha**	**Total Area (Ha)**
1	Munigud a	Raghubari	Alibhata	11	1	9.70	36.75
					2	11.73	
					3 (P)	15.32	
2	Munigud a	Raghubari	Baringpada r	12	1(P)	8.0	38.24
					43(P)	16.01	
					44	14.23	
3	Munigud a	Raghubari	Baringpada r	3	1	14.14	87.81
					2	16.26	
					3	15.68	
					4(P)	5.74	
					10	4.05	
					11	19.77	
					14(P)	12.17	

4	Munigud a	Raghubari	Baratarana	9	4(P)	7.47	34.09
					23(P)	5.84	
					24	9.31	
					25	11.47	
5	Munigud a		Dambalu	21	1(P)	3.27	3.279
6	Munigud a	Raghubari	Demupadar	10	129	9.49	58.00
					132(P)	7.71	
					133	7.08	
					134	7.63	
					135(P)	7.76	
					136	11.48	
					137(P)	6.84	
7	Munigud a	Raghubari	Jambapada fr	7	4(P)	2.388	40.40
					6	8.26	
					25	6.576	
					46(P)	13.242	
					47	9.935	
8	Munigud a	Kumudaba li	Kauguda	9	44(P)	24.136	38.95
					46(P)	14.816	
9	Munigud a	Tikarapad a	Lidipanga	59	208(P)	11.882	46.22
					362	15.714	
					363	12.562	
					364	6.066	
10	Munigud a	Raghubari	PidelPadar	9	2	16.19	77.81
					3	15.27	
					4	16.39	
					5	15.19	
					219(P)	14.78	
11	Munigud a	Raghubari	Umbere	11	46(P)	7.49	69.66
					87	16.60	

					88(P)	15.24	
					91	12.79	
					92	17.54	
12	Munigud a	Raghubari	Madagalu	4	1	17.179	34.29
					3	5.868	
					5	11.242	

Kalahandi (South) Forest Division							
Sl. No.	Village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Kissam		Area in Ac.	Suitable Area For plantation in Ac
1	Sampala	29	103(P)	Dangar	AAA	25.42	23.65
2			104	Dangar	AAA	32.70	32.70
3			105	Dangar	AAA	36.25	36.25
4			106	Dangar	AAA	42.00	42.00
5			107(P)	Dangar	AAA	41.38	40.07
6			108(P)	Dangar	AAA	38.50	35.28
7	Kanjiguda	32	240(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	32.50	30.00
8			237(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	37.50	35.00
9			241(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	36.15	33.00
10			242(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	41.73	37.85
11	Malatipadar	38	302	Dangar	AAA	22.50	22.50
12			307(P)	Dangar	AAA	31.50	23.78
						Total area in ac	**392.08**
						Total area in ha	**158.73**

xxv. The CA schemes have been prepared in respect of Rayagada and Kalahandi (South) forest Divisions to the diversion proposal. It has been proposed to adopt chain link wire mesh fencing for the protection of the planted species over the entire area in 17 patches coming under 12 villages. The perimeter proposed for fencing over 17 patches.

xxvi. The total forest land proposed for diversion in the proposal is 708.204 ha. The user agency has provided 565.50 ha NFL in Rayagada forest Division and 158.73 ha NFL in Kalahandi (South) division against the proposed forest land for diversion. Thus, the user agency has provided 724.23 ha NFL land for CA It is required to plant 7,08,204 nos. seedlings in the CA However, both the DFOs have made schemes to plant 2,28,157 + 69,986=2,98,143 nos. seedlings Balance seedlings of 7,08,204 - 2,98,143 = 4,10,061 nos. seedlings will be planted through Additional CA schemes in Rayagada Forest Division. The DFO, Rayagada has identified 546.0 ha of notified degraded forest land in his division to take up the additional CA Plantation.

xxvii. The financial outlay approved by the APCCF (Nodal) for the Addl. CA plantations proposed in Rayagada Division comes to ₹44,71,21,000/-

xxviii. The total financial outlay of the CA and Additional CA schemes pertaining to Rayagada and Kalahandı (South) Forest Division come ₹107,63,89,300 (₹53,09,26,800+ ₹9,83,41,500 + ₹44,71,21,000) The user agency has furnished undertaking to pay the amount of ACA plantation as per the demand of DFO, Rayagada.

xxix. The DFO, Rayagada has prepared the Cost-Benefit analysis of the project pertaining to both the Forest Divisions. The cost of the forest is assessed as ₹42401.893 Lakh and the benefit of the project is estimated at ₹2,76,27,164 65 lakhs The Cost-Benefit ratio comes to 1:651.554.

xxx. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (IA Division) have issued Term of Reference (TOR) vide File No IA-J-11015/6/2023-IA-II(NCM) dt 14.08.2023 for mining of Sijimali Bauxite Block over 1549.022 ha for peak rated Capacity of 9.0 MTPA along with installation of two crushers (2x1200 TPH) located at Thuamul and Kasipur Tahasıls of Kalahandı and Rayagada Districts respectively/MIN/439954/2023 dt 06.11.2023 to the user agency The ToR would be valid for a period of three years.

xxxi. The Mining plan including Progressive Mine closure plan has been approved by the Regional Controller of Mines, Office of the Regional Controller of Mines, BBSR (IBM) over 1549.022 ha in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block in Tehsil Rampur and KasipurTahasils of Kalahandi and Rayagada Districts in the state of Odisha in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd vide L: No MCDR- MIFLOBXT/4/2023-BBS-IBM RO BBS dt 16.08.2023 with 17 no of terms and conditions The approval of Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has been accorded by the Indian Bureau of Mines.

xxxii. The field Inspection envisages that the project involves displacement of 100 nos. of families in 02 villages i. e. Malipadar under Rayagada District and Tijamali Under Kalahandi District. In this regard the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Rayagada to

submit the approved R & R Plan in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd in Rayagada and Kalahandı Districts to the Competent Authority immediately after its approval under Section 16 of LARR Act, 2013. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Kalahandı (South) to submit the approved R&R Plan in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd in Rayagada and Kalahandı Districts to the competent authority immediately after its approval under section 16 of LARR Act, 2013.

xxxiii. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the project has been approved by the PCCF (WL) and CWLW, Odisha vide Memo No 9718 dt 16.08.2024 The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Rayagada to bear the cost of SSWLCP.

xxxiv. As stated by the Additional PCCF, Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the PCCF &HoFF, Odisha, there are no court cases pending against the user agency on the applied area as revealed from the Site Inspection Reports of report of the DFO, Rayagada and DFO, Kalahandi (South) Divisions. However, a Writ Petition was filed before the Hon'ble High Court vide WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi& others-Vrs-Union of India & others) by the Petitioners with the following prayers:

a. Issue a writ of certiorari or any other appropriate writ quashing the Gram Sabha resolutions dated 08.12.2023 [Annexure 2 (Series) and Annexure 3 (Series)) and the subsequent certificate issued by the Collector, Kalahandı (Annexure 8) as the same are fraudulent and are against the provisions of FRA, 2006 and the Constitution of India.
b. Issue of writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Ops to accept the resolutions passed by the Gram Sabha held between 30.08.2024 to 04.09.2024 [Annexure 9 (series)] wherein no consent for the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes have been given by the villagers of the said villages.
c. Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Opposite Parties not to take any further steps pertaining to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine Project till the rights of the villagers in the project affected areas are settled as per the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
d. Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writs constituting a judicial inquiry into the illegalities committed in the alleged Gram Sabhas which took place on 08.12.2023 in the villagers of Kantamal, Sagaban, Dumerpadar, Aligana, Chulbari, Tijimali, Pelanakona, Katıbhata, Malıpadar and Bondel and an action taken report be submitted before this Hon'ble Court in a time bound manner.
e. Union of India through Secretary, MoEF&CC, Ministry of Tribal Affairs through its Secretary, State of Odisha through Secretary, Department of Revenue & Disaster Management, State of Odisha through Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Department of Steel & Mines, Collector, Kalahandi, Collector,

Rayagada and M/s Vedanta Ltd. were Opposite Parties No 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 respectively.

f. The Hon'ble High Court vide Order No 1 dated 12.02.2025 had directed the State to issue written instruction on Petitioners allegation recorded in their order and directed to list on 19.02.2025 In the matter, the Collector & District Magistrate, Kalahandi and Collector & District Magistrate, Rayagada were requested to furnish the instruction/ PWC on the aforesaid Writ Petition to the O/o the AG, Odisha, Cuttack at the earliest under intimation to this Department vide this Department Letter No 6289/FE&CC dated 12.03.2025.

g. The Hon'ble High Court vide Judgement dated 05.03.2025 has disposed of the Writ Petition. In the said judgement, the Hon'ble High Court in Para 7 has directed as follows.

"7 Mr. Mohanty submits, his clients have not conceded but on the contrary maintained that Impugned Gram Sabha resolutions were fraudulently got made. He submits, subsequent to impugned resolutions, the Gram Sabhas convened between 30th August, 2024 and 4th September, 2024. They resolved that no consent for diversion was duly obtained. Mr. Mohanty points out, there has not been process duly undertaken to grant recognition to his clients, who are forest dwellers in the area. Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no 8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note"

xxxv. The aforesaid order dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court passed in WP No 3729 of 2025 (Shri GobindaMajhi& others Vrs Union of India & others) has been received in this Department on 26.03.2025 from the Superintendent of the High Court of Orissa vide his Issue No 8805 (3) dated 13.03.2025. *The copy of the aforesaid letter of the Superintendent of the High Court of Orissa along with a copy of the Order dated. 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa is enclosed for favour of kind information and necessary action of the Ministry.*

xxxvi. The Collector, Rayagada has issued certificate in Form-II under Schedule Tribe and other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 for forest land of 565.70 Ha involved in the Sijimali Bauxite Block leased out in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd On 24.01.2024

xxxvii. The Collector, Kalahandi has issued certificate in Form No -II under Schedule Tribe and other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest

Rights) Act, 2006 for forest land of 133.95 Ha involved in the Sijimali Bauxite Block leased out in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd. on 18.01 2024.

xxxviii. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) to submit the FRA certificate for the balance forest land over 03 villages coming in Kalahandi district after obtaining from the Revenue authority.

xxxix. The State has informed that the user agency does not have any other existing bauxite mines in Odisha. This will be their first bauxite mine in Odisha. The user agency, Vedanta Ltd., has been declared the Preferred Bidder for this block in the auction held on 09.02.2023 under the MMDR Act, 1957. However, they do operate the Jamkhani opencast coal mine in Sundargarh district with a lease area of 847 ha, a reserve of 222.13 million tonnes, and a capacity of 2.6 MTPA.

xl. The State has informed that the valley area is non-mineralized, has no bauxite presence, and will be left untouched. It is proposed to be developed as a greenbelt.

xli. The State has given justification for the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation which are seen in the forest area. The State has clarified that these features are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar, which fall within the mining lease area. These villages will be rehabilitated and resettled as per the LARR Act, 2013. A notification under Section 11(1) has already been issued. Seasonal agricultural use is non-permanent and can be vacated anytime.

xlii. The State Govt. has clarified that 116.5 ha of forest area marked as 'untouched' because as per Para 2.11 of the mining plan, this area, part of a non-mineralized valley, was included in the lease block but will remain undisturbed. The total untouched area is 311.02 ha, including 116.5 ha of forest.

xliii. The State has clarified that cultivation and settlements are seen within the lease boundary because the seasonal cultivation is done by local villagers on a temporary basis and does not indicate permanent land use. The settlements are located in Tijimali and Malipadar, which are private lands. These villages are to be relocated under the R&R plan per the LARR Act.

xliv. The State has clarified the requirement of water, electricity, and evacuation from the mine

a. **Water:** Will be drawn from groundwater (approval from CGWA obtained).

b. **Power:** To be supplied through Diesel Generators.

c. **Evacuation:** Bauxite will be transported via PWD road from Malipadar to SH-44, then via rail from Singarama siding to Lanjigarh refinery. A separate proposal has been submitted for diversion of 4.911 ha forest land for constructing an access road to SH-44.

xlv. The State has informed that cultivation is visible on CA land because of seasonal signs of cultivation, but the land is still classified as degraded forest. These signs do not indicate permanent land use and the land is suitable for afforestation, as per the approved CA Plan.

xlvi. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the 10 km impact zone has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha, with a budget of ₹34.44 Cr. Funds will be deposited in State CAMPA and used in Kalahandi South and Rayagada Forest Divisions. Activities will be implemented under DFO guidance, with a 5-year plan period and monitoring provisions.

xlvii. The Regional Office has inspected the area proposed for diversion and proposed CA land. The DDGF (Central), RO Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:

(a) A total of 310.786 hectares of land located within the mining lease boundary (beyond the safety zone), shall remain undisturbed, as submitted by the User Agency. This area shall be maintained as a green belt owing to the absence of bauxite reserves. The User Agency shall ensure that no tree felling or mining activity is undertaken in the said forest area.

(b) The State Government shall ensure that 8.082 hectares of forest land, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) and have also been included in the present proposal, are compensated by identifying and providing an alternative CA site for the said project. Approval for the partial change in CA site shall be obtained from the competent authority for Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017.

(c) As mining is proposed at the hilltop and may affect the natural catchment area, the User Agency shall implement comprehensive soil conservation measures on the hillock and adjoining forest areas. These measures shall aim to prevent surface runoff from leaving the mining zone and to safeguard downstream ecosystems.

(d) The User Agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, along with the restoration schedule and forest land surrender schedule, to the Ministry prior to the grant of final approval.

(e) A separate proposal (Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025) involving the diversion of 4.911 hectares of forest land in favour of the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) for the construction of an access road from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hilltop) to State Highway-44 (SH-44) is presently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for "in-principle" approval. As this road is an ancillary component of the Sijimali Bauxite Mines project, the competent authority may consider appraising both proposals concurrently to ensure an integrated evaluation and to avoid any fait accompli situation.

(f) The User Agency shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are free from encroachments before being handed over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall ensure that the CA sites are properly fenced, cleared of encroachments, and planted, at the cost of the User Agency.

(g) The State Forest Department (SFD) shall implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.

xlviii. The Hon'ble High Court vide Judgement dated 05.03.2025 have disposed of the Wnt Petition In the said judgement, the Hon'ble High Court in Para 7 have directed as follows:

"7 Mr. Mohanty submits, his clients have not conceded but on the contrary maintained that Impugned Gram Sabha resolutions were fraudulently got made. He submits, subsequent to impugned resolutions, the Gram Sabhas convened between 30th August, 2024 and 4th September, 2024. They resolved that no consent for diversion was duly obtained. Mr. Mohanty points out, there has not been process duly undertaken to grant recognition to his clients, who are forest dwellers in the area. Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no 8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note" order.

xlix. Further, the committee has also noted that a separate proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. Diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in KashipurTahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO has been submitted by the State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2025-10894/FE&CC dated 09.05.2025 to the RO Bhubaneswar (Online proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025). The RO has submitted this proposal to the Ministry for holistic decision.

l. Further, the DDGF (Central) has mentioned that:

a. The instant proposal pertains to the construction of a road submitted by the Government of Odisha, with the primary objective of facilitating the transportation of bauxite ore via bulkers/trucks from the mines of M/s Vedanta Limited to State Highway 44 (SH-44).

b. In response to the EDS raised by the Regional Office on 19.05.2025, the State Government has clarified that, apart from serving the aforesaid purpose, the proposed road is also intended to connect the villages of Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda, and Malipadar, which presently lack road connectivity.

c. However, as per the KML file submitted, the specifications of the proposed road (width) indicate that it is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles.

d. In this context, it is pertinent to mention that the associated mining proposal—vide proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024—is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi. The in-principle approval for the same is yet to be granted. In the event that the mining proposal is not favourably considered by the competent authority, positive consideration of the road proposal at this stage by the Regional Office may lead to a fait accompli situation.

li. The committee further observed that the road proposal has been submitted by the other agency i.e. by IDCO, however the road is primarily proposed keeping in view the requirement of mineral evacuation in the instant mine. The separate proposal for the road construction may be allowed, However, the proposal for road can only be considered for approval once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the mining lease is approved.

lii. The above facts were considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 30.07.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:

a. Keeping in view the Judgement dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha w.r.t. the WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri GobindaMajhi& others-Vrs-Union of India & others), the state shall ensure strict compliance of the order of the Hon’ble Court and submit a detailed report.

b. The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the justification and plan to mitigate the soil erosion shall be submitted.

c. An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The state shall give justification for keeping this area in the diversion proposal. The State shall provide the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area and intimate as to how this area will be compensated.

d. The State has informed that the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation seen in the forest area are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter and submit a report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.

e. The State shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments. In this

regard, a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation area shall be provided.

liii. The State Govt. submitted the reply online on 18.08.2025 which was examined by the Advisory Committee wherein the committee observed that:

a. The State Govt. has submitted the detailed report submitted by the District Collector Rayagad and Kalahandi alongwith all supportive documents mentioning therein that the process has been completed in a fair and transparent manner. However, the reports are silent on the concerns raised by the people in their representations and in the petition before the Hon'ble Court.

b. An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The State has not provided the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area.

c. The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the plan to mitigate the soil erosion has not been submitted.

d. The State govt. has informed that as per data available in the census handbook of District Koraput and Kalahandi for year 1981, it is found that village Tijimali and Malipadar were existing during 1981 i.e. have been existing much before the enactment of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 due to which some patches of the Revenue Forest land have been used by the villagers for the purpose of cultivation prior to 1980. Similarly, temporary roads were also being used by the local villagers much before 1980. Hence, the breaking of forest land for the purpose of cultivation and road may not be treated as violation under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in respect of the project. However, the details of existing transmission lines have not been provided.

e. The RO in the SIR had mentioned that presence of shifting cultivation and village paths has been found in maximum proposed CA sites. Accordingly, the State was asked to ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments. In this regard, a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation was asked. In this regard the State has referred to the detailed CA scheme only and the detailed report for each site ensuring that it is free from all encumbrances has not been submitted.

f. The State has informed that the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation seen in the forest area are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar. Moreover, the State has not mentioned

anything about the transmission lines. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter and submit a detailed report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.

liv. The committee further observed that the area has the presence of elephants and therefore it would be prudent to seek comments from the Project Elephant Division in the matter.

lv. The proposal was considered in Advisory Committee meeting held on 25.8.2025. The Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:

(a) The State Govt. has submitted the detailed report submitted by the District Collector Rayagad and Kalahandi alongwith all supportive documents mentioning therein that the process has been completed in a fair and transparent manner by following due procedure. However, the reports are silent on the concerns raised by the people in their representations and in the petition before the Hon'ble Court. Keeping in view the Judgement dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha w.r.t. the WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & others-Vrs-Union of India & others), the state shall address the concerns raised by the petitioners and those raised by the local people in their representations.

(b) An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The State has not provided the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area.The same shall be provided.

(c) The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the plan to mitigate the soil erosion has not been submitted, which shall be submitted.

(d) The RO in the SIR had mentioned that presence of shifting cultivation and village paths has been found in maximum proposed CA sites. Accordingly, the State was asked to ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments and a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation site was asked. In this regard the State has referred to the detailed CA scheme only and the detailed report for each site ensuring that it is free from all encumbrances has not been submitted.

(e) The State was asked to submit a report on the status of violation wherein the State has not mentioned anything about the existing transmission lines. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter

and submit a detailed report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.

(f) The presence of elephants has been reported in the proposed area therefore the comments from the Project Elephant Division may also be sought on the matter.

lvi. The observation of Advisory Committee conveyed to the State Government vide EDS dated 01.09.2025. In this reference, State Government vide letter dated 23.09.2025 has reported that all concerns raised by the petitioners and local inhabitants have been carefully examined and duly addressed in a fair and transparent manner by the District Administration. Further, adequate safeguards have been ensured under the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 alongwith the Rules of 2007 and the Amendment Rules of 2012 so as to ensure proper and effective implementation of the FRA.

lvii. The Committee has observed that the User Agency has submitted the "Scheme to Mitigate Soil Erosion" proposing various structural and biological measures such as construction of retaining walls (45422 m), garland drains (7511 m), check dams (28 Nos), settling ponds (11 Nos), contour bunds (447 m), Loose Boulder Check Dams (LBCDs-100 Nos), periodic de-silting, and associated plantation works.

lviii. With regard to compensate the reduction of 8.082 ha of CA land of OMC Ltd., an additional 8.082 ha has also been included in the total CA land of 724.23 ha, allotted by both the District Collectors in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts towards Compensatory afforestation of the project. Further clarified that no Compensatory Afforestation has been raised over the aforesaid 8.082 ha, which forms part of the CA area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines Project (Proposal No FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) and has now been included in the lease area of the instant proposal.

lix. State Government has informed that the presence of certain seasonal land-use features, including temporary cultivation and footpaths. As certified by the Tahasildars and jointly endorsed by the Range Officers, these activities represent temporary usages by local villagers in the past and can be discontinued or removed at any point of time. Such transient indicators do not amount to any permanent change in land use, and accordingly, the identified land patches are considered suitable for afforestation.

lx. The State has informed that the existing transmission line was established under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyou Yojana (DDUGJY) (RGGVY XII Plan), for electrification of Malipadar village within the present Sijimali Bauxite Block prior to its auction. It is evident that the establishment of the said transmission line predates the involvement of the present applicant, Vedanta Ltd. and therefore no violation of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, is attributable to the User Agency.

lxi. Further, the State has informed that as per the Summer and Winter Elephant Census, figures for the year 2024-25, a total of 35 elephants have

been recorded in the Rayagada Forest Division. There is one resident male elephant in Rayagada Forest Division at aerial distance of approximately 85-90 km from the lease boundary in Gunupur Range, while the remaining elephants are migratory, frequently moving in and out of Rayagada into adjacent Divisions**.**The Division encompasses two elephant corridors (Ref Elephant Corridors of India, 2023 published by MoEF CC), namely the Kotgarh-Chandrapur Corridor and the KarlapatUrladani Corridor Both corridors are situated beyond the 10 km impact zone of the Sijimali Mining Lease boundary, however, elephant movement has been recorded at aerial distances of approximately 15-20 km from the lease boundary during the years 2022-23 (2 Elephants), 2024-25 (10 Elephants), and 2025-26 (4 Elephants) in the recent past. Further, to mitigate any potential negative impacts a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) has been prepared and duly approved by the PCCF (Wildlife)-cum-CWLW, Odisha, vide Letter No. 9718 dated 16.08.2024.

lxii. The committee observed that the Hon'ble High court while disposing the matter ha iter-alia observed that "*Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no.8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note*".

lxiii. The above facts were considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.10.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter

a. The State Government shall submit a copy of affidavits filed by the petitioner and respondents in W.P. (C) No.3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & Others-Vrs-Union Of India & Others) filed before Hon'ble High Court of Odisha for further necessary action in the Ministry.
b. The copy of affidavit filed by state may also be given.

lxiv. The observation of Advisory Committee was conveyed to the State Government vide EDS dated 06.11.2025.

lxv. The committee noted that the State Government vide letter dated 13.11.2025 has reported that there was no affidavit filed by the Petitioner nor the Respondents. State Government has submitted copies of the Orders dtd. 12.02.2025, 05.03.2025 and 02.09.2025 passed in the W.P. (C) No.3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & Others-Vrs-Union Of India & Others) and dtd.09.10.2025 passed in IA No.4490 of 2025 by the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa. Further, State Government has reported that Counter Affidavit has not been filed by State in the said Writ Petition.

lxvi. The Committee noted that several representations have been received alleging irregularities and fraudulent conduct of Gram Sabha proceedings related to the proposal. Recently, another representation dated 22.11.2025 has also been received, alleging that misleading replies were submitted to the Ministry. The Committee took note of the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court dated 05.03.2025, wherein the Hon'ble Court directed that the submission of petitioner is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency.

lxvii. In compliance with the Hon'ble High Court's directions, the Ministry requested the State Government to examine and address the concerns raised in the representations and in the petition. The State Government in this regard forwarded the response of the District Collectors of Rayagada and Kalahandi. Both the District Collectors have affirmed that the entire FRA process, including Gram Sabha proceedings, was undertaken in a fair and transparent manner and in accordance with due procedure. The Committee noted that, under the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA, 2006), the District Collector is the competent statutory authority responsible for issuing the FRA compliance certificate. The District Collectors of Rayagada and Kalahandi have maintained that the entire process pertaining to FRA compliance, including Gram Sabha proceedings, has been conducted in a fair and transparent manner without any procedural lapses. The Committee observed that these confirmations from the statutory authorities form the basis of FRA compliance for the proposal.

4. **Decision of Advisory Committee:-** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and the CCF in the office of Nodal officer (FCA), Government of Odisha '***recommended'*** the Stage-I / In-principle approval for diversion of 708.204 ha (564.581 ha in Rayagada Forest Division + 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division) of Forest land (including 11.195 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within total Mining Lease area in 1548.786 ha of Sijimali Bauxite Mines in Rayagada Forest Division & Kalahandı (South) Forest Division under Rayagada and Kalahandi District respectively in respect of M/s Vedanta Limited subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-

i. The State Government shall ensure complete compliance of the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA, 2006);

ii. A total of 310.786 hectares of land located within the mining lease boundary (beyond the safety zone) shall remain undisturbed, as the User Agency has indicated that no bauxite reserves are present in this area. This land shall be maintained as a green belt, and the User Agency shall ensure that no tree felling, mining operations, or any other form of land disturbance is carried out within this area.

iii. The State Government shall take steps to ensure that the approval for the change in CA site for 8.082 ha CA area shall be obtained from the competent authority in case of Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017.

iv. As mining is proposed at the hilltop and may affect the natural catchment area, the User Agency shall implement comprehensive soil conservation measures on the hillock and adjoining forest areas. These measures shall aim to prevent surface runoff from leaving the mining zone and to safeguard downstream ecosystems.The Plan for the same shall be approved by the State Forest Department and implemented under its supervision.

v. The User Agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, including the restoration schedule and the schedule for surrender of forest land, along with the compliance report.

vi. The User Agency shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are free from encroachments before being handed over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall ensure that the CA sites are properly fenced, cleared of encroachments, and planted, at the cost of the User Agency.

vii. A comprehensive site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared and implemented at the cost of the user agency to reduce the adverse effect of project on wildlife. This will also include a comprehensive Human–Elephant Conflict Monitoring and Mitigation Plan. The preparation of the Wildlife Management Plan and monitoring of its implementation shall be done by Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The plan shall include systematic monitoring of human–elephant interactions, research on habitat use and conflict drivers, and capacity-building programmes for local communities, forest managers, and mine developers to ensure effective conflict prevention and management.

Additional Agenda No. 1

Proposal No. FP/RJ/OTHERS/509218/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking Ex-Post Facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.487 ha Protected forest land in favour of Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department of Rajasthan for Beautification and Renovation work in Kaila Devi Temple Jheel KaBada, Bayana Tehsil, Bharatpur District of Rajasthan State

1. The agenda for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The IGF (Central), RO Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Rajasthan were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions

c. SFD shall take necessary precautions to prevent any adverse effect especially on the floral and fauna of the adjoining forest land and also prevent Human Wildlife conflicts in the future

xv. The Committee noted that the State Forest Department has issued notice dated 18.8.2025 to Devasthan Department and forest officials. The Nodal Officer informed the Committee that the action against the violations and the forest officials for not stopping the violation is under process. The Committee noted the same.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the IGF (Central), Regional Office, Gandhinagar and officials from Government of Rajasthan, recommended the proposal for grant of ***'in-principle'*** approval for diversion of 4.487 ha Protected forest land in favour of Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department of Rajasthan for Beautification and Renovation work in Kaila Devi Temple Jheel KaBada, Bayana Tehsil, Bharatpur District of Rajasthan State subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:

i. The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer withmaximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date ofraising of such demand till the deposit is made.

ii. The Regional Office, Gandhinagar shall initiate action against violations in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3A and 3B of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

iii. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.

iv. To safeguard the undisturbed area of the forest block and to prevent any further expansion of the temple associated infrastructure, State Govt. shall construct a boundary wall all around the temple and its associated infrastructure developed.

v. The State Forest Department shall take necessary precautions to prevent any adverse effect especially on the floral and fauna of the adjoining forest land and also prevent Human Wildlife conflicts in the future.

(Confirmed through E-mail)
Dr. K R Sree Harsha
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)
Shri Nityanand Srivastava
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)
Dr. Mehraj AS

Deputy Commissioner (NRM)
(Member)

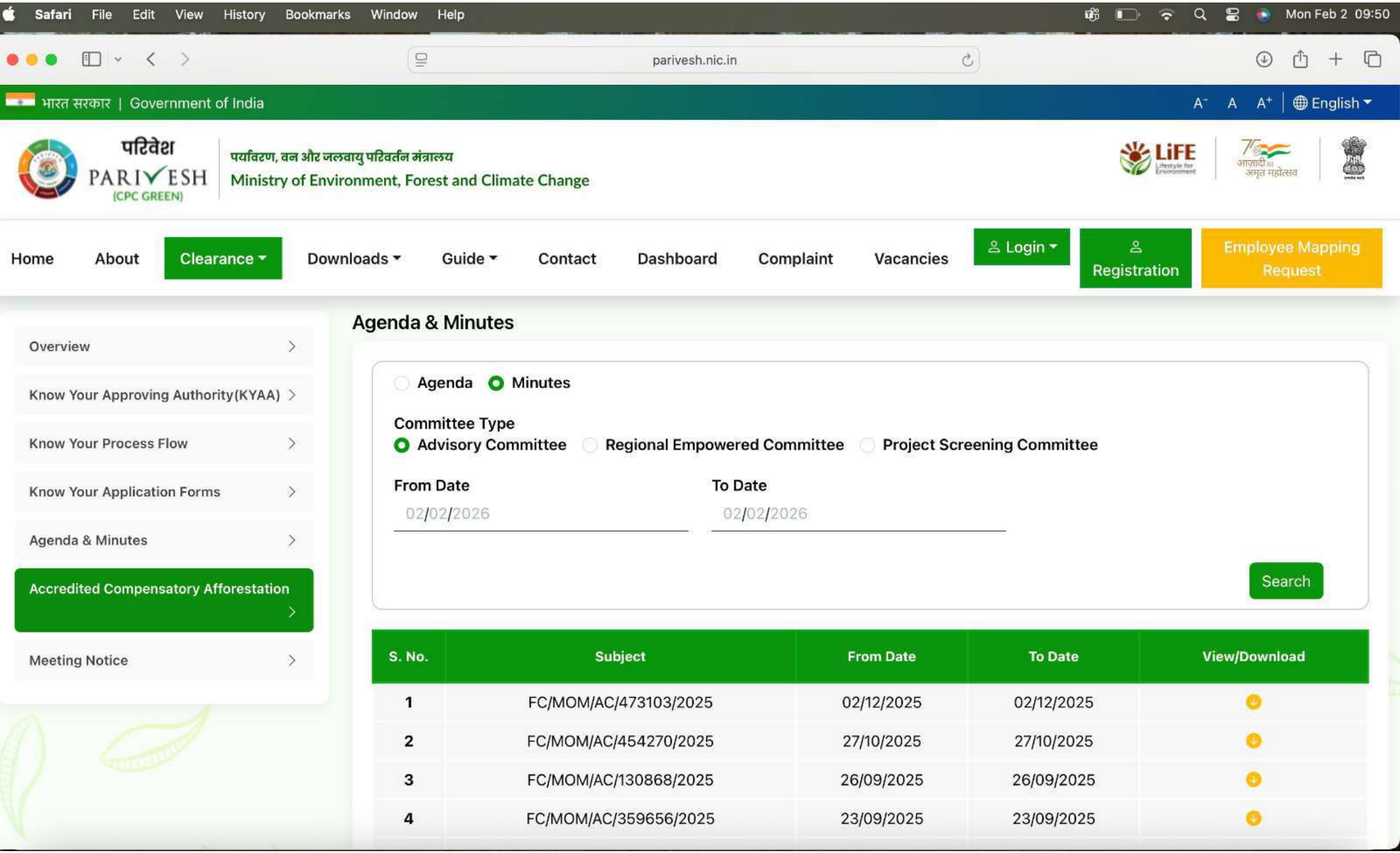
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Shri Santosh Tiwari
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Additional Director General of Forests (WL)
(Member)

(Confirmed on file)
Shri R. Raghu Prasad
Inspector General of Forests
(Member Secretary)

(Approved)
Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi
(Director General of Forests and Special Secretary)
(Chairperson)

ANNEXURE A28



ANNEXURE A29

Bhupendra Singh Poonia, IAS
Managing Director

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

I/We do hereby authorized to sign all the documents/maps for filing of the Forest Diversion Proposal in respect of diversion of forest land measuring 4.911 ha in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada district for construction of approach road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hill top) to SH-44 for facilitating Bauxite transportation by M/s Vedanta Ltd.

Managing Director
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

Authorized Signatory

Consultant(Env.)
11/2/25

Managing Director
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar – 751022, Odisha, INDIA
+91- 0674 - 2541525, 2540820 | Fax: 2542956 / 2541982
cgmenv@idco.in | www.idco.in

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

As per Minutes of the meeting held on 24.01.2024 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Odisha on the issue of transportation of Bauxite from Sijimali Mines in Raygada district, a road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines to SH-44 over a length of 2.98 Km for which the land will be acquired by IDCO and in turn would be transferred to PWD. However the total length of the road is 3.4 Km as has been mentioned in the DPR which includes 0.42 km within the Sijimali Bauxite ML area.

Vedanta Limited has been allocated with Sijimali Bauxite mine spread over Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha in March 2023, having estimated resource of around 311 Million Tonnes. For meeting the increased requirement of raw material, Vedanta intends to operate Sijimali block for dispatching Bauxite from mines to its Refinery.

In this regard, the total involvement of area is 11.314 Ha in Kashipur tehsil of Rayagada District, out of which, 4.911 Ha comes under Forest Category and requires forest clearance under FC Act 1980.

Need of the project

M/s Vedanta Limited has now got the lease for excavation of Sijimali Bauxite ore mines under Kashipur Tehsil of Rayagada district. M/s Vedanta intends to transports the Bauxite ore of 9 MTPA from mines to Alumina Refinery plant situated at Lanjigarh through road and rail transport. Since, the road connectivity from Sijimali Mines top to SH-44 is not available at site; it was decided to execute suitable road connectivity from Mines top to SH-44 for transportation of Bauxite ore through Bulkers/trucks. It has decided to take up the construction of new road from Sijimali Mines top to SH 44 up to a distance 3.4 km in the state of Odisha.

The Sijimali mining site is located in the south-western part of Rayagada district in Odisha. The lease area of 1548.786 hectares falls under Thuamul-Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandi district and Kashipur Tehsil of Rayagada district in the state of Odisha. The lease area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet nos. E44F2 and E44F3 and bounded by latitude of 19° 28' 42.42" to 19° 32' 02.35" N & longitude of 83° 06' 04.66" to 83° 09' 49.80" E.

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

VEDANTA LIMITED

The proposed access road project is a linear one. The project area falls in the village Bichhapinda, Dumerpadar, Porlang & Sagabari under Kashipur Tahasil in the district of Rayagada, Odisha.

Name of Projects: Construction of access road over an area of 11.314 ha for transportation of Bauxite ore through Bulkers/trucks from Sijimali Bauxite Mines of M/s Vedanta Ltd.

Total Length of the access road from Sijimali mines top to SH-44= 2980 mtr
Total average width of the access road= 37.966 mtr

Sl. No	Item	Forest area			Non-Forest area			Total area in Ha
		Length in m	Width in m	Area in Hect	Length in m	Width in m	Area in Hect	
1	Proposed access Road	1370.236	35.84	**4.911**	1609.764	39.776	**6.403**	**11.314**

Land requirement of the project

The total land requirement for the access road project is 11.314 Ha and out of total area 4.911 ha is DLC forest. The details are furnished below.

ABSTRACT OF TOTAL LAND INVOLVED WITHIN THE ACCESS ROAD OF SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES									
All Figures area in Hectares									
Sl.No	Village	RF, PRF & Rev. Forest	DLC Forest	Status of land as on 25.10.1980	Total Forest	Pvt. Land	Non-forest Govt. land	Total NF area	Total
1	Bichapinda	0	0	0	**0**	0	2.356	**2.356**	**2.356**
2	Dumerapadar	0	0	0	**0**	0.160	0.505	**0.665**	**0.665**
3	Porlang	0	0.196	0	**0.196**	0	0	**0**	**0.196**
4	Sagabari	0	4.715	0	**4.715**	0	3.382	**3.382**	**8.097**
	Total in Ha	**0**	**4.911**	**0**	**4.911**	**0.160**	**6.243**	**6.403**	**11.314**

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VEDANTA LIMITED

The details of Existing Land Use of total lease area in Ha are as mentioned below:

EXISTING LAND USE OF SIJIMALI ACCESS ROAD

All Figures area in Hectares

Sl.No	Item	RF, PRF & Rev. Forest	DLC Forest	Status of land as on 25.10.1980	Total Forest	Pvt. Land	Non-forest Govt. land	Total NF area	Total
1	Undisturbed area	0	4.911	0	4.911	0.160	6.243	6.403	11.314
	Total in Ha	**0**	**4.911**	**0**	**4.911**	**0.160**	**6.243**	**6.403**	**11.314**

The total cost of the project comes to **56.35 Cr** as approved in DPR.
The details of the employment likely to be generated as furnished below.

DURING CONSTRUCTION PHASE:	
Permanent Employment	
a. No. of Permanent Employment	02
b. Period of Employment (No. of day) 06 months	180 Days
No. of Man-days [x] = [a] X [b]	360 Mandays
Temporary Employment	
Temporary /Contractual Employment (No. Of man-days) [y]	180 Days
Total man-days [x + y]	540 Mandays
DURING OPERATIONAL PHASE:	
Permanent Employment	
a. No. of Permanent Employment	01
b. Period of Employment (No. of day)	365 Days
No. of Man-days [y] = [a] * [b] (For 87 Days)	365 Mandays
Temporary Employment	
Temporary /Contractual Employment (No. Of man-days) [y] (Working – 5* 365 Days)	1825 Days
Total man-days [x + y]	2190 Mandays

Consultant, Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

VEDANTA LIMITED

Justification for locating the project in forest area

As per Minutes of the meeting held on 24.01.2024 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Odisha on the issue of transportation of Bauxite from Sijimali Mines in Raygada district, a road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines to SH 44 over a length of around 2.98 km for which the land will be acquired by IDCO and in turn would be transferred to PWD. However the total length of the road is 3.4 Km as has been mentioned in the DPR which includes 0.42 km within the Sijimali Bauxite ML area.

Vedanta Limited has been allocated with Sijimali Bauxite mine spread over Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha in March 2023, having estimated resource of around 311 Million Tonnes. For meeting the increased requirement of raw material, Vedanta intends to operate Sijimali block for dispatching Bauxite from mines to its Refinery.

In this regard, the total involvement of area is 11.314 Ha in Kashipur tehsil of Rayagada District, out of which, 4.911 Ha comes under Forest Category and requires forest clearance under FC Act 1980.

It was tried to explore 3 alternative routes to have an option of the proposed access road for dispatching our ore through trucks, Dumpers etc to different destinations. The options are as follows:

<u>The route selection is given below:</u>

For the purpose of construction of the access road from the point adjacent to the lease area, 03 (three) nos of the alternatives have been examined. The same are furnished below and also depicted on SOI Toposheet No. E44F2 & E44F3.

Comparative Assessment of surveyed three proposed alignments

Alter-Natives	Route Length	Approx. Cost of the project in crore	Total land Requirement in ha	Forest area Required in ha	Non-forest Area required in ha	Nature of Ground	Remarks
ALT-1	2.98 Km	54.412	11.314	4.911	6.403	Plain, undulating and hilly area	Less Forest land
ALT-2	3.45 Km	55.000	11.74	5.95	5.79	Plain, Hilly & Undulating and passes through private land	More forest land
ALT-3	5.63 Km	90.000	18.594	7.66	10.934	Plain, Hilly & Undulating and passes Through private land	

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

VEDANTA LIMITED

Conclusion

Keeping in view the above stated parameters in between the three surveyed sites, the alignment selected **(ALT - 1)** has the following merits over the other two sites.

- Least road length is required for construction of the access road.
- Least extent of forest land is involved.
- Shortest route
- Cost of erection, maintenance and time of commissioning is low.

Based on the above analysis it can be seen that the site of **ALT-1** is most suitable and justified site for construction of the access road and hence it was selected for detailed survey.

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

VEDANTA LIMITED

PLATE - II

MAP SHOWING THE LAYOUT OF PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD CONNECTING FROM SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES (HILL TOP) TO SH No. 44 BY IDCO BHUBANESWAR , ODISHA

0 70 140 280 420 560 Meters

Scale 1:3,980

N

W E

S

LAND SCHEDULE

Sl.No.	Khata No.	Village Name	Plot No.	Total Area in Ac	Acquired Area in Ac	HAL Kissam	Tenant Name	Class of land
1	5	Bichapindha	23	8.000	1.948	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
2	5	Bichapindha	24	8.000	3.873	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
3	72	Dumerapadar	377	9.000	1.094	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
4	72	Dumerapadar	374	21.250	0.086	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
5	70	Dumerapadar	375	1.220	0.068	Rasta	Sarbasadharana	Govt. land
6	44	Dumerapadar	377/437	2.130	0.396	Dangara	Jaya Majhi	Pvt. land
7	35	Porlang	280	16.000	0.485	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	DLC Forest
8	156	Sagabari	4	26.380	7.274	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	DLC Forest
9	156	Sagabari	31	9.000	1.369	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
10	154	Sagabari	32	0.500	0.185	Rasta	Sarbasadharana	Govt. land
11	156	Sagabari	5	32.750	4.376	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	DLC Forest
12	156	Sagabari	6	14.250	1.768	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
13	156	Sagabari	732	9.300	1.76	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
14	156	Sagabari	733	7.750	1.329	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
15	156	Sagabari	770	8.500	1.946	Pahada	Abada Ajogya Anabadi	Govt. land
		Total area in Ac			27.957			
		Total area in Ha			11.314			

ମୌଜା ବିଚାପିଣ୍ଡା
ଥାନା କାଶିପୁର୍ ନ.୧୮
ତହସିଲ୍ କାଶିପୁର୍ ନ.୧୮
BICHHAPINDA
Thana Kashipur No.18
ଜିଲ୍ଲା କୋରାପୁଟ
ସ୍କେଲ୍ ୧ ଇଞ୍ଚ୍=୧ ମାଇଲ୍ Scale 16-1 Mile
ସନ ୧୯୯୩-୯୪ Year 1993-94

ମୌଜା ଶାଗବାରି, ସିଟ ନଂ୧
ଥାନା କାଶିପୁର୍ ନ୍ୟ
ତହସିଲ୍ କାଶିପୁର୍ ନ୍ୟ
SAGABARI SHEET No.1
Thana Kashipur No.82.
ଜିଲ୍ଲା କୋରାପୁଟ
ସ୍କେଲ୍ ୧ ଇଞ୍ଚ୍=୧ ମାଇଲ୍ Scale 16-1 Mile
ସନ ୧୯୯୩-୯୪ Year 1993-94

Index to Sheets

Certified that this map has been finally framed and a copy of it has been finally published in accordance with rule 27 read with rule 60 of o.s.&.s rules 1962 on 10th September 1993.

Legend
PROPOSED ROAD COORIDOR
FOREST PATCHES OF ROAD COORIDOR

Revenue Inspector Addakuri

Tahasildar Kashipur Dist. Rayagada

Forest Range Officer Kashipur Range

Certified that this map has been finally
it has been finally published in accordan
with rule 60 of o.s. & s rules 1962 on

EDS History

Proposal No: **FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025**

Area (in ha): **4.911**

Proponent Name: **IDCO**

EDS Raised by: **All**

Raised On Date: **N/A**

Raised On	S.No.	Query	Reply
12/08/2025	1	**Raised By:** Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) **Query:** EDS **Description:** Please furnish compliance to the EDS raised GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi on dated 07.08.2025.	**Replied By:** Project Proponent **Replied On:** 12/12/2025 **Reply:** MOEFCC in the EDS has asked to submit the proposal after obtaining in principle approval for the diversion of forest land in sijimali bauxite mines.Now MOEFCC has accordated in princile approval for diversion of forest land for sijimali bauxite mines (Copy Attached). Hence the diversion proposal for the road may please be processed and Satge I approval may please be accorded. **Document:** eds replay sijimali.pdf
11/08/2025	2	**Raised By:** State Secretary (SS) **Query:** EDS **Description:** For necessary compliance.	Reply not received

Raised On	S.No.	Query	Reply
	3	**Raised By:** MoEF&CC **Query:** EDS **Description:** The proposed road is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles for the mineral evacuation from the Sijimali Bauxite Mine. Therefore, the proposal for road construction can only be considered once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the said mining lease is approved. The State government shall therefore submit the proposal after obtaining the in-principle approval for the diversion of forest land in the Sijimali Bauxite Mine.	Reply not received
11/08/2025	4	**Raised By:** Nodal Officer **Query:** EDS **Description:** Please furnish compliance to the EDS raised GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi on dated 07.08.2025.	Reply not received
	5	**Raised By:** State Secretary (SS) **Query:** EDS **Description:** For necessary compliance	**Replied By:** Nodal Officer **Replied On:** 29/05/2025 **Reply:** Compliance to the online EDS dated 19.05.2025 of GoI, MoEF&CC, RO, BBSR, Odisha is sent herewith vide No.11767 dated 29.05.2025. **Document:** 11767 sijimali compliance with annexures.pdf

Raised On	S.No.	Query	Reply
15/04/2025	6	**Raised By:** Nodal Officer **Query:** EDS **Description:** Please furnish compliance to the observations communicated vide Memo No.8467 dated 15.04.2025 through e-mail.	**Replied By:** **Replied On:** 19/05/2025 **Reply:** Compliance on the EDS raised by the Nodal vide memo no.8467 dt.15.04.2025. **Document:** 2154-proposal for diversion of 4.911 ha land for construction of road ..pdf

Raised On	S.No.	Query	Reply
05/04/2025	7	**Raised By:** Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) **Query:** Please comply the following shortcomings (EDS) pointed out in Form-A (Part-I). **Description:** 1. KML Details of Forest Patches: i. As per your EDS reply vide Letter No. 8239 dated 24.03.2025, it is noted that there are two forest patches involved. However, in Form-A (Part-I), three forest patches have been mentioned. This inconsistency needs to be corrected. ii. Further, in the KML file uploaded on the PARIVESH portal along with Form-A (Part-I), the patches have been incorrectly labeled as Patch I and Patch III. Additionally, the three distinct segments of Patch II—Segment-1, Segment-2, and Segment-3—have not been labeled appropriately in the KML file. A revised and correctly labeled KML file should be uploaded.2. Location Details of Forest Land:While the location details for Porlang village, including the relevant Toposheet number, have been entered, the corresponding details for Sagabari village are missing and should be included.3. Total Forest Land Area (KML-wise) for Diversion:In Form-A (Part-I), the Total Forest Land Area is incorrectly mentioned as 0.196 ha, with Total Non-Forest Land Area as 0 ha, and Total Area as 0.196 ha. These figures should be revised to reflect the actual areas as per the Forest Diversion Proposal (FDP), i.e., 4.911 ha of Forest Land, 6.403 ha of Non-Forest Land, and a Total Area of 11.314 ha. 4. The corrected map, as per your EDS reply, showing the proposed land use plan of the forest area, may kindly be uploaded at the appropriate sectio	**Replied By:** **Replied On:** 19/05/2025 **Reply:** Compliance to EDS raised vide Letter No. 1926 dtd 05.04.2025 of DFO Rayagada **Document:** replay to eds of dfo, rayagada (vedanta).pdf

Raised On	S.No.	Query	Reply
05/03/2025	8	**Raised By:** Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) **Query:** You are requested to comply the shortcomings pointed out in the FDP at an early date and re-submit the proposal to this office for taking further action at this end **Description:** Details of Shortcomings:-1. Four distinct patches of forest land are visible, whereas the Forest Diversion Proposal (FDP) mentions only three and DGPS Map mentions only two. Ensure that all four patches are accurately reflected in all necessary documents, including the DGPS map, KML of the project area, KML of forest patches, and patch-wise details.2. Specify the total length of the road as well as the length and width of the road passing through each forest patch.3. Provide a detailed category-wise breakup of land, specifying private land, government non-forest land, and forest land.4. The use of forest land for non-forest purposes should be limited to the minimum extent required. In this regard: i. Submit a land use plan and map clearly specifying the component-wise breakup of land, detailing the area required for various elements of the road, including the carriageway, paved and earthen shoulders, RCC retaining walls, breast walls, culverts, drains, LVUPs, etc ii. Justify the proposed Right of Way (RoW) of 33 to 48 meters as stated in the DPR, considering that the required RoW for a two-lane road with shoulders is typically much lower. iii. Additionally, provide justification for variations in RoW across stretches with similar elevation and sections without turns. iv. The KML data also indicates that RoW exceeds 48 meters in some locations—please provides a justification for	**Replied By:** **Replied On:** 19/05/2025 **Reply:** Compliance to EDS raised Vide Letter no-1202 Dated-4.03.2025 of DFO Rayagada Forest Division submitted vide this office letter no 8239 Dated-24.03.2025.This may please be noted that the DGPS map of project area has already been uploaded in portal at iteam no 7 of part 1 of FDP application. **Document:** compliance to eds (vedanta, rayagada).pdf

Raised On	S.No.	Query	Reply
17/04/2025	9	**Raised By:** Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) **Query:** EDS **Description:** Please comply the EDS point no.1, 3 & 4 pointed out by the Addl. PCCF (FD & NO), O/o the PCCF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.	**Replied By:** **Replied On:** 19/05/2025 **Reply:** Compliance to EDS raised by DFO vide Letter No. 2075 dtd 16.04.2025 submitted vide this office Letter No. 11044 dtd 17.04.2025 **Document:** eds reply vedanta.pdf

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER : RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION

E.Mail: dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Letter No 1202 **4F (Misc.) 1984/2025.**
Dated, Rayagada the 04 **th March, 2025.**

To

The Consultant (Env), IDCO,
IDCO Tower, Janapath,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: - Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH -44 under Rayagada District/Division.

Ref: - Your Letter No. 4391 dt.12.02.2025.

Sir,

With reference to the above cited letter number on the captioned subject, it is seen that, you have submitted the proposal through Parivesh-2.0 for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH -44 under Rayagada District/Division. On verification of the forest diversion proposal, the following shortcomings are noticed.

Details of Shortcomings:-

1. Four distinct patches of forest land are visible, whereas the Forest Diversion Proposal (FDP) mentions only three and DGPS Map mentions only two. Ensure that all four patches are accurately reflected in all necessary documents, including the DGPS map, KML of the project area, KML of forest patches, and patch-wise details.
2. Specify the total length of the road as well as the length and width of the road passing through each forest patch.
3. Provide a detailed category-wise breakup of land, specifying private land, government non-forest land, and forest land.
4. The use of forest land for non-forest purposes should be limited to the minimum extent required. In this regard:
    i. Submit a land use plan and map clearly specifying the component-wise breakup of land, detailing the area required for various elements of the road, including the carriageway, paved and earthen shoulders, RCC retaining walls, breast walls, culverts, drains, LVUPs, etc
    ii. Justify the proposed Right of Way (RoW) of 33 to 48 meters as stated in the DPR, considering that the required RoW for a two-lane road with shoulders is typically much lower.
    iii. Additionally, provide justification for variations in RoW across stretches with similar elevation and sections without turns.
    iv. The KML data also indicates that RoW exceeds 48 meters in some locations—please provides a justification for this as well.

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5. Verify the project cost, as it appears to be mistakenly mentioned as ₹56,35,42,229 lakhs.
6. As the stated purpose of the road is to facilitate bauxite transportation from the Sijimali Bauxite Block to SH-44, and the mine lease period is limited to 50 years, provide a justification for seeking diversion of forest land for a period of 99 years for the road connecting Sijimali Top to SH-44.
7. Include a map showing the distance of the project from various Protected Areas (PAs).
8. Submit a Survey of India (SOI) Topographic Map depicting the 10 km buffer area around the project site. Additionally, provide the corresponding KML file for reference.
9. Clearly specify whether the project falls within the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of any Protected Area (PA).
10. Serially Page numbering of all the documents of hard copy submitted by the UA has not been done.
11. The Letter of Authority to file the application has not been uploaded on the Parivesh portal.
12. Checklist Sl. No. 7: The statement detailing the forest land involved in the project (in the prescribed format) has not been signed by the Tahasildar, Kashipur.
13. Checklist Sl. No. 8: The statement detailing the non-forest land involved in the project (in the prescribed format) has not been signed by the Tahasildar, Kashipur.
14. Checklist Sl. No. 16: The Tahasildar, Kolnara, has issued a Non-Encroachment and Non-Encumbrance Certificate for the non-forest government land allotted for Compensatory Afforestation (CA). However, the KML file submitted by the User Agency indicates that a portion of the area is under agricultural encroachment. Please clarify.
15. Checklist Sl. No. 34 to 36: The undertakings to pay PCA, RWLMP, and SSWLCP have not been submitted/uploaded by the User Agency.

Since there are legitimate concerns regarding the actual extent of forest land to be diverted, the site inspection is deferred until the User Agency submits compliance with the EDS and clarifies the land use plan and Right of Way (RoW) requirements.

Hence, you are requested to comply the same at an early date and re-submit the proposal to this office for taking further action at this end.

Yours faithfully,

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1203 / Dt. 04-03-2025

Copy submitted to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests Koraput Circle, Koraput for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

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Memo No. 1204 / Dt. 04-03-2025

Copy submitted to the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F.C. Act), O/o. the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

SCAN AnyScanner

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Env)

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

No. HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024 8239 **Date: 24/03/2025**

To,

Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Forest Division
Rayagada

Sub: Proposal for diversion of forest land measuring 4.911 ha in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of road from SH-44 to Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hill top) under Rayagada District.

Ref:- Your letter No.1202, dt.04/03/2025.

Sir,

The observations communicated vide your letter cited above on Diversion Proposal of land measuring 4.911 ha of forest land in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada district for construction of approach road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hill top) to SH-44 for facilitating Bauxite transportation by M/s Vedanta Ltd. are complied as enclosed. The compliance alongwith the annexures are submitted herewith for further action at your end.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,

Consultant (Env.)

Memo No._____/ Date:24/03/2025

Copy submitted to the Addl PCCF, Nodal, FC Act, O/o the PCCF for kind information & necessary action, with reference to memo No.1204, dt.04/03/2025 of Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division.

Consultant (Env.)

Memo No._____/ Date:24/03/2025

Copy submitted to the RCCF, Koraput Circle, Koraput for kind information & necessary action, with reference to memo No.1203, dt.04/03/2025 of Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division.

Consultant (Env.)

Memo No._____/ Date:24/03/2025

Copy forwarded to the CGM(Land), IDCO for information & necessary action.

Consultant (Env.)

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Env)

Memo No._____/ Date:24/03/2025

Copy forwarded to the Project Head- Sijimali Bauxite Mine, M/s Vedanta Ltd., 5th Floor, Module C/2, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Consultant (Env.)

<table>
<tr><th>SN</th><th>EDS POINTS</th><th>EDS REPLY</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>Four distinct patches of forest land are visible, whereas the Forest Diversion Proposal (FDP) mentions only three and DGPS Map mentions only two. Ensure that all four patches are accurately reflected in all necessary documents, including the DGPS map, KML of the project area, KML of forest patches, and patch-wise details.</td><td>Although 4 patches are visible in the Forest Diversion Proposal, 2 patches have been shown as per combined revenue map of village Porlang and Shagabari. Basing on the revenue map, ORSAC has prepared the DGPS survey map in two patches according to villages, one in village Porlang and another patch in village Shagabari.

The KML, maps and the details in the FDP proposal have been corrected to two numbers of patches. Corrected KML file and project map have been uploaded and enclosed as Annexure-1 & 2.
The patch wise details are as below:

<table>
<tr><th>Patch</th><th>Village</th><th>Khata No</th><th>Plot No</th><th>Area in Ha (Sub-total)</th><th>Area in Ha (Total)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Patch-1</td><td>Porlang</td><td>35</td><td>280(P)</td><td>0.196</td><td>0.196</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Patch-2</td><td rowspan="2">Shagabari</td><td>156</td><td>4(P)</td><td>2.944</td><td rowspan="2">4.715</td></tr>
<tr><td>156</td><td>5(P)</td><td>1.771</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Total Area of Forest land</td><td>4.911</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>Specify the total length of the road as well as the length and width of the road passing through each forest patch.</td><td>The total length of the proposed road is 3.4 Km as mentioned in the DPR which includes 0.42 km within the ML area. However, the length of the proposed road up to the mines boundary is 2.98 Km out of which 1.37 km passes through the forest area for which the proposal has been revised and uploaded accordingly. The land schedule submitted is for 2.98 Km length of the road.
Total length & average width of Road in forest land is as under.
Patch I: Length 63.254 m, Width 31 m,
Patch II, segment-1: Length 678.158 m, Width 38 m,
Patch II, segment-2: Length 261.765 m, Width 34 m,
Patch II, segment-3: Length 367.059 m, Width 34 m</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>Provide a detailed category-wise breakup of land, specifying private land, government non-forest land, and forest land.</td><td>The required information has already been submitted as Annexure-IV of FDP. However, the category -wise break -up enclosed herewith as Annexure-3.</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td>The use of forest land for non-forest purposes should be limited to the minimum extent required. In this regard:
i. Submit a land use plan and map clearly specifying the component-wise breakup of land, detailing the area required for various elements</td><td>i. Land use map showing the area of various components of proposed road is enclosed as Annexure-4.
ii. As per IRC 73 2023 clause 4.1, additional land is required at locations involving deep cuts to maintain stability of slopes, high fills and unstable/land slide areas, so proposed ROW has been accordingly decided. (Ref. Annexure-5)</td></tr>
</table>

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

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	of the road, including the carriageway, paved and earthen shoulders, RCC retaining walls, breast walls, culverts, drains, LVUPs, etc. ii. Justify the proposed Right of Way (RoW) of 33 to 48 meters as stated in the DPR, considering that the required RoW for a two-lane road with shoulders is typically much lower. iii. Additionally, provide justification for variations in RoW across stretches with similar elevation and sections without turns. iv. The KML data also indicates that RoW exceeds 48 meters in some Locations— please provides a Justification for this as well.	This is a hilly road, and 4 types of typical cross sections are considered for the entire length of road. As mentioned in the DPR, TCS-1: 33m, TCS-2: 38m, TCS-3: 48m, TCS-4: 33m. (To accommodate all the components i.e., the carriageway, paved and earthen shoulders, RCC retaining walls, breast walls, culverts, drains, RoW of 33 to 48 meters is required. iii. The road stretch coming under plot 5(P), is completely in the hill slope side with elevation difference from 939m to 922m. There is a sharp curve and an elevation difference near to plot 280(P) from 930m to 900m. In plot No. 4(P), segment-1 & segment-2, both are in slopy side of the hill and curve in segment-1 and segment-3 is in the uphill side with difference in elevation. The RoW has been decided to accommodate sharp curves, steep elevations and looking at the safety point of view. Considering the cutting/fillings for utility corridors and for accommodating all the components of road, the width is different across stretches. The final elevation of the road as mentioned in the DPR is post construction (cutting/ filling). The RoW is certain section varies to counter the elevation, topography and terrain factor. iv. Corrected KML has been uploaded and is enclosed herewith for your information. **(Ref: Annexure-6)**
5	Verify the project cost, as it appears to be mistakenly mentioned as 56,35,42,229 lakhs.	The project cost is Rs 56,35,42,229/- and has been corrected to 5635.42 lakh
6	As the stated purpose of the road is to facilitate bauxite transportation from the Sijimali Bauxite Block to SH-44, and the mine lease period is limited to 50 years, provide a justification for seeking diversion of forest land for a period of 99 years for the road connecting Sijimali Top to SH-44.	The period considered i.e. 99 years for the road which will be owned by PWD, and it is not limited to transportation of bauxite by Vedanta only. The bauxite mine lease period is 50 years, if exhaustion of bauxite has not been done by VL, the mine may go for Re Auction. At that point in time, the road shall also be used by that future lessee for transportation and also for all govt. purposes.

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7	Include a map showing the distance of the project from various Protected Areas (PAs).	The details have been shown on a map and enclosed as **Annexure-7**
8	Submit a Survey of India (SOI) Topographic Map depicting the 10 km buffer area around the project site. Additionally, provide the corresponding KML file for reference.	The topo map and detailed KML file are enclosed as **Annexure- 8 & 9** respectively.
9	Clearly specify whether the project falls within the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of any Protected Area (PA).	No, the project area doesn't come under any ESZ or PA (Map is enclosed as **Annexure-8**)
10	Serially Page numbering of all the documents of hard copy submitted by the UA has not been done.	Shall be done
11	The Letter of Authority to file the application has not been uploaded in the Parivesh portal.	The original letter of authority is enclosed as **annexure-10** and the same has been uploaded on the portal
12	Checklist Sl. No. 7: The statement detailing the forest land involved in the project (in the prescribed format) has not been signed by the Tahsildar, Kashipur.	The document has been authenticated by the concerned Tahsildar and the same has been uploaded as **annexure-11.**
13	Checklist Sl. No. 8: The statement detailing the non-forest land involved in the project (in the prescribed format) has not been signed by the Tahsildar, Kashipur.	The document has been authenticated by the concerned Tahsildar and the same has been uploaded as **Annexure-12.**
14	Checklist Sl. No. 16: The Tahsildar, Kolnara, has issued a non-encroachment and Non-Encumbrance Certificate for the non-forest government land allotted for Compensatory Afforestation (CA). However, the KML file submitted by the User Agency indicates that a portion of the area is under agricultural encroachment. Please clarify.	Tahsildar, Kashipur has mentioned in his letter No. 945/XVIII-31/2024 dated 19.03.2025, that it is a common phenomenon that vacant lands are used by locals for seasonal cultivation which can be removed at any time. The letter of Tahsildar is enclosed as **annexure-13.**
15	15. Checklist Sl. No. 34 to 36: The undertakings to pay PCA, RWLMP, and SSWL.CP have not been submitted/uploaded by the User Agency.	Undertakings Sl No 34 to 36 have been enclosed as **annexure -14, 15 & 16** respectively.

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

VEDANTA LIMITED

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER : RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION
E.Mail: dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Letter No 1926 4F (Misc.) 1984/2025.
Dated, Rayagada the 05 th April, 2025.

To

The Consultant (Env), IDCO,
IDCO Tower, Janapath,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: - Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH -44 under Rayagada District/Division.

Ref: - This Office Letter No.1202 dt.04.03.2025 and Your Letter No. 8239 dt.24.03.2025.

Sir,

With reference to the above-cited letter number on the captioned subject and the compliance submitted in response to the EDS raised by this office vide Letter No. 1202 dated 04.03.2025, the same has been examined. It has been observed that during the course of submission, certain entries in the online Form-A (Part I) have been altered, resulting in discrepancies between the approved details and the information currently reflected. The following issues are accordingly brought to your notice for immediate correction and compliance.

1. KML Details of Forest Patches:
   i. As per your EDS reply vide Letter No. 8239 dated 24.03.2025, it is noted that there are two forest patches involved. However, in Form-A (Part-I), three forest patches have been mentioned. This inconsistency needs to be corrected.
   ii. Further, in the KML file uploaded on the PARIVESH portal along with Form-A (Part-I), the patches have been incorrectly labeled as Patch I and Patch III. Additionally, the three distinct segments of Patch II—Segment-1, Segment-2, and Segment-3—have not been labeled appropriately in the KML file. A revised and correctly labeled KML file should be uploaded.
2. Location Details of Forest Land:While the location details for Porlang village, including the relevant Toposheet number, have been entered, the corresponding details for Sagabari village are missing and should be included.
3. Total Forest Land Area (KML-wise) for Diversion:In Form-A (Part-I), the Total Forest Land Area is incorrectly mentioned as 0.196 ha, with Total Non-Forest Land Area as 0 ha, and Total Area as 0.196 ha. These figures should be revised to reflect the actual areas as per the Forest Diversion Proposal (FDP), i.e., 4.911 ha of Forest Land, 6.403 ha of Non-Forest Land, and a Total Area of 11.314 ha.
4. The corrected map, as per your EDS reply, showing the proposed land use plan of the forest area, may kindly be uploaded at the appropriate section of Form-A (Part-I) on the PARIVESH portal.

In view of the above, you are requested to make the necessary corrections and resubmit the proposal to this office at the earliest to enable further action.

Yours faithfully,

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

P.T.O

Memo No. 1927 / Dt. 05-04-2025

Copy submitted to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests Koraput Circle, Koraput for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1928 / Dt. 05-04-2025

Copy submitted to the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F.C. Act), O/o. the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Env)

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No. HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024 9966 **Date: 07/04/2025**

To,

Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Forest Division
Rayagada

Sub: Proposal for diversion of forest land measuring 4.911 ha in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of road from SH-44 to Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hill top) under Rayagada District.

Ref:- Your EDS raised vide your letter No.1926, dt.05/04/2025.

Sir,

The EDS raised by your good office, vide letter No.1926, dt.05/04/2025 are complied as below:-

SN	Details of EDS	Compliance
1	KML Details of Forest Patches: 1. As per your EDS reply vide Letter No. 8239 dated 24.03.2025, it is noted that there are two forest patches involved. However, in Form-A (Part-I), three forest patches have been mentioned. This inconsistency needs to be corrected.	There are two forest patches involved, and the same has been corrected & uploaded on the portal.
	2. Further, in the KML file uploaded on the PARIVESH portal along with Form-A (Part-I), the patches have been incorrectly labelled as Patch I and Patch III. Additionally, the three distinct segments of Patch II—Segment-1, Segment-2, and Segment-3—have not been labelled appropriately in the KML file. A revised and correctly labelled KML file should be uploaded.	KML file has been correctly labelled and uploaded.
2	Location Details of Forest Land: While the location details for Porlang village, including the relevant Toposheet number, have been entered, the corresponding details for Sagabari village are missing and should be included.	The details regarding the location of the entire forest land, along with the relevant Topo sheet number, have been entered and uploaded.

P.T.O

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar – 751022, Odisha, INDIA
+91- 0674 - 2541525, 2540820 | Fax: 2542956 / 2541982
cgmenv@idco.in | www.idco.in

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Env)

3	Total Forest Land Area (KML-wise) for Diversion: In Form-A (Part-I), the Total Forest Land Area is incorrectly mentioned as 0.196 ha, with Total Non-Forest Land Area as 0 ha, and Total Area as 0.196 ha. These figures should be revised to reflect the actual areas as per the Forest Diversion Proposal (FDP), i.e., 4.911 ha of Forest Land, 6.403 ha of Non-Forest Land, and a Total Area of 11.314 ha.	The total area of non-forest & forest land for the diversion, according to the KML file, has been corrected in the portal.
4	The corrected map, as per your EDS reply, showing the proposed land use plan of the forest area, may kindly be uploaded at the appropriate section of Form-A (Part1) on the PARIVESH portal.	The map of the proposed land use plan of the forest area has been uploaded in the appropriate section (additional document section) of Form-A (Part-I) on the Parivesh Portal.

This is for your information and necessary action.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,

Consultant (Env.)

Memo No._____/ Date:07/04/2025

Copy submitted to the Addl PCCF, Nodal, FC Act, O/o the PCCF for kind information & necessary action, with reference to memo No.1928, dt.05/04/2025 of Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division.

Consultant (Env.)

Memo No._____/ Date:07/04/2025

Copy submitted to the RCCF, Koraput Circle, Koraput for kind information & necessary action, with reference to memo No.1927, dt.05/04/2025 of Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division.

Consultant (Env.)

Memo No._____/ Date:07/04/2025

Copy forwarded to the CGM(Land), IDCO for information & necessary action.

Consultant (Env.)

Memo No._____/ Date:07/04/2025

Copy forwarded to the Project Head- Sijimali Bauxite Mine, M/s Vedanta Ltd., 5th Floor, Module C/2, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Consultant (Env.)

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)

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No. HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024 11044 **Date: 17/04/2025**

To,

Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Forest Division
Rayagada

Sub: Proposal for diversion of forest land measuring 4.911 ha in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of road from SH-44 to Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hill top) under Rayagada District- **EDS raised by Nodal Officer on 15/04/2025.**

Ref:- Your letter No.2075, dt.16/04/2025.

Sir,

In connection with the above mentioned subject, the replay to EDS raised by Nodal Officer, O/o PCCF, Odisha on the above mentioned project on 15/04/2025 is complied as under:-

SN	Details of EDS	Reply of EDS
1	As per sub-para (f) of para 7.8 of Chapter 7 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, the approach road/ conveyor belt and other additional activities related to mining shall be considered as part of the Mining Project and should therefore be processed accordingly. But the UA has applied access path as standalone project. As per sub para (I) (3) the UA needs to submit the cogent and convincing reason/ justification of not including such linear infrastructure at the inception stage. So, the UA should submit the required clarification.	1. There are 5 villages namely Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda & Malipadar having no road connectivity to the mainland below the valley. Around 1500 people are residing in these villages and they are facing hardship for their day-to-day family maintenance especially for health security. 2. The people are disconnected with the market system due to lack of road connectivity. Mostly they are dependent on barter system for their day-to-day needs. 3. Government has proposed to make a road connecting to all these villages for their ease of living. Beside this, the proposed road will facilitate to dispose any horticultural crop grow-up by the tribal community residing in the inaccessible remote area in hilltop. 4. Further government has leased out a bauxite mines to M/s Vedanta limited, which is located at the hilltop of same landscape. This road will provide

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)

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		access to the ML area for operationalization of the mines. The road proposed is solely not meant for the Vedanta limited, for which it is going to be constructed by the state PWD department. 5. The project should not be considered as a stand alone linear project of Sijimali mine rather it should be treated as normal linear road project 6. From the above points it does not attract the provision of sub-para (f) of para 7.8 of Chapter 7 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
2	6.07 ha non-forest Govt. land identified for CA in village Tingarjhola under Kolanara Tahasil out of which 3.0 ha is non-forest category (DSS Analysis report) and balance area is MDF/ VDF. But the DFO, Rayagada Forest Division has proposed to plant 1214 Nos. of plant over entire non-forest land in ANR mode @ 200 seedlings per ha. So, it needs clarification from DFO, Rayagada Forest Division.	
3	The Joint verification report of Non-Forest Govt. land identified in village Tingarjhola under Kolanara Tahasil duly signed by both the forest and revenue officials is not enclosed.	JV Report Attached
4	The GPS reading of the start and end point of the road has not been enclosed with the proposal.	**Latitude** / **Longitude** **Start Point**: 83° 6' 5.532" / 19° 30' 27.829" **End Point**: 83° 5' 15.470" / 19° 30' 37.983"

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,

Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar – 751022, Odisha, INDIA
+91- 0674 - 2541525, 2540820 | Fax: 2542956 / 2541982
cgmenv@idco.in | www.idco.in

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)

Memo No._____/ Date:17/04/2025
Copy submitted to the Addl PCCF, Nodal, FC Act, O/o the PCCF for kind information & necessary action, with reference to memo No.2077, dt.16/04/2025 of Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division.

Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)

Memo No._____/ Date:17/04/2025
Copy submitted to the RCCF, Koraput Circle, Koraput for kind information & necessary action, with reference to memo No.2076, dt.16/04/2025 of Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division.

Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)

Memo No._____/ Date:17/04/2025
Copy forwarded to the CGM(Land), IDCO for information & necessary action.

Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)

Memo No._____/ Date:17/04/2025
Copy forwarded to the Project Head- Sijimali Bauxite Mine, M/s Vedanta Ltd., 5th Floor, Module C/2, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)

JOINT FIELD VERIFICATION MEMORANDOM OF TAHASILDAR KOLNARA, REVENUE SUPERVISOR KOLNARA, REVENUE INSPECTEOR REKHAPADAR, FORESTER REKHAPADAR, FOREST GUARD, REKHAPADAR, FOR IDENTIFICATION OF GOVT. WASTE LAND FOR AFFORESTATION

In pursuance of instructions of higher authorities for identification of suitable patch of degraded forest land for compensatory afforestation, a joint field visit has been made on 24.04.2024 compromising of forest and Revenue department personnel. During land identification, the following schedule of land is verified on the spot and found feasible for compensatory afforestation. The schedule of land is given below.

MOUZA	KHATA No.	RECORDED TENENT	PLOT No.	KISSAM	TOTAL AREA IN Ac.	PROPOSED AREA IN Ac.
Tingarjholla	13	PAHADA AAA	13	PAHADA	30.00	15.00
			14	PAHADA	42.32	30.00
			15	PAHADA	25.62	15.00
			62	PAHADA	21.40	15.00
			68	PAHADA	15.00	10.00
			69	PAHADA	11.65	10.00
Total					Ac.145.99	Ac.95.00

As per guideline the identified land below 25 Ha. Hence the land is not brought inclusion in the land bank.

FORESTER
Kumtelpeta Section

TAHASILDAR, KOLNARA
TAHASILDAR, KOLNARA

Priyanka Behera, Tarabai beat
FOREST GUARD

REVENUE SUPERVISOR, KOLNARA
Revenue Supervisor
Kolnara Tahasil

FOREST GUARD

REVENUE INSPECTOR, REKHAPADAR

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER : RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION
E.Mail: dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Memo Letter No 3312 4F (Misc.) 1984/2025.
Dated, Rayagada the 28 th May, 2025.

To

The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F.C. Act),
O/o. the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Sub: - Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH -44 under Rayagada District/Division. **-Regarding submission of compliance on the EDS raised by the Regional Office, MoEF & CC, GoI, Bhubaneswar on dated.19.05.2025.**

Ref: - Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025.

In inviting a kind reference to the above cited subject, I am submitting herewith the compliance on the EDS raised by the Regional Office, MoEF & CC, GoI, Bhubaneswar on dated.19.05.2025 on the Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH -44 under Rayagada District/Division.

SL No	Details of EDS	Compliance
1	On examination of the proposal, it is observed that in Sijimali mining lease, the proposal for the mining lease has been submitted vide No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024 to the MoEF & CC and the stage – I approval is awaited. A separate proposal for the Road Project to the mining lease has been submitted Vide No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025 to regional office as a standalone Project. However, as per para 7.8(i)(f)(1) of the consolidated guidelines issued under the van (sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhamiyam,1980," Approach Road/conveyor belt and other ancillary activities related to mining shall be considered as part of the mining project and should therefore be processed accordingly. However, supplementary linear Projects linked to mining that are conceived after the start of the original mining should be considered as	In compliance to the EDS, the User Agency has intimated that, the PWD, Government of Odisha is the owner of the proposed road and IDCO is the Project Proponent for land acquisition and for diversion of the forest land involved in the road project. This Government Road will also help in connecting to all the villages on & around the hilltop for their ease of living, through PWD. Beside this, the proposed road will facilitate to dispose any horticultural crop grow-up by the tribal community residing in the inaccessible remote area in & nearby hilltop. This road will provide access to the ML area for operationalize of the mines. The road proposed is solely not meant for the Vedanta limited, for which it is going to be constructed by the state PWD department. Further, there are 5 no. villages namely Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda & Malipadar having no road connectivity to the mainland below the valley. Around 1500 people are residing in these villages and they are facing hardship for their day-to-day family maintenance especially for health security. The people are disconnected with the market

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	standalone linear projects and decisions on according approval for those shall be made at the REC/IRO concerned, as per the provisions provided in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules,2023."In view of the above provisions, the state Government is requested to kindly re-examine the proposal in light of the aforementioned rules and do the needful.	system due to lack of road connectivity. The project should not be considered as a standalone linear project of Sijimali mine rather it should be treated as normal linear road project by PWD, Govt of Odisha. From the above points it does not attract the provision of sub-para (f) of para 7.8 of Chapter 7 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under Van (San Rakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. Hence the compliance submitted by the UA is submitted herewith as **Annexure-I**.
2	As per DSS analysis, agriculture encroachment (19°8'10.42"N / 83°33'27.10"E) is observed heavily in non-forest CA patch and shifting cultivation (19°3'37.50"N / 83°52'10.17"E) is present in addl.CA patch. An encroachment free non-forest land for CA should be provided by the state govt.	In compliance to the EDS, the Tahasildar, Kolnara has informed that some seasonal agriculture encroachment are being used by local villagers over the Non-Forest CA land and which can be vacate at any point of time. (Copy enclosed as **Annexure-II**) Further the Range Officer, Gunupur have submitted the field verification report of the additional CA patch and reported that, although some seasonal signs of land use are discernible, the area remains classified as degraded forest land under the administrative control of the forest department. These transient indicators do not represent any permanent land use change. The identified patch is suitable for afforestation and will be appropriately treated and developed under plantation activities in accordance with the approved compensatory afforestation plan. (The report of the Range Officer, Gunupur Range is enclosed as **Annexure-III**)

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary consideration.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 3313 / Dt. 28-05-2025

Copy submitted to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Koraput Circle, Koraput for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 3314 / Dt. 28-05-2025

Copy submitted to the project Head, Sijimali Bauxite Mine, M/s Vedanta Limited for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

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Annexure – I

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)

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No. HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024 14965 **Date:** 22/05/2025

To,

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Forest Division,
Rayagada

Sub: Proposal for diversion of forest land measuring 4.911 ha in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of road from SH-44 to Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hilltop) under Rayagada District- **Compliance to EDS**

Sir,

In response to the EDS raised by MoEF & CC, GoI on 19/05/2025 on the above mentioned Diversion Proposal, the compliance is submitted as enclosed herewith.

Enclosed - As above

Yours faithfully,

Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)

Memo No. 14966 **/ Date:** 22/05/2025

Copy forwarded to the Addl PCCF & Nodal Officer (FC Act & FD), Odisha for favour of kind information & necessary action.

Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar – 751022, Odisha, INDIA
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Sl No	EDS	Compliance
1	On examination of the proposal, it is observed that in Sijimali mining lease, the proposal for the mining lease has been submitted vide No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024 to the MoEF & CC and the stage – I approval is awaited. A separate proposal for the Road Project to the mining lease has been submitted Vide No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025 to Regional office as a standalone Project. However, as per para 7.8(i)(f)(1) of the consolidated guidelines issued under the van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam,1980," Approach road / conveyor belt and other ancillary activities related to mining shall be considered as part of the mining project and should therefore be processed accordingly. However, supplementary linear Projects linked to mining that are conceived after the start of the original mining should be considered as standalone linear projects and decisions on according approval for those shall be made at the REC/IRO concerned, as per the provisions provided in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules,2023."In view of the above provisions, the state Government is requested to kindly re-examine the proposal in light of the aforementioned rules and do the needful.	**i.** PWD Department, Government of Odisha is the owner of the proposed road and IDCO is the Project Proponent for land acquisition and for diversion of the forest land involved in the road project. **ii.** This Government road will also help in connecting to all the villages on & around the hilltop for their ease of living, through PWD. Beside this, the proposed road will facilitate to dispose any horticultural crop grow-up by the tribal community residing in the inaccessible remote area in & nearby hilltop. **iii.** This road will also provide access to the ML area for operationalize of the mines. The road proposed is solely not meant for the Vedanta limited, for which it is going to be constructed by the state PWD Department. **iv.** There are 5 villages namely Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda & Malipadar having no road connectivity to the mainland below the valley. Around 1500 people are residing in these villages and they are facing hardship for their day-to-day family maintenance especially for health security. **v.** The people are disconnected with the market system due to lack of road connectivity. **vi.** The project should not be considered as a standalone linear project of Sijimali mine rather it should be treated as normal linear road project by PWD, Govt. of Odisha. **vii.** From the above points it does not attract the provision of sub-para (f) of para 7.8 of Chapter 7 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications

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		issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
2	As per DSS analysis, agriculture encroachment (19°8'10.42"N / 83°33'27.10"E) is observed heavily in non-forest CA patch and shifting cultivation (19°3'37.50"N / 83°52'10.17"E) is present in addl. CA patch. An encroachment free non-forest land for CA should be provided by the state Govt.	I. For non-forest land, non-encroachment certificate has been issued by the Tahasildar, Kolnara and Tahasildar in his letter No.945, dt.19/03/2025 has stated that, a small portion of the land has been used by the local villagers for cultivation and can be removed at any point of time. (copy attached) II. Hence, the said land is free from encroachment & encumbrance as per certificate issued by Tahasildar and can be covered under Compensatory Afforestation and declared as PF before Stage-II Approval.

Consultant-cum-CGM(Env)
Chief General Manager(Env.)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

Annexure–II

OFFICE OF THE TAHASILDAR, KOLNARA

Letter No. 945 **/XVIII-31/2024** **Date.** 19.03.25

To

The Consultant(Env.),
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Regarding clarification on issue of Non-Encroachment & Non-Encumbrance Certificate in respect of land identified in Tigarijhola Mouza for Compensatory Afforestation.

Ref: 1. Letter no. 178/25, dated 19.03.2025 of the Vedanta Limited, Bhubaneswar.

2. Letter no. 1202. Dated 04.03.2025 of the DFO, Rayagada addressed to IDCO, Bhubaneswar.

Sir,

In inviting kind reference to the letter on the subject cited above, I am to furnish herewith the clarification on the shortcomings found by the DFO, Rayagada vide his letter no. 1202. Dated 04.03.2025 addressed to IDCO, Bhubaneswar at point no. 14 as follows.

Land Schedule

Mouza	Khata No.	Plot No.	Area (in Hact.)	Kissam
Tingarijhola	13	13	6.07	Pahad

As per field verification of the above Non Forest Govt. land, it is found that, a small portion of the land is used for seasonal cultivation by local villagers that can be removed at any time.

This is for your kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Tahasildar, Kolnara

Memo No. 946 **/ 2025** **Date:** 19.03.2025

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada for kind information and necessary action with reference to his letter no. 1202. Dated 04.03.2025 addressed to IDCO, Bhubaneswar.

Tahasildar, Kolnara

Memo No. 947 **/ 2025** **Date:** 19.03.2025

Copy forwarded to the Project Head, Sijimali Bauxite Mines, Vedanta Limited, Bhubaneswar for information with reference to his letter no. 178/25, dated 19.03.2025.

Tahasildar, Kolnara

Annexure – III

OFFICE OF THE FOREST RANGE OFFICER, GUNUPUR
At/Po. Bikrampur, Pin - 764062 e-mail:rogunupur@gmail.com

To

The Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Forest Division.

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Kuruguda under Gunupur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH -44 under Rayagada District / Division.

With reference to the observations regarding the below mentioned proposed sites for Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) under the above-mentioned forest diversion proposal, it is submitted that although some seasonal signs of land use are discernible, the area remains classified as degraded forest land under the administrative control of the Forest Department. These transient indicators do not represent any permanent land use change. The identified patches are suitable for afforestation and will be appropriately treated and developed under plantation activities in accordance with the approved Compensatory Afforestation Plan.

Sl No	Site	Forest Block	Beat	Section	Range	Area (Ha.)	Mode
1	Kuruguda	Pedakonda Extn.RF	Chinasari	Gunupur	Gunupur	05.00	AR 1000

Ratnamala Hzal F.G
Forest Guard
Chinasari Beat

P. Ch Patro (for)
Forester
Gunupur Section
Section Forester
Gunupur

Forest Range Officer
Gunupur Range
Forest Range Officer
Gunupur Range

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STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
BHUBANESWAR-751023
E-mail-: nodal.pccfodisha@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO ★ FOREST, ENV. & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPTT ★
17 DEC 2025

No. 25316 /9F (Others) – 343/2025
Dated, Bhubaneswar the 17th December' 2025

From

Dr. K. Murugesan, IFS
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act)
O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

To

The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur
Bhubaneswar-751023

Sub: **Proposal for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO – Compliance to online querry of GoI dated 07.08.2025 regarding.**

Ref-: Online EDS dated 07.08.2025 of Govt. of India, MoEF & CC.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has raised Online EDS dated 07.08.2025 in Parivesh 2.0 Portal for necessary compliance in respect of diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO. The compliance based on the report of DFO Rayagada is as follows:-

Online EDS-: ***The proposed road is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles for the mineral evacuation from the Sijimali Bauxite Mine. Therefore, the proposal for road construction can only be considered once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the said mining lease is approved. The State Government shall therefore submit the proposal after obtaining the in-principle approval for the diversion of forest land in the Sijimali Bauxite Mine.***

Compliance-: In compliance to the above, the DFO, Rayagada Forest Division has reported that the Advisory Committee in its 12th meeting held on 02.12.2025 has **"recommended the Stage-I/in-principle"** approval for diversion of **708.204 ha** of forest land [564.581 ha in

Rayagada Forest Division and 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division] including 11.195 ha earmarked for the Safety Zone within total Mining Lease area of 1548.786 ha of the **Sijimali Bauxite Mines**, falling under Rayagada Forest Division and Kalahandi (South) Forest Division in Rayagada and Kalahandi Districts respectively in favour of M/s Vedanta Limited. The copy of the minutes of the 12th -Advisory Committee meeting is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-A** for kind reference.

In view of the above, the compliance to the online EDS dated 07.08.2025 of the Govt. of India, MoEF & CC is sent herewith for favour of kind consideration and further course of action in respect of proposal for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO.

Encl: Annexure as above

Yours faithfully

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 25317 / Dt. 17-12-2025.

Copy alongwith its compliance forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action with reference to online EDS dated 07.08.2025 of Govt. of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Encl: Annexure as above

17/12/2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 25318 /Dt. 17-12-2025.

Copy forwarded to the RCCF, Koraput Circle for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 6861 dated 15.12.2025 of DFO, Rayagada Forest Division.

17/12/2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 25319 /Dt. 17-12-2025.

Copy forwarded to the DFO, Rayagada Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 6860 dated 15.12.2025.

17/12/2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 25320 /Dt. 17-12-2025.

Copy forwarded to the Project Head, Sijimali Bauxite Mine, M/s Vedanta Limited, 5th Floor, Module C/2, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for information and necessary action with reference to online EDS dated 07.08.2025 of Govt. of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

17/12/2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 25321 /Dt. 17-12-2025.

Copy forwarded to the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janpath, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action with reference to online EDS dated 07.08.2025 of Govt. of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi and Memo No. 6862 dated 15.12.2025 of DFO, Rayagada Forest Division.

17/12/2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

EDS Raised	Reply to EDS
The proposed road is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles for the mineral evacuation from the Sijimali Bauxite Mine. Therefore, the proposal for road construction can only be considered once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the said mining lease is approved. The State government shall therefore submit the proposal after obtaining the in-principle approval for the diversion of forest land in the Sijimali Bauxite Mine.	It is noted that the in-principle approval for the diversion of forest land for the Sijimali Bauxite Mine has already been granted, as per the Minutes of Meeting published on 12.12.2025 (attached). In view of this, the proposal for the construction of the said road may now be considered for Stage-1 forest clearance approval, subject to compliance with all applicable norms and conditions.

12/12/25
Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

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ii. The site-specific Wildlife and Biodiversity Management Plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency.

iii. As per DSS analysis, out of 143.968 ha non forest land within the project area, 18.25 ha was found within forest boundary. The state has clarified that the overlap reflected in DSS arises solely from boundary-layer generalisation at map-scale and does not represent any additional forest land requiring inclusion. In this regard the State shall take up the matter with FSI for the correction of digital boundaries.

iv. The State Government shall ensure that the land-use plan indicated in the proposal remains unchanged. A copy of the document or approval issued by the competent authority, confirming a land-use plan consistent with that submitted in the proposal, shall be furnished along with the compliance report.

v. The State Government shall ensure that muck is disposed of, only at designated sites located in non-forest areas. The State Government shall adopt controlled blasting mitigation measures and ensure that no blasting materials are stored within forest areas.

vi. The Catchment Area Treatment Plan, duly approved by the PCCF/competent authority shall be implemented at the project cost.

Agenda No. 38

Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024

Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 708.204 ha (564.581 ha in Rayagada Forest Division + 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division) of Forest land (including 11.195 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within total Mining Lease land in 1548.786 ha of Sijimali Bauxite Mines in Rayagada Forest Division & Kalahandi (South) Forest Division under Rayagada and Kalahandi District respectively in respect of M/s Vedanta Limited (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024)-reg.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and APCCF and CCF in the office of Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

i. The Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0017-2025-8268/FE&CC dated 08.04.2025 submitted the above subject proposal through PARIVESH 2.0 portal and uploaded on 09.04.2025 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

ii. Vedanta Limited has been allocated the Sijimali Bauxite mine spread over Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha in March 2023, having an estimated reserve of around 311 Million Tonnes for meeting the increased requirement of raw material, Vedanta intends to operate Sijimali block for dispatching Bauxite from mines to its Refinery.

iii. An e-Auction process was conducted in accordance with the tender document for the Sijimali Mineral Block and Vedanta Limited was declared as the "Preferred Bidder" under Rule 9(9)(1) or Rule 10(1A) of Auction Rules dated 09.02.2023. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules and the terms of the tender document of steel & Mines Department, Government of Odisha, issued Letter of Intent for grant of mine lease for Sijimali Bauxite Block over 1549.022 ha (Geo referenced DGPS Area 1549.022 ha, ROR Authenticated area-1548.786 ha) vide letter No SM-MC2-MC-0006-2023/2103/5&M, Bhubaneswar, dated 01 03 2023.

iv. M/s Vedanta Ltd has the proposal to operate the Sijimali Bauxite Mine with peak Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity of 9.00 Million TPA. The block is located in 18 villages under Thuamul Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandı district and under Kashipur Tahsil of Rayagada district in the State of Odisha.

v. As M/s Vedanta Limited has an existing alumina refinery plant at Lanjigarh of Kalahandı district of Odisha which very soon will be operated at granted EC capacity of 6.0 Million TPA, due to which the total bauxite requirement will be 18.0 Million TPA at a ratio of 3:1 to meet the partial requirement of the bauxite, Vedanta Ltd is proposing the Sijimalı Bauxite Mine with 9.0 Million TPA Capacity, 3. Million TPA from OMC Kodingamali Mine through long term linkage and remaining 60 Million TPA from import.

vi. The area under consideration is well connected by rail and road to all important business and industrial centres of the country. Nearest Railway station is Sikarpai Railway station at a distance of 20 km in SE direction. The Nearest Port and International Airport are at Visakhapatnam at a distance of 194 Km in SSE direction, Distance of SH-44 from the lease area is 1.5 km in West direction from the project site.

vii. The Sijimali Bauxite Block has been explored in different phases with 91 bore holes with a total meterage of 2241.61m The boreholes have been drilled at an interval of about 400m grid pattern within the mineralized land in 12.38 sq. km The bore hole density is about 07 (735) BHs/Sq Km.

viii. The entire geological block land in 1549.022 Ha (As per DGPS) will be brought under mining and allied activities to excavate bauxite. The cross-sectional method has been adopted for estimation of resources of bauxite in the approved mining plan 15 sets of vertical cross sections namely AA',

BB', CC' etc in 1.10000 scale have been prepared in E-W direction taking into account 87 boreholes located along the section lines and a few holes adjacent to the section lines are projected. In order to estimate the mineable reserve, development sections were drawn through the block. The non-mineable bauxite portions considered for estimation of mineable reserve from geological resource are as follows. (a) bauxite occurring within 7.5 m along the lease boundary for the purpose of safety zone (b) Blocked bauxite under and outside the ultimate pit slope Production of maximum 9267402 79 TPA bauxite has been planned in the approved mining plan.

ix. Mining operations will be carried out by a fully mechanized opencast method. The extractable bauxite reserve of 299.58 Million tonnes is proposed to be excavated in 31 years. Life of mine is considered as 31 years with two years of construction period including surface reorganization.

x. The total ML area of the Sijimali Bauxite Block is 1548.786 ha. In the applied mining lease area, forest land involved is 708.204 Ha. Non-forest land involved in the Mining Lease is 840.582 ha out of which non-forest private land is 129.089 ha and non-forest Govt. land is 711.493 ha.

xi. The State Govt. has reiterated / clarified that 0.66 ha of land in village Tadader and 1.57 ha of land in village Tijamali (both under Thuamul Rampur Tahasil of Kalahandı District) have been included in the Forest Diversion Proposal as FRA land. The kisam of the above mentioned land (0.66 ha in Tadader village and 1.57 ha in Tijamali village) are of "Unsurveyed Category" in the Sabik record and 'Donger' in the Hal record over which Title under FRA have been issued to individuals by the Collector, Kalahandi. In this context he has informed that, 0.66 ha of land in village Tadades and 1.57 ha in village Tijamali have been included in the Forest Diversion Proposal as FRA land as reported by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division.

xii. As per the SIR of DFO, Kalahandi (South), it is revealed that the forest land proposed for diversion is located over 11 patches spreading over 04 no of villages. The Tahasildar Rampur has furnished the land schedule as on 25.10.1980 regarding forest and non-forest land involved in the ML coming under Kalahandi district as well as in Kalahandı (South) forest Division, DFO, Kalahandi (South) has furnished a certificate regarding minimum use of forest land over 143.623 ha.

xiii. The total district wise forest and non-forest land involved in the Mining Lease is tabulated below:

ABSTRACT OF TOTAL LAND of SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES									
Sl. No.	District Name	Area in Hectares							
		Revenue Forest	PF/FRA Forest	Sabik Forest	DLC Forest	Total Forest	Pvt. land	Non-Forest Govt. land	Total

1	Kalahandi	12.408	65.512	3.699	62.004	143.623	28.531	565.138	737.292
2	Rayagada	0.000	0.000	6.236	558.345	564.581	100.558	146.355	811.494
Total area in Ha		**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**129.089**	**711.493**	**1548.786**

xiv. The details of Existing Land Use of total lease area in Ha are as mentioned below:

EXISTING LAND USE OF SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES										
Sl. No.	**District Name**	**Item**	**All figures are in Hectares**							
			Revenue Forest	**PF/ FRA Forest**	**Sabik Forest**	**DLC Forest**	**Total Forest**	**Pvt. land**	**Non-Forest Govt. land**	**Total**
1	Kalahandi	Existing Undisturbed area	12.408	65.512	3.699	62..004	143.623	28.531	565.138	737.292
2	Rayagada	Existing Undisturbed area	0.000	0.000	6.236	558.345	564.581	100.558	146.355	811.494
	Total in Ha		**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**129.089**	**711.493**	**1548.786**

xv. Component wise break up of forest land proposed for diversion in the Sigimali Mining Lease has been mentioned in the SIR of DFO, Rayagada and SIR of DFO, Kalahandi (South) The detailed pattern of use of Forest land is tabulated below:

PROPOSED LAND USE PATTERN (DISTRICT WISE)										
S. No.	District Name	Component	Forest Area in Ha					Non-Forest area in ha			
			Revenue Fores	PF/ FRA Fore	Sabik For	DLC Forest	Total Forest	Govt. land	Pvt. Land	Total N	Total Area Ha

			t	st	est					FL	
1	Kalahandi	Mined out Area	12.408	32.900	3.699	49.852	98.859	400.557	28.531	429.088	527.947
2		Safety Zone Area		2.970		0.628	3.598	15.117		15.117	18.715
3		Untouched Area		29.642		11.524	41.166	149.464		149.464	190.630
Total			**12.408**	**65.512**	**3.699**	**62.004**	**143.623**	**565.138**	**28.531**	**593.669**	**737.292**
1	Rayagada	Mined out Area			6.235	475.351	481.586	96.880	98.717	195.597	677.183
2		Safety Zone Area				7.897	7.597	6.558		6.558	14.155
3		Untouched Area			0.001	75.397	75.398	42.917	1.841	44.758	120.156
Total					6.236	558.345	564.581	146.355	100.558	246.913	811.494
Grand Total			**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**711.493**	**129.089**	**840.582**	**1548.786**

xvi. The consolidated forest land use pattern of the ML area pertaining to both the Forest Divisions is furnished below:

ABSTRACT OF PROPOSED LAND USE PATTERN OF TOTAL AREA					
S. N	**District**	**Component**	**Area in ha**	**Non-Forest area in ha**	

o.	Name		Revenue Forest	PF/ FRA Forest	Sabik Forest	DLC Forest	Total Forest	Govt. land	Pvt. Land	Total NFL	Total Area Ha
1	Kalahandi Rayagada	Mined out area	12.408	32.900	9.934	525.203	580.445	497.437	127.248	624.685	1205.130
2		Safety Zone Area	0	2.970	0	8.225	11.195	21.675	0	21.675	32.870
3		Untouched Area	0	26.642	0.001	86.921	116.564	192.381	1.841	194.222	310.786
		Total	**12.408**	**65.512**	**9.935**	**620.349**	**708.204**	**711.493**	**129.089**	**840.582**	**1548.786**

xvii. The area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes, vegetation loss and mining disturbances leading to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation Factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion.

xviii. The total extent of safety zone in the ML area over 1548.786 ha is 32.87 ha Out of which, 11.195 ha comes under forest land, 21.675 ha comes under Non-Forest Government land within the limit of both the forest divisions. The classification of safety zone over different Kissam of land as well as over the different division jurisdiction is furnished below:

Details of safety zone involved within the Sijimali Bauxite Mines NFL in ha											
Sl. No.	District	Component	Forest land in ha					NFL in ha			
			Rev.	PF/ FRA	Sabik	DLC	Total	Govt.	Pvt.	Total	Total in Ha
1	Kalahandi	Safety Zone	0	2.97	0	0.628	3.598	15.117	0	15.117	18..715
2	Rayagada	-do-	0	0	0	7.597	7.597	6.558	0	6.558	14.155
				2.97	**0**	**8.225**	**11.195**	**21.675**	**0**	**21.675**	**32.870**

xix. The proposed area includes Tropical dry deciduous forest. The vegetation is basically mixed Sal Forest with other miscellaneous species. Further,

Wildlife species like Barking deer, wild boar, Monkey, Indian peacock and Indian hare are present in the area.

xx. The presence of bauxite is characterized by long stretches of Plateau land on hilltop with little or no vegetation and vegetation is usually seen in hill slopes.

xxi. No rare and endangered species are available in the Mining lease area coming under Rayagada Forest Division However, as per report of DFO, Kalahandı (South), Elephant habitat in Bijepur RF comes within 10 Kms impact zone. The applied area is not found important from an archaeological point of view. The proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor or any protected area declared under any law of the State or central Government.

xxii. The DFO, Rayagada has taken up tree enumeration through Range Officer, Kashipur over proposed 564.581 ha forest land of Sijimali Bauxite Block of Vedanta Limited adopting direct counting technique. Due to sparse vegetation on the plateau, the ecological impact of tree felling in this area will be minimal. The plateau's current ecosystem supports limited biodiversity, with most species reliant on valley vegetation for survival. DFO Rayagada has mentioned that the felling of trees near valley areas could lead to disruption of wildlife habitats and potential displacement of species, increased soil erosion and sedimentation of nearby water bodies.

xxiii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 724.23 ha of Non-forest Government land measuring 565.50 ha in Rayagada District and 158.73 ha Government NFL in Kalahandi District against the proposed diversion of forest land over 708.204 ha for Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd.

xxiv. The details of area identified for CA in Rayagada district and Kalahandi district are tabulated below:

Rayagada Division:							
S. No.	**Tehsil**	**RI Circle**	**Mouza**	**Khata No.**	**Plot No.**	**Area in ha**	**Total Area (Ha)**
1	Munigud a	Raghubari	Alibhata	11	1	9.70	36.75
					2	11.73	
					3 (P)	15.32	
2	Munigud a	Raghubari	Baringpadar	12	1(P)	8.0	38.24
					43(P)	16.01	
					44	14.23	
3	Munigud a	Raghubari	Baringpadar	3	1	14.14	87.81
					2	16.26	

					3	15.68	
					4(P)	5.74	
					10	4.05	
					11	19.77	
					14(P)	12.17	
4	Munigud a	Raghubari	Baratarana	9	4(P)	7.47	34.09
					23(P)	5.84	
					24	9.31	
					25	11.47	
5	Munigud a		Dambalu	21	1(P)	3.27	3.279
6	Munigud a	Raghubari	Demupadar	10	129	9.49	58.00
					132(P)	7.71	
					133	7.08	
					134	7.63	
					135(P)	7.76	
					136	11.48	
					137(P)	6.84	
7	Munigud a	Raghubari	Jambapadaf r	7	4(P)	2.388	40.40
					6	8.26	
					25	6.576	
					46(P)	13.242	
					47	9.935	
8	Munigud a	Kumudabal i	Kauguda	9	44(P)	24.136	38.95
					46(P)	14.816	
9	Munigud a	Tikarapada	Lidipanga	59	208(P)	11.882	46.22
					362	15.714	
					363	12.562	
					364	6.066	
10	Munigud a	Raghubari	PidelPadar	9	2	16.19	77.81
					3	15.27	

					4	16.39	
					5	15.19	
					219(P)	14.78	
11	Munigud a	Raghubari	Umbere	11	46(P)	7.49	69.66
					87	16.60	
					88(P)	15.24	
					91	12.79	
					92	17.54	
12	Munigud a	Raghubari	Madagalu	4	1	17.179	34.29
					3	5.868	
					5	11.242	

Kalahandi (South) Forest Division							
Sl. No.	Village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Kissam		Area in Ac.	Suitable Area For plantation in Ac
1	Sampala	29	103(P)	Dangar	AAA	25.42	23.65
2			104	Dangar	AAA	32.70	32.70
3			105	Dangar	AAA	36.25	36.25
4			106	Dangar	AAA	42.00	42.00
5			107(P)	Dangar	AAA	41.38	40.07
6			108(P)	Dangar	AAA	38.50	35.28
7	Kanjiguda	32	240(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	32.50	30.00
8			237(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	37.50	35.00
9			241(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	36.15	33.00
10			242(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	41.73	37.85
11	Malatipadar	38	302	Dangar	AAA	22.50	22.50

12			307(P)	Dangar	AAA	31.50	23.78
						Total area in ac	**392.08**
						Total area in ha	**158.73**

xxv. The CA schemes have been prepared in respect of Rayagada and Kalahandi (South) forest Divisions to the diversion proposal. It has been proposed to adopt chain link wire mesh fencing for the protection of the planted species over the entire area in 17 patches coming under 12 villages. The perimeter proposed for fencing over 17 patches.

xxvi. The total forest land proposed for diversion in the proposal is 708.204 ha. The user agency has provided 565.50 ha NFL in Rayagada forest Division and 158.73 ha NFL in Kalahandi (South) division against the proposed forest land for diversion. Thus, the user agency has provided 724.23 ha NFL land for CA It is required to plant 7,08,204 nos. seedlings in the CA However, both the DFOs have made schemes to plant 2,28,157 + 69,986=2,98,143 nos. seedlings Balance seedlings of 7,08,204 - 2,98,143 = 4,10,061 nos. seedlings will be planted through Additional CA schemes in Rayagada Forest Division. The DFO, Rayagada has identified 546.0 ha of notified degraded forest land in his division to take up the additional CA Plantation.

xxvii. The financial outlay approved by the APCCF (Nodal) for the Addl. CA plantations proposed in Rayagada Division comes to ₹44,71,21,000/-

xxviii. The total financial outlay of the CA and Additional CA schemes pertaining to Rayagada and Kalahandı (South) Forest Division come ₹107,63,89,300 (₹53,09,26,800+ ₹9,83,41,500 + ₹44,71,21,000) The user agency has furnished undertaking to pay the amount of ACA plantation as per the demand of DFO, Rayagada.

xxix. The DFO, Rayagada has prepared the Cost-Benefit analysis of the project pertaining to both the Forest Divisions. The cost of the forest is assessed as ₹42401.893 Lakh and the benefit of the project is estimated at ₹2,76,27,164 65 lakhs The Cost-Benefit ratio comes to 1:651.554.

xxx. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (IA Division) have issued Term of Reference (TOR) vide File No IA-J-11015/6/2023-IA-II(NCM) dt 14.08.2023 for mining of Sijimali Bauxite Block over 1549.022 ha for peak rated Capacity of 9.0 MTPA along with installation of two crushers (2x1200 TPH) located at Thuamul and Kasipur Tahasıls of Kalahandı and Rayagada Districts respectively/MIN/439954/2023 dt 06.11.2023 to the user agency The ToR would be valid for a period of three years.

xxxi. The Mining plan including Progressive Mine closure plan has been approved by the Regional Controller of Mines, Office of the Regional Controller of Mines, BBSR (IBM) over 1549.022 ha in respect of Sijimali

Bauxite Block in Tehsil Rampur and KasipurTahasils of Kalahandi and Rayagada Districts in the state of Odisha in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd vide L: No MCDR- MIFLOBXT/4/2023-BBS-IBM RO BBS dt 16.08.2023 with 17 no of terms and conditions The approval of Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has been accorded by the Indian Bureau of Mines.

xxxii. The field Inspection envisages that the project involves displacement of 100 nos. of families in 02 villages i. e. Malipadar under Rayagada District and Tijamali Under Kalahandi District. In this regard the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Rayagada to submit the approved R & R Plan in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd in Rayagada and Kalahandı Districts to the Competent Authority immediately after its approval under Section 16 of LARR Act, 2013. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Kalahandı (South) to submit the approved R&R Plan in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd in Rayagada and Kalahandı Districts to the competent authority immediately after its approval under section 16 of LARR Act, 2013.

xxxiii. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the project has been approved by the PCCF (WL) and CWLW, Odisha vide Memo No 9718 dt 16.08.2024 The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Rayagada to bear the cost of SSWLCP.

xxxiv. As stated by the Additional PCCF, Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the PCCF &HoFF, Odisha, there are no court cases pending against the user agency on the applied area as revealed from the Site Inspection Reports of report of the DFO, Rayagada and DFO, Kalahandi (South) Divisions. However, a Writ Petition was filed before the Hon'ble High Court vide WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi& others-Vrs-Union of India & others) by the Petitioners with the following prayers:

a. Issue a writ of certiorari or any other appropriate writ quashing the Gram Sabha resolutions dated 08.12.2023 [Annexure 2 (Series) and Annexure 3 (Series)) and the subsequent certificate issued by the Collector, Kalahandı (Annexure 8) as the same are fraudulent and are against the provisions of FRA, 2006 and the Constitution of India.
b. Issue of writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Ops to accept the resolutions passed by the Gram Sabha held between 30.08.2024 to 04.09.2024 [Annexure 9 (series)] wherein no consent for the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes have been given by the villagers of the said villages.
c. Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Opposite Parties not to take any further steps pertaining to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine Project till the rights of the villagers in the project affected areas are settled as per the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

d. Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writs constituting a judicial inquiry into the illegalities committed in the alleged Gram Sabhas which took place on 08.12.2023 in the villagers of Kantamal, Sagaban, Dumerpadar, Aligana, Chulbari, Tijimali, Pelanakona, Katıbhata, Malıpadar and Bondel and an action taken report be submitted before this Hon'ble Court in a time bound manner.

e. Union of India through Secretary, MoEF&CC, Ministry of Tribal Affairs through its Secretary, State of Odisha through Secretary, Department of Revenue & Disaster Management, State of Odisha through Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Department of Steel & Mines, Collector, Kalahandi, Collector, Rayagada and M/s Vedanta Ltd. were Opposite Parties No 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 respectively.

f. The Hon'ble High Court vide Order No 1 dated 12.02.2025 had directed the State to issue written instruction on Petitioners allegation recorded in their order and directed to list on 19.02.2025 In the matter, the Collector & District Magistrate, Kalahandi and Collector & District Magistrate, Rayagada were requested to furnish the instruction/ PWC on the aforesaid Writ Petition to the O/o the AG, Odisha, Cuttack at the earliest under intimation to this Department vide this Department Letter No 6289/FE&CC dated 12.03.2025.

g. The Hon'ble High Court vide Judgement dated 05.03.2025 has disposed of the Writ Petition. In the said judgement, the Hon'ble High Court in Para 7 has directed as follows.

"7 Mr. Mohanty submits, his clients have not conceded but on the contrary maintained that Impugned Gram Sabha resolutions were fraudulently got made. He submits, subsequent to impugned resolutions, the Gram Sabhas convened between 30th August, 2024 and 4th September, 2024. They resolved that no consent for diversion was duly obtained. Mr. Mohanty points out, there has not been process duly undertaken to grant recognition to his clients, who are forest dwellers in the area. Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no 8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note"

xxxv. The aforesaid order dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court passed in WP No 3729 of 2025 (Shri GobindaMajhi& others Vrs Union of India & others) has been received in this Department on 26.03.2025 from the Superintendent of the High Court of Orissa vide his Issue No 8805 (3) dated 13.03.2025. *The copy of the aforesaid letter of the Superintendent of the High Court of Orissa along with a copy of the Order dated. 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa is enclosed for favour of kind information and necessary action of the Ministry.*

xxxvi. The Collector, Rayagada has issued certificate in Form-II under Schedule Tribe and other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 for forest land of 565.70 Ha involved in the Sijimali Bauxite Block leased out in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd On 24.01.2024

xxxvii. The Collector, Kalahandi has issued certificate in Form No -II under Schedule Tribe and other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 for forest land of 133.95 Ha involved in the Sijimali Bauxite Block leased out in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd. on 18.01 2024.

xxxviii. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) to submit the FRA certificate for the balance forest land over 03 villages coming in Kalahandi district after obtaining from the Revenue authority.

xxxix. The State has informed that the user agency does not have any other existing bauxite mines in Odisha. This will be their first bauxite mine in Odisha. The user agency, Vedanta Ltd., has been declared the Preferred Bidder for this block in the auction held on 09.02.2023 under the MMDR Act, 1957. However, they do operate the Jamkhani opencast coal mine in Sundargarh district with a lease area of 847 ha, a reserve of 222.13 million tonnes, and a capacity of 2.6 MTPA.

xl. The State has informed that the valley area is non-mineralized, has no bauxite presence, and will be left untouched. It is proposed to be developed as a greenbelt.

xli. The State has given justification for the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation which are seen in the forest area. The State has clarified that these features are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar, which fall within the mining lease area. These villages will be rehabilitated and resettled as per the LARR Act, 2013. A notification under Section 11(1) has already been issued. Seasonal agricultural use is non-permanent and can be vacated anytime.

xlii. The State Govt. has clarified that 116.5 ha of forest area marked as 'untouched' because as per Para 2.11 of the mining plan, this area, part of a non-mineralized valley, was included in the lease block but will remain undisturbed. The total untouched area is 311.02 ha, including 116.5 ha of forest.

xliii. The State has clarified that cultivation and settlements are seen within the lease boundary because the seasonal cultivation is done by local villagers on a temporary basis and does not indicate permanent land use. The

settlements are located in Tijimali and Malipadar, which are private lands. These villages are to be relocated under the R&R plan per the LARR Act.

xliv. The State has clarified the requirement of water, electricity, and evacuation from the mine

a. **Water:** Will be drawn from groundwater (approval from CGWA obtained).

b. **Power:** To be supplied through Diesel Generators.

c. **Evacuation:** Bauxite will be transported via PWD road from Malipadar to SH-44, then via rail from Singarama siding to Lanjigarh refinery. A separate proposal has been submitted for diversion of 4.911 ha forest land for constructing an access road to SH-44.

xlv. The State has informed that cultivation is visible on CA land because of seasonal signs of cultivation, but the land is still classified as degraded forest. These signs do not indicate permanent land use and the land is suitable for afforestation, as per the approved CA Plan.

xlvi. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the 10 km impact zone has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha, with a budget of ₹34.44 Cr. Funds will be deposited in State CAMPA and used in Kalahandi South and Rayagada Forest Divisions. Activities will be implemented under DFO guidance, with a 5-year plan period and monitoring provisions.

xlvii. The Regional Office has inspected the area proposed for diversion and proposed CA land. The DDGF (Central), RO Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:

(a) A total of 310.786 hectares of land located within the mining lease boundary (beyond the safety zone), shall remain undisturbed, as submitted by the User Agency. This area shall be maintained as a green belt owing to the absence of bauxite reserves. The User Agency shall ensure that no tree felling or mining activity is undertaken in the said forest area.

(b) The State Government shall ensure that 8.082 hectares of forest land, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) and have also been included in the present proposal, are compensated by identifying and providing an alternative CA site for the said project. Approval for the partial change in CA site shall be obtained from the competent authority for Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017.

(c) As mining is proposed at the hilltop and may affect the natural catchment area, the User Agency shall implement comprehensive soil conservation measures on the hillock and adjoining forest areas. These measures shall aim to prevent surface runoff from leaving the mining zone and to safeguard downstream ecosystems.

(d) The User Agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, along with the restoration schedule and forest land surrender schedule, to the Ministry prior to the grant of final approval.

(e) A separate proposal (Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025) involving the diversion of 4.911 hectares of forest land in favour of the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) for the construction of an access road from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hilltop) to State Highway-44 (SH-44) is presently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for "in-principle" approval. As this road is an ancillary component of the Sijimali Bauxite Mines project, the competent authority may consider appraising both proposals concurrently to ensure an integrated evaluation and to avoid any fait accompli situation.

(f) The User Agency shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are free from encroachments before being handed over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall ensure that the CA sites are properly fenced, cleared of encroachments, and planted, at the cost of the User Agency.

(g) The State Forest Department (SFD) shall implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.

xlviii. The Hon'ble High Court vide Judgement dated 05.03.2025 have disposed of the Wnt Petition In the said judgement, the Hon'ble High Court in Para 7 have directed as follows:

"7 Mr. Mohanty submits, his clients have not conceded but on the contrary maintained that Impugned Gram Sabha resolutions were fraudulently got made. He submits, subsequent to impugned resolutions, the Gram Sabhas convened between 30th August, 2024 and 4th September, 2024. They resolved that no consent for diversion was duly obtained. Mr. Mohanty points out, there has not been process duly undertaken to grant recognition to his clients, who are forest dwellers in the area. Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no 8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note" order.

xlix. Further, the committee has also noted that a separate proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. Diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in KashipurTahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO has been submitted by the State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2025-10894/FE&CC dated 09.05.2025 to the RO Bhubaneswar (Online

proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025). The RO has submitted this proposal to the Ministry for holistic decision.

I. Further, the DDGF (Central) has mentioned that:
   a. The instant proposal pertains to the construction of a road submitted by the Government of Odisha, with the primary objective of facilitating the transportation of bauxite ore via bulkers/trucks from the mines of M/s Vedanta Limited to State Highway 44 (SH-44).
   b. In response to the EDS raised by the Regional Office on 19.05.2025, the State Government has clarified that, apart from serving the aforesaid purpose, the proposed road is also intended to connect the villages of Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda, and Malipadar, which presently lack road connectivity.
   c. However, as per the KML file submitted, the specifications of the proposed road (width) indicate that it is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles.
   d. In this context, it is pertinent to mention that the associated mining proposal—vide proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024—is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi. The in-principle approval for the same is yet to be granted. In the event that the mining proposal is not favourably considered by the competent authority, positive consideration of the road proposal at this stage by the Regional Office may lead to a fait accompli situation.

Ii. The committee further observed that the road proposal has been submitted by the other agency i.e. by IDCO, however the road is primarily proposed keeping in view the requirement of mineral evacuation in the instant mine. The separate proposal for the road construction may be allowed, However, the proposal for road can only be considered for approval once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the mining lease is approved.

Iii. The above facts were considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 30.07.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:
   a. Keeping in view the Judgement dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha w.r.t. the WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri GobindaMajhi& others-Vrs-Union of India & others), the state shall ensure strict compliance of the order of the Hon'ble Court and submit a detailed report.
   b. The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement,

compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the justification and plan to mitigate the soil erosion shall be submitted.

c. An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The state shall give justification for keeping this area in the diversion proposal. The State shall provide the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area and intimate as to how this area will be compensated.
d. The State has informed that the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation seen in the forest area are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter and submit a report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.
e. The State shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments. In this regard, a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation area shall be provided.

liii. The State Govt. submitted the reply online on 18.08.2025 which was examined by the Advisory Committee wherein the committee observed that:

a. The State Govt. has submitted the detailed report submitted by the District Collector Rayagad and Kalahandi alongwith all supportive documents mentioning therein that the process has been completed in a fair and transparent manner. However, the reports are silent on the concerns raised by the people in their representations and in the petition before the Hon'ble Court.
b. An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The State has not provided the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area.
c. The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the plan to mitigate the soil erosion has not been submitted.
d. The State govt. has informed that as per data available in the census handbook of District Koraput and Kalahandi for year 1981, it is found that village Tijimali and Malipadar were existing during 1981 i.e. have been existing much before the enactment of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 due to which some patches of the Revenue Forest land have been used by the villagers for the purpose of cultivation prior to 1980. Similarly, temporary roads were also being

used by the local villagers much before 1980. Hence, the breaking of forest land for the purpose of cultivation and road may not be treated as violation under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in respect of the project. However, the details of existing transmission lines have not been provided.

e. The RO in the SIR had mentioned that presence of shifting cultivation and village paths has been found in maximum proposed CA sites. Accordingly, the State was asked to ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments. In this regard, a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation was asked. In this regard the State has referred to the detailed CA scheme only and the detailed report for each site ensuring that it is free from all encumbrances has not been submitted.

f. The State has informed that the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation seen in the forest area are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar. Moreover, the State has not mentioned anything about the transmission lines. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter and submit a detailed report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.

liv. The committee further observed that the area has the presence of elephants and therefore it would be prudent to seek comments from the Project Elephant Division in the matter.

lv. The proposal was considered in Advisory Committee meeting held on 25.8.2025. The Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:

(a) The State Govt. has submitted the detailed report submitted by the District Collector Rayagad and Kalahandi alongwith all supportive documents mentioning therein that the process has been completed in a fair and transparent manner by following due procedure. However, the reports are silent on the concerns raised by the people in their representations and in the petition before the Hon'ble Court. Keeping in view the Judgement dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha w.r.t. the WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & others-Vrs-Union of India & others), the state shall address the concerns raised by the petitioners and those raised by the local people in their representations.

(b) An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The State has not provided the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area.The same shall be provided.

(c) The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss

and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the plan to mitigate the soil erosion has not been submitted, which shall be submitted.

(d) The RO in the SIR had mentioned that presence of shifting cultivation and village paths has been found in maximum proposed CA sites. Accordingly, the State was asked to ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments and a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation site was asked. In this regard the State has referred to the detailed CA scheme only and the detailed report for each site ensuring that it is free from all encumbrances has not been submitted.

(e) The State was asked to submit a report on the status of violation wherein the State has not mentioned anything about the existing transmission lines. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter and submit a detailed report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.

(f) The presence of elephants has been reported in the proposed area therefore the comments from the Project Elephant Division may also be sought on the matter.

lvi. The observation of Advisory Committee conveyed to the State Government vide EDS dated 01.09.2025. In this reference, State Government vide letter dated 23.09.2025 has reported that all concerns raised by the petitioners and local inhabitants have been carefully examined and duly addressed in a fair and transparent manner by the District Administration. Further, adequate safeguards have been ensured under the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 alongwith the Rules of 2007 and the Amendment Rules of 2012 so as to ensure proper and effective implementation of the FRA.

lvii. The Committee has observed that the User Agency has submitted the "Scheme to Mitigate Soil Erosion" proposing various structural and biological measures such as construction of retaining walls (45422 m), garland drains (7511 m), check dams (28 Nos), settling ponds (11 Nos), contour bunds (447 m), Loose Boulder Check Dams (LBCDs-100 Nos), periodic de-silting, and associated plantation works.

lviii. With regard to compensate the reduction of 8.082 ha of CA land of OMC Ltd., an additional 8.082 ha has also been included in the total CA land of 724.23 ha, allotted by both the District Collectors in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts towards Compensatory afforestation of the project. Further clarified that no Compensatory Afforestation has been raised over the aforesaid 8.082 ha, which forms part of the CA area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines Project (Proposal No FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) and has now been included in the lease area of the instant proposal.

lix. State Government has informed that the presence of certain seasonal land-use features, including temporary cultivation and footpaths. As certified by the Tahasildars and jointly endorsed by the Range Officers, these activities represent temporary usages by local villagers in the past and can be discontinued or removed at any point of time. Such transient indicators do not amount to any permanent change in land use, and accordingly, the identified land patches are considered suitable for afforestation.

lx. The State has informed that the existing transmission line was established under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyou Yojana (DDUGJY) (RGGVY XII Plan), for electrification of Malipadar village within the present Sijimali Bauxite Block prior to its auction. It is evident that the establishment of the said transmission line predates the involvement of the present applicant, Vedanta Ltd. and therefore no violation of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, is attributable to the User Agency.

lxi. Further, the State has informed that as per the Summer and Winter Elephant Census, figures for the year 2024-25, a total of 35 elephants have been recorded in the Rayagada Forest Division. There is one resident male elephant in Rayagada Forest Division at aerial distance of approximately 85-90 km from the lease boundary in Gunupur Range, while the remaining elephants are migratory, frequently moving in and out of Rayagada into adjacent Divisions.The Division encompasses two elephant corridors (Ref Elephant Corridors of India, 2023 published by MoEF CC), namely the Kotgarh-Chandrapur Corridor and the KarlapatUrladani Corridor Both corridors are situated beyond the 10 km impact zone of the Sijimali Mining Lease boundary, however, elephant movement has been recorded at aerial distances of approximately 15-20 km from the lease boundary during the years 2022-23 (2 Elephants), 2024-25 (10 Elephants), and 2025-26 (4 Elephants) in the recent past. Further, to mitigate any potential negative impacts a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) has been prepared and duly approved by the PCCF (Wildlife)-cum-CWLW, Odisha, vide Letter No. 9718 dated 16.08.2024.

lxii. The committee observed that the Hon'ble High court while disposing the matter ha iter-alia observed that "*Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no.8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note*".

lxiii. The above facts were considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.10.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter

a. The State Government shall submit a copy of affidavits filed by the petitioner and respondents in W.P. (C) No.3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & Others-Vrs-Union Of India & Others) filed before Hon'ble High Court of Odisha for further necessary action in the Ministry.
b. The copy of affidavit filed by state may also be given.

lxiv. The observation of Advisory Committee was conveyed to the State Government vide EDS dated 06.11.2025.

lxv. The committee noted that the State Government vide letter dated 13.11.2025 has reported that there was no affidavit filed by the Petitioner nor the Respondents. State Government has submitted copies of the Orders dtd. 12.02.2025, 05.03.2025 and 02.09.2025 passed in the W.P. (C) No.3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & Others-Vrs-Union Of India & Others) and dtd.09.10.2025 passed in IA No.4490 of 2025 by the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa. Further, State Government has reported that Counter Affidavit has not been filed by State in the said Writ Petition.

lxvi. The Committee noted that several representations have been received alleging irregularities and fraudulent conduct of Gram Sabha proceedings related to the proposal. Recently, another representation dated 22.11.2025 has also been received, alleging that misleading replies were submitted to the Ministry. The Committee took note of the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court dated 05.03.2025, wherein the Hon'ble Court directed that the submission of petitioner is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency.

lxvii. In compliance with the Hon'ble High Court's directions, the Ministry requested the State Government to examine and address the concerns raised in the representations and in the petition. The State Government in this regard forwarded the response of the District Collectors of Rayagada and Kalahandi. Both the District Collectors have affirmed that the entire FRA process, including Gram Sabha proceedings, was undertaken in a fair and transparent manner and in accordance with due procedure. The Committee noted that, under the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA, 2006), the District Collector is the competent statutory authority responsible for issuing the FRA compliance certificate. The District Collectors of Rayagada and Kalahandi have maintained that the entire process pertaining to FRA compliance, including Gram Sabha proceedings, has been conducted in a fair and transparent manner without any procedural lapses. The Committee observed that these confirmations from the statutory authorities form the basis of FRA compliance for the proposal.

4. **Decision of Advisory Committee:-** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and the CCF in the office of Nodal officer (FCA), Government of Odisha ***'recommended'*** the Stage-I / In-principle approval for diversion of 708.204 ha (564.581 ha in Rayagada Forest Division + 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division) of Forest land (including 11.195 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within total Mining Lease area in 1548.786 ha of Sijimali Bauxite Mines in Rayagada Forest Division & Kalahandı (South) Forest Division under Rayagada and Kalahandi District respectively in respect of M/s Vedanta Limited subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-

i. The State Government shall ensure complete compliance of the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA, 2006);

ii. A total of 310.786 hectares of land located within the mining lease boundary (beyond the safety zone) shall remain undisturbed, as the User Agency has indicated that no bauxite reserves are present in this area. This land shall be maintained as a green belt, and the User Agency shall ensure that no tree felling, mining operations, or any other form of land disturbance is carried out within this area.

iii. The State Government shall take steps to ensure that the approval for the change in CA site for 8.082 ha CA area shall be obtained from the competent authority in case of Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017.

iv. As mining is proposed at the hilltop and may affect the natural catchment area, the User Agency shall implement comprehensive soil conservation measures on the hillock and adjoining forest areas. These measures shall aim to prevent surface runoff from leaving the mining zone and to safeguard downstream ecosystems.The Plan for the same shall be approved by the State Forest Department and implemented under its supervision.

v. The User Agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, including the restoration schedule and the schedule for surrender of forest land, along with the compliance report.

vi. The User Agency shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are free from encroachments before being handed over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall ensure that the CA sites are properly fenced, cleared of encroachments, and planted, at the cost of the User Agency.

vii. A comprehensive site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared and implemented at the cost of the user agency to reduce the adverse effect of project on wildlife. This will also include a comprehensive Human–Elephant Conflict Monitoring and Mitigation Plan. The preparation of the Wildlife Management Plan and monitoring of its implementation shall be done by Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The plan shall include systematic monitoring of human–elephant interactions, research on habitat use and conflict drivers, and capacity-building programmes for local communities,

forest managers, and mine developers to ensure effective conflict prevention and management.

Additional Agenda No. 1

Proposal No. FP/RJ/OTHERS/509218/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking Ex-Post Facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.487 ha Protected forest land in favour of Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department of Rajasthan for Beautification and Renovation work in Kaila Devi Temple Jheel KaBada, Bayana Tehsil, Bharatpur District of Rajasthan State

1. The agenda for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The IGF (Central), RO Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Rajasthan were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
    i. The Govt. of Rajasthan through their letter No F.No.1(25)forest/2025 dated 21.02.2025 forwarded an online proposal on dated 09.04.2025 to the Ministry for seeking Ex-Post Facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.487 ha Protected forest land for Beautification and Renovation work in Kaila Devi Temple JheelKaBada, Bayana, Bharatpur District of Rajasthan State.
    ii. The proposed forest area is having canopy density of 0.3 (Eco Class-3) and 222 number of trees have been proposed to be felled.The State Govt. has informed that the proposed area to be diverted falls in the TTZ (Taz Trapezium Zone) but working agency has given a certificate ensuring that it will not cut any trees coming in the diversion area.
    iii. The State Govt. has informed that the proposed area should be diverted as there is high inflow of pilgrims for the temple. It would be better that area is diverted and some other area is given to the forest department where better ecosystem could be developed adjoining to existing forest patch. The present area already has many structures whichcan not revived back to the forest ecosystem.
    iv. The justification of the locating the project in forest area is that theChief Minister's budget announcement in the year (2022-23) of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, administrative approval has been given to get the work done in the limit of Rs. 5.00 crore for the renovation and development

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Letter No: **VL/Road/SIJIMALI/ 187/25** **Date: 12.12.2025**

To,
The Consultant (Environment),
IDCO, BBSR
Odisha

Sub: Compliance to EDS raised by MoEF & CC, GoI on diversion proposal of forest land measuring 4.911 Ha in the village Shagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of road from SH-44 to Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hilltop) under Rayagada District.

Ref: 1. MoM (FC/MOM/AC/473103/2025) dated 12.12.2025
2. IDCO Letter No. HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024 dated 12.08.2025
3. MoM (FC/MoM/AC/278834/2025) dated 07.08.2025

Dear Sir,

With reference to the subject and the letter issued from your esteemed office, we would like to inform you that the in-principle approval for diversion of forest land for the Sijimali Bauxite Mine has already been granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), as per the Minutes of Meeting published on 12.12.2025 (copy attached for reference).

In view of the above, the proposal for construction of the said road may now kindly be considered for Stage-1 forest clearance approval.

We request your good office to kindly acknowledge this compliance submission and take necessary action at your end. Further, we also request you to kindly forward this compliance report to the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division for further processing of the proposal at their level.

Thanking You,

For M/s Vedanta Limited

VEDANTA LIMITED

Shuvrendu Roy Choudhury
Chief New Mines & Approvals

Encl:
1. The Reply to the EDS is enclosed as annexure-1

VEDANTA LIMITED
5th Floor, Module C/2, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Odisha, India – 751023.
T - 06645666989
Website: www.vedantalimited.com
CIN: L13209MH1965PLC291394

EDS Raised	Reply to EDS
The proposed road is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles for the mineral evacuation from the Sijimali Bauxite Mine. Therefore, the proposal for road construction can only be considered once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the said mining lease is approved. The State government shall therefore submit the proposal after obtaining the in-principle approval for the diversion of forest land in the Sijimali Bauxite Mine.	It is noted that the in-principle approval for the diversion of forest land for the Sijimali Bauxite Mine has already been granted, as per the Minutes of Meeting published on 12.12.2025 (attached). In view of this, the proposal for the construction of the said road may now be considered for Stage-1 forest clearance approval, subject to compliance with all applicable norms and conditions.

VEDANTA LIMITED

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER : RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION
E.Mail: dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Memo Letter No. 6860 / 4F (Misc.) 1984/2025. Dt. 15/12/2025

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FD & NO, F.C. Act)
O/o. the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Sub: - Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH -44 under Rayagada District/Division- Regarding compliance of the EDS. (Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025).

Ref: - 1. MoM ID. FC/MOM/AC/473103/2025 Dt.02.12.2025 of the FAC (MoEF & CC), GoI, New Delhi.
2. Letter No.394 dated.12.12.2025 of the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janapath, Bhubaneswar.

In inviting a reference to the above-cited subject and related correspondence, it is hereby informed that, as per the EDS dated 07.08.2025 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, New Delhi, in connection with the proposal for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land in Sagabari and Porlang villages under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of a road from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 in Rayagada District/Division, it has been observed that "the proposed road is primarily intended to facilitate the movement of heavy vehicles for mineral evacuation from the Sijimali Bauxite Mine. Hence, the proposal for road construction can only be considered after approval of the proposal for diversion of forest land for the said mining lease."

Further, as per the Minutes of Meeting of the Advisory Committee held on 02.12.2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi, has recommended Stage-I (In-principle) approval for diversion of 708.204 ha of forest land (564.581 ha in Rayagada Forest Division and 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division), including 11.195 ha earmarked for the Safety Zone, out of the total Mining Lease area of 1548.786 ha of the Sijimali Bauxite Mines, falling under Rayagada Forest Division and Kalahandi (South) Forest Division in Rayagada and Kalahandi Districts respectively, in favour of M/s Vedanta Limited.

In view of the above, the proposal for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land in Sagabari and Porlang villages under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of a road from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 in Rayagada District/Division is hereby transmitted for your kind consideration, decision, and onward transmission as deemed appropriate.

Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Division

Memo No 6861 Date 15/12/2025

Copy submitted to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Koraput Circle, Koraput for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Division

Memo No 6862 Date 15/12/2025

Copy submitted to the Consultant (Env), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janapath Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Division

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Environment)

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No. HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024 35507 **Date:**/2/12/2025

To,

The Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Forest Division
Rayagada

Sub: Compliance to EDS raised by MoEF & CC, GoI on diversion proposal for diversion of forest land measuring 4.911 ha in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of road from SH-44 to Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hilltop) under Rayagada District.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the EDS raised by MoEF & CC, GoI. on 12/08/2025, the Stage-I Clearance for Sijimali Bauxite Mines under Rayagada District has been issued by MoEF & CC, GoI. vide Proposal No.FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024 is enclosed herewith in compliance to EDS for further action at your end.

Encl:- As above (Reply of Project Proponent along with Stage-I Clearance of Sijimali mines)

Yours faithfully,

✓ **Consultant (Environment)**
12/12

Memo No._____/ Date: /12/2025
Copy Submitted to the Addl. PCCF, Nodal Officer, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for kind information & necessary action.

Consultant (Environment)

Memo No._____/ Date: /12/2025
Copy Submitted to the Forests, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha for kind information & necessary action.

Consultant (Environment)

Memo No._____/ Date: /12/2025
Copy forwarded to the Addl. CGM(Land), IDCO for information & necessary action.

Consultant (Environment)

Memo No._____/ Date: /12/2025
Copy forwarded to the Project Head- Sijimali Bauxite Mine, M/s Vedanta Ltd., 5th Floor, Module C/2, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information & necessary action.

Consultant (Environment)

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar – 751022, Odisha, INDIA
+91- 0674 - 2541525, 2540820 | Fax: 2542956 / 2541982
cgmenv@idco.in | www.idco.in

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION
E.Mail: dforgda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

Letter No 180 4F (Misc.) 1984/2026.
Dated, Rayagada the 09 th January, 2026.

To

The Consultant (Env), IDCO,
IDCO Tower, Janapath,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: - Proposal for diversion of 4.911 Ha. Forest Land in village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for Construction of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH -44 under Rayagada District/Division-**Demand Notice for payment of NPV, the cost of CA & ACA Scheme.**(Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025).

Ref: - Memo No. 587 Dt. 09.01.2026 of the Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal), O/o. the Pr. CCF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the instructions issued by the Conservator of Forests (Nodal), O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha vide Memo No. 587 dated 09.01.2026, you are hereby directed to deposit the amounts detailed below towards Compensatory Afforestation (CA), Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA), and Net Present Value (NPV), as a mandatory pre-condition for further processing of the forest diversion proposal.

All funds required to be deposited under this proposal shall be transferred only through the MoEF&CC online portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/) into the CAMPA Account of the State of Odisha. Any amount deposited through any other mode shall not be accepted as valid compliance of the Stage-I (In-Principle) approval. Accordingly, you are required to deposit the following amounts and submit the online transaction particulars along with UTR numbers to this office for verification and onward action:

Compensatory Afforestation (CA) &Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA): You are required to deposit:

- ₹59,06,200/- (Rupees Fifty-Nine Lakh Six Thousand Two Hundred only) towards Compensatory Afforestation (CA) for 06.07 ha of non-forest land identified at Village Tingarjhola, KolnaraTahasil, Rayagada District; and
- ₹54,15,400/- (Rupees Fifty-Four Lakh Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred only) towards Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) for 05.00 ha of degraded forest land identified at Pedakonda Extension Reserved Forest, Rayagada Division.

Net Present Value (NPV):

- In accordance with the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I (In-Principle) approval dated 05.01.2026 issued by the Government of India, MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, and in compliance with the Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995, read with the guidelines of MoEF&CC issued vide letters No. 5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022 and 22.03.2022, you are hereby directed to deposit the Net Present Value (NPV) in respect of 4.911 ha of forest land being diverted under this proposal.
- Accordingly, an amount of ₹47,03,658/- (Rupees Forty-Seven Lakh Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Eight only), being the NPV calculated at the prevailing rate of ₹9,57,780 per hectare applicable to Eco-Class III (Open Forest with canopy density below 0.4), shall be transferred online through the MoEF&CC portal into the CAMPA Account of the State of Odisha within 30 (thirty) days from the date of receipt of this letter.
- The online transaction receipt along with the UTR number in support of the above payment shall be submitted to this office immediately for further processing.
- Further, as mandated under the Stage-I approval and Supreme Court directions, you shall also furnish an undertaking to pay any additional amount of NPV, if so determined in future, in accordance with the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and/or revised rates notified by the Government of India.

Submission of Stage-I Compliance:

Further, you are directed to submit all compliances stipulated in the Stage-I (In-Principle) approval issued by the Government of India, MoEF& CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar vide order dated 05.01.2026, to this office for onward transmission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act), O/o the Pr. CCF, Odisha through the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Koraput Circle.

Failure to deposit the above amounts and submit the required compliances within the stipulated time shall result in non-processing of the forest diversion proposal and shall be treated as non-compliance of Stage-I approval conditions.

Summary of Financial Obligations:

Sl. No.	Component	Area (ha)	Location	Amount (₹)
1	Compensatory Afforestation (CA)	6.07	Tingarjhola Village, KolnaraTahasil	59,06,200/-
2	Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA)	5.00	Pedakonda Ext. RF, Rayagada Division	54,15,400/-
3	Net Present Value (NPV)	4.911	Proposed Approach Road, Rayagada Division	47,03,658/-
	Total Payable			**1,60,25,258/-**

The above demands are raised in compliance with the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I (In-Principle) approval and the prevailing guidelines of the Government of India. This shall not preclude the Department from raising any additional demands towards CA, ACA, NPV, Penal NPV, cost of mitigation measures, or any other statutory levy, if so required on the basis of revised rates, further directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, or instructions of the Government of India / State Government at any stage prior to grant of final (Stage-II) approval.

Yours faithfully

9.1.26

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 181 /4F Date. 09-01-2026

Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F. C. Act.), O/o. the PCCF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to his memo no.587 dt.09.01.2026.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 182 /4F Date. 09-01-2026

Copy Submitted to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Koraput Circle, Koraput for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to memo no.589 dt.09.01.2026 of the Conservator of Forests (Nodal), O/o. the PCCF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar to his address.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Environment)

512

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No. HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024 8381 **Date:24/03/2026**

To,

The Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Forest Division
Rayagada

Sub: Compliance to the Stage-I Clearance pertaining to diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 under Rayagada District.

Sir,

In response to the EDS raised vide your letter No.1332, dt. 11/03/2026 and continuation to this office letter No.6619, dt.07/03/2026 the compliances to the conditions stipulated in letter dt.05/01/2026 of MoEF & CC, GoI., Bhubaneswar according Stage-I / in-Principal approval for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land in the village Sagabari and Porlang under Kashipur Tahasil for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 under Rayagada District is enclosed herewith for kind information and necessary action at your end.

Encl:- As above

Yours faithfully,

Consultant (Environment)

24/3

Memo No. 8382 **/ Date: 24/03/2026**

Copy submitted to the PCCF, Nodal Officer, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for kind information and necessary action, with reference to this office memo No.6620, dt.07/03/2026.

Consultant (Environment)

24/3

Memo No. 8383 **/ Date: 24/03/2026**

Copy forwarded to the CGM(Land), IDCO, Bhubaneswar for information & necessary action, with reference to this office memo No.6621, dt.07/03/2026.

Consultant (Environment)

24/3

Memo No. 8384 **/ Date: 24/03/2026**

Copy forwarded to Sri. S. Suresh, Chief Financial Officer, M/s Vedanta Ltd., 5th Floor, Module C/2, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information & necessary action, with reference to this office memo No.6622, dt.07/03/2026.

Consultant (Environment)

24/3

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar – 751022, Odisha, INDIA
+91- 0674 - 2541525, 2540820 | Fax: 2542956 / 2541982
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Consultant (Env)

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Sl No	Condition	Compliance
1.1	Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion shall remain unchanged.	The Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as Annexure-1.1.
1.2	The user agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of 4.911 hact forest land being diverted under this proposal, as per the Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dt.28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide its letter No.5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dt.06/01/2022 and 22/03/2022. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal in CAMPA account of the State concerned.	It is respectfully submitted that, in compliance with the demand raised by the DFO, Rayagada, communicated vide Letter No. 180 dated 09.01.2026, an amount of Rs. 47,03,658/- (Rupees Forty-seven Lakh Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Eight only) towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) for diversion of 4.911 Ha. of forest land has been deposited through the online portal into the CAMPA account of the State. The payment UTR Receipt No. CMS5504195085 dated 22.01.2026 is enclosed herewith as **Annexure–1.2** for kind reference.
1.3	At the time of payment of Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.	An undertaking has been furnished to pay the additional amount of Net Present Value (NPV), if so determined, in accordance with the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. A copy of the undertaking is enclosed as **Annexure–1.3**.
1.4	The Govt. non forest land of 6.07 ha identified in village Tingarjhola, Kalnara Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in the name of Forest Department before handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Government. The identified non-forest shall be notified as Protected Forest under Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or local forest Act. The Nodal Officer, after notification of such non forest land, shall uploaded a copy of said notification on the PARIVESH portal.	It is submitted that the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land measuring 6.07 ha, identified in Village Tingarjhola under Kolnara Tahasil of Rayagada District within Rayagada Forest Division, has already been mutated and transferred in favour of the Forest Department. Further, the proposal for Protected Forest (PF) notification has been submitted by the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act), O/o the PCCF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide Letter No. 1286/4F (Misc) 1984/2026 dated 10.03.2026. A copy of the said letter along with the Record of Rights (RoR) is enclosed as **Annexure–1.4**.

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

Sri. Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Env)

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1.5	The user agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation and additional compensatory afforestation at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The Schemes may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.	It is submitted that the cost towards raising and maintenance of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) has been deposited. An amount of ₹59,06,200/- (Rupees Fifty-Nine Lakh Six Thousand Two Hundred only) towards CA and ₹54,15,400/- (Rupees Fifty-Four Lakh Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred only) towards ACA has been remitted through online mode vide UTR No. CMS5504195085 dated 22.01.2026. A copy of the payment receipt is enclosed as **Annexure–1.5**.
1.6	The User Agency shall ensure that the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are cleared of all encroachments prior to handing them over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall, ensure that the CA sites are free from encroachments, properly fenced and duly planted at the cost of the User Agency.	It is certified that the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site was free from all encroachments and encumbrances at the time of handing over to the State Forest Department (SFD). A copy of the joint verification report along with the handing-over note is enclosed as **Annexure–1.6** for kind reference.
1.7	Compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 6.07 ha of non forest land identified in village Tingarjhola under Kolnara Tahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division within two years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, at the cost of user agency.	It is undertaken that Compensatory Afforestation (CA) shall be raised over 6.07 ha of identified non-forest land in Village Tingarjhola under Kolnara Tahasil of Rayagada District within Rayagada Forest Division, within a period of two years from the date of Stage-II clearance. The plantation shall thereafter be maintained by the State Forest Department as per the approved plan/scheme, at the cost of the User Agency. A copy of the undertaking is enclosed as **Annexure–1.7**.
1.8	Additional Compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 5.00 ha of degraded forest land identified in Pedakonda Extn. RF under Rayagada Forest Division within two years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, at the cost of user agency.	It is undertaken that Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) shall be raised over 5.00 ha of degraded forest land identified in Pedakonda Extension RF under Rayagada Forest Division, within a period of two years from the date of Stage-II clearance. The plantation shall thereafter be maintained by the State Forest Department as per the approved plan/scheme, at the cost of the

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		User Agency. A copy of the undertaking is enclosed as **Annexure–1.8**.
1.9	The species to be planted in the CA/Addl. CA schemes shall be of native species of the area. At least 18 month old seedlings should be planted. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular intervals.	It is undertaken that the species to be planted under the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) schemes shall be native to the area, and seedlings of not less than 18 months of age shall be used for plantation. Further, intensive monitoring of the plantation shall be carried out and duly documented through geo-tagging to facilitate periodic evaluation of canopy density, as well as the survival and growth of the plantation. A copy of the undertaking is enclosed as **Annexure–1.9**.
1.10	The KML files of the area to be diverted and the CA/Addl. CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before issuing working permission towards linear projects or submitting compliance report for seeking Stage-II approval, as the case may be.	The KML files of the forest land proposed for diversion, as well as the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) areas, have been duly uploaded on the e-Green Watch portal with all requisite details. Screenshots evidencing the uploading of KML files on the e-Green Watch portal are enclosed as **Annexure–1.10.**
1.11	All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.	It is certified that all requisite funds have been duly transferred/deposited into the CAMPA account through the e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in). The details of the payments are as follows: a. NPV: ₹47,03,658/- b. CA: ₹59,06,200/- c. ACA: ₹54,15,400/- Total Amount: ₹1,60,25,258/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Lakh Twenty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Eight only), deposited vide UTR No. CMS5504195085 dated 22.01.2026. Further, an amount of ₹1,46,07,054/- towards plantation of tall indigenous species has also been deposited vide UTR No. CMS5589092419 dated 13.03.2026. Copies of the payment receipts are enclosed as **Annexure–1.11**.

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1.12	The compliance report of the Stage-I approval shall be uploaded on e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/).	The compliance report of the Stage-I approval has been uploaded on the PARIVESH portal (https://parivesh.nic.in). An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure–1.12**.
1.13	The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.	The Collector, Rayagada has issued the requisite certificate under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 in the prescribed format (Form–I) for diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land, vide No. 150/XI-117/25 dated 31.01.2025. A copy of the said certificate is enclosed as **Annexure–1.13**.
1.14	The boundary of the proposed forest land for diversion, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.	It is submitted that the boundary of the proposed forest land for diversion has been demarcated on the ground at the project cost by erecting four-feet-high reinforced cement concrete (RCC) pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, inter-pillar distance, and GPS coordinates. Representative photographs of the demarcation are enclosed as **Annexure–1.14**.
1.15	The user agency shall obtain Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.	As per EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006, Environmental Clearance is not required for this project. The copy of the same is enclosed as **Annexure 1.15**.
1.16	The Forest Department shall undertake plantation of tall indigenous tree species along both sides of the proposed road, at the cost of the User Agency, to mitigate dust pollution resulting from the movement of heavy vehicles associated with mining activities.	It is submitted that the scheme for plantation of tall indigenous tree species along both sides of the proposed road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hilltop) to SH-44 has been prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Division and duly approved by the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Koraput Circle. An amount of ₹1,46,07,054/- towards the said scheme has been deposited vide UTR No. CMS5589092419 dated 13.03.2026. Copies of the approved scheme, demand, and payment details are enclosed as **Annexure–1.16**.

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1.17	Considering that the proposed area features a medium slope and the road will be used by heavy vehicles, the User Agency shall implement appropriate engineering and safety measures to prevent soil erosion.	It is submitted that appropriate engineering and safety measures shall be implemented to prevent soil erosion, considering the medium slope of the proposed area and the use of the road by heavy vehicles. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure–1.17**.
1.18	Overburden shall not be disposed beyond the designated road width. Muck generated from earth cuttings shall be fully utilized for filling works. Any excess muck shall be disposed strictly in accordance with a Muck Disposal Plan. No muck or debris shall be permitted to roll down hill slopes. The user agency shall submit an undertaking to this effect along with the compliance for final approval.	It is submitted that overburden will not be disposed beyond the designated road width. Muck generated from earth cuttings will be fully utilized for filling works. Any excess muck will be disposed strictly in accordance with a Muck Disposal Plan. No muck or debris will be permitted to roll downhill slopes. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.18**.
1.19	Retaining walls, breast walls, and drainage structures shall be constructed at appropriate locations to ensure slope stability and prevent erosion along the alignment.	It is submitted that retaining walls, breast walls, and drainage structures shall be constructed at appropriate locations along the alignment to ensure slope stability and prevent erosion, wherever required. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure–1.19**.
1.20	The State Forest Department shall undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the CA sites, with the cost to be borne by the user agency.	It is undertaken that the State Forest Department (SFD) shall undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the CA sites, with the cost to be borne by the User Agency. A copy of the undertaking is enclosed as **Annexure–1.20**.
1.21	The user agency shall use fly ash for the road construction and for filling up of void created due to soil borrows which will be followed by compaction and spreading of top soil over it as per Fly Ash Notification No. S.O. 254 (E) dated 25.01.2016.	In compliance to the above condition, It is submitted that the user agency will use fly ash for the road construction and for filling up of void created due to soil burrows which will be followed by compaction and spreading of top soil over it as per Fly Ash Notification No. S.O. 254 (E) dated 25.01. 2016. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.21**.

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1.22	The user agency shall explore the possibility of successful transplantation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.	It is submitted that the user agency will explore the possibility of successful transplantation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and will ensure that any tree felling will be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.22**.
1.23	The user agency shall submit an undertaking to ensure that flanks of roads should be filled by transported soil and not with soil dug from the side of the roads.	It is submitted that an undertaking has been furnished to ensure that the flanks of the road shall be filled with transported soil and not with soil dug from the sides of the road. A copy of the undertaking is enclosed as **Annexure–1.23**.
1.24	The designing of new culverts/bridges and redesigning the existing ones over the natural streams/ rivers/canals should be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise to water-logging, so that it does not hamper movement of wild animals including fishes & amphibians migration.	It is submitted that the design of new culverts/bridges and the redesign of existing structures over natural streams, rivers, and canals shall be carried out in such a manner that the natural course of water is not obstructed, water-logging is avoided, and the movement of wildlife, including fishes and amphibians, is not impeded. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure–1.24**.
1.25	Speed regulating signage will be erected along the road at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/Forest Areas.	It is submitted that Speed regulating signage will be erected along the road at regular intervals in the Protected Areas / Forest Areas. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.25**.
1.26	The user agency shall provide adequate under passes in wildlife areas/wildlife crossing, if any, for the safe movement of wildlife.	It is submitted that the user agency will provide adequate under passes in wildlife areas/ wildlife crossing, if any, for the safe movement of wildlife wherever required after consultation with State Forest Department (SFD). An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.26**.
1.27	No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site	It is submitted that no labour camp will be established in the forest land and the user agency will provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at

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	so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.	the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.27**.
1.28	No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.	It is submitted that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.28**.
1.29	The user agency while executing works, shall not fell any tree in the surrounding forest area in any manner.	It is submitted that the user agency while executing works, will not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.29**.
1.30	The layout plan of the proposed forest land shall not be changed without the prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.	It is submitted that the layout plan of the proposed forest land will not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.30**.
1.31	The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.	It is submitted that the forest land will not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.31**.
1.32	The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without the prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.	It is submitted that the forest land proposed for diversion shall not be transferred to any other user agency, department, or person without the prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure–1.32**.
1.33	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.	It is submitted that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area will be caused. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.33**.
1.34	The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.	It is submitted that the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada shall monitor the project and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the surrounding forest areas. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure–1.34**.

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1.35	The user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and concerned Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year.	It is submitted that the user agency will submit the annual self-monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and concerned Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.35**.
1.36	Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency.	It is submitted that any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, will be complied by the user agency. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-1.36**.
1.37	The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.	In compliance with the above condition, it is submitted that the requirement that the State Government and User Agency shall ensure compliance with the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Orders and Hon'ble Court Orders, as applicable to the project for the time being in force, has been duly noted, and the same shall be complied with in letter and spirit. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure–1.37**. It is further submitted that Appeal No. 4/2026/ EZ pertaining to the present project is pending before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata.Vide Order dated 27.02.2026, the Hon'ble Tribunal directed the respondents to file their responses and listed the matter for hearing on 23.03.2026. Subsequently, vide Order dated 23.03.2026, the matter has been adjourned and is presently listed for hearing on 18.05.2026. No further directions have been issued in the matter as on date, and the matter remains pending consideration.

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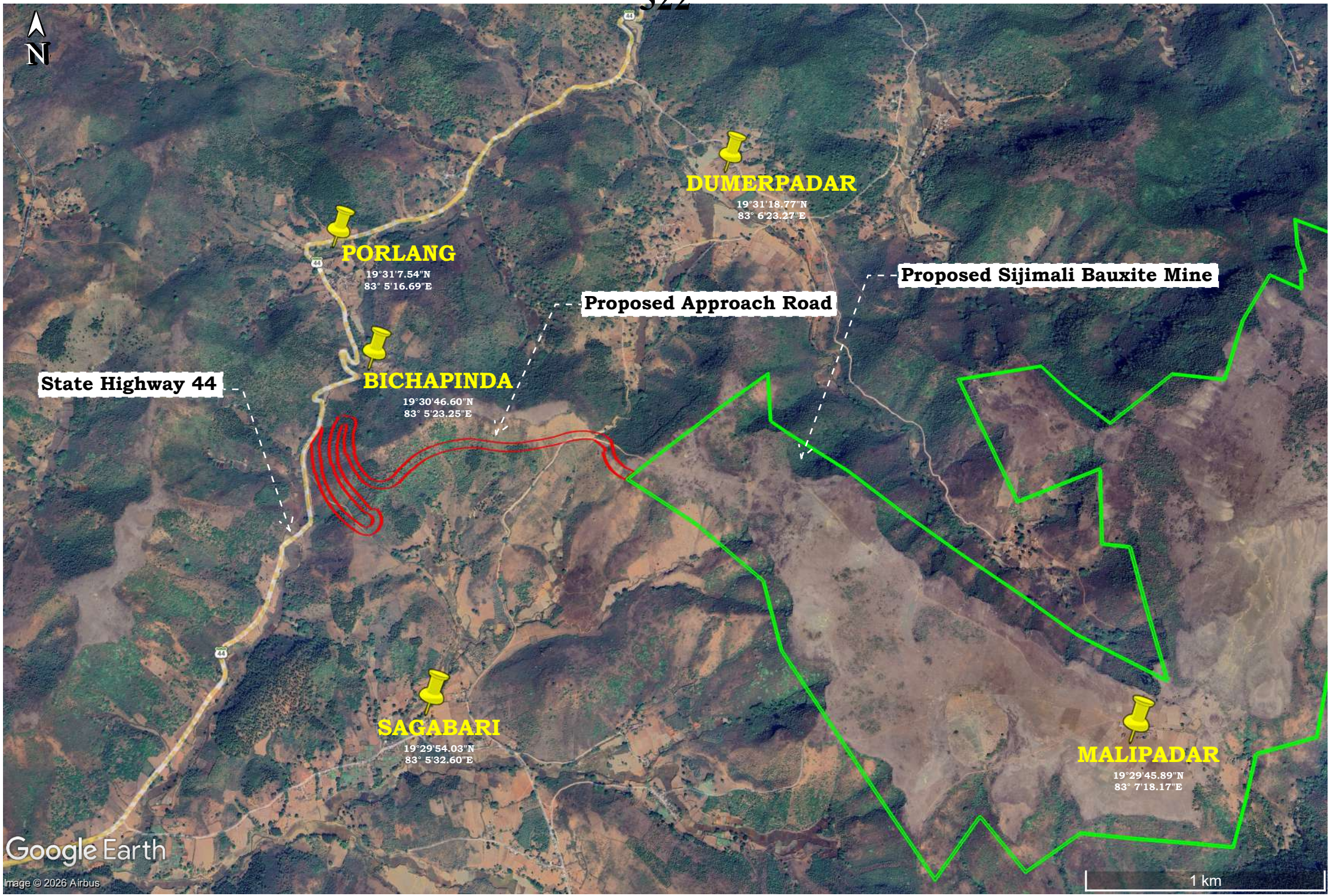
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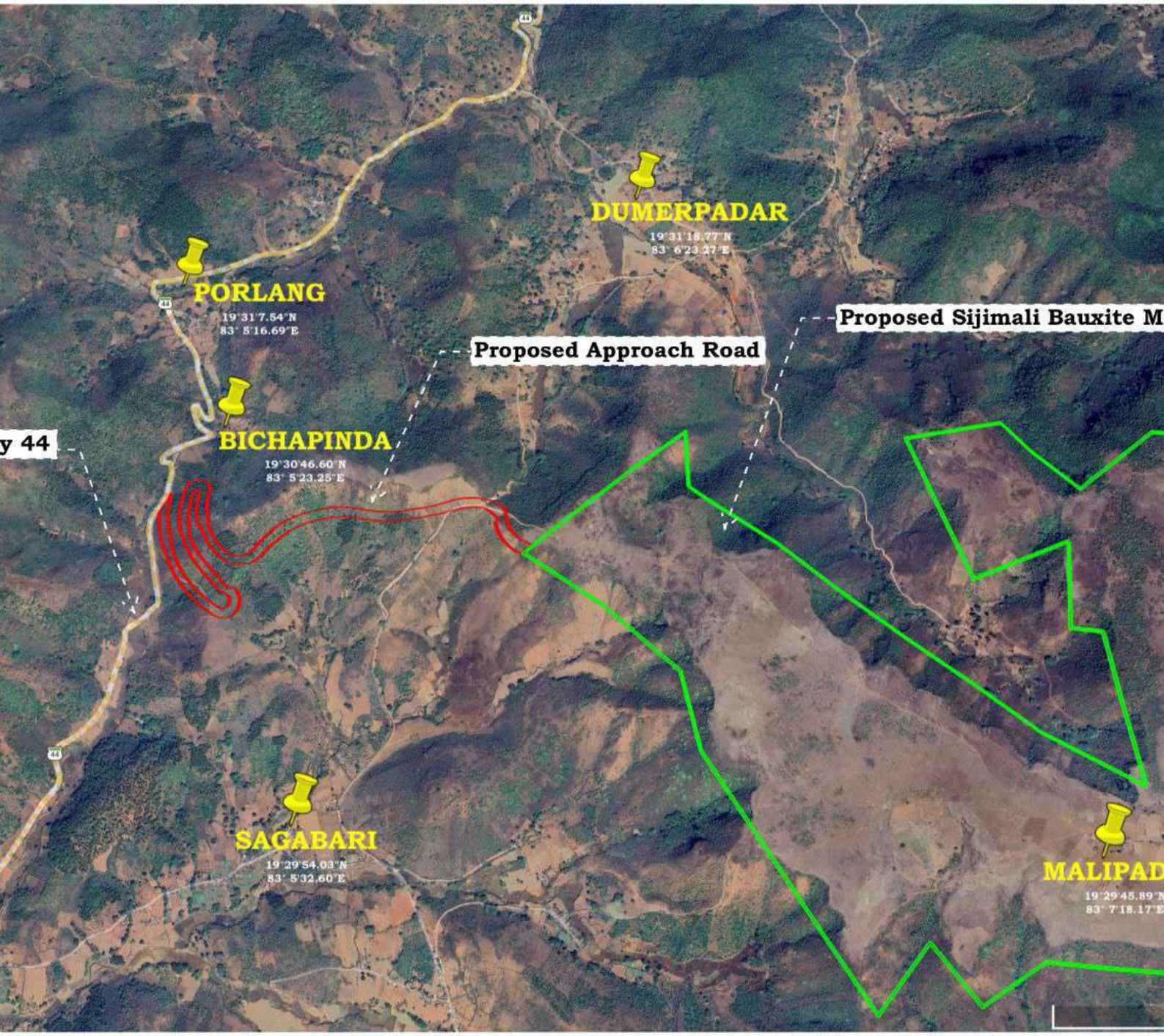
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1.38	Any other direction issued by the Ministry as a result of Hon'ble Supreme Court order will have bearing on this approval.	It is submitted that any directions issued by the Ministry pursuant to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, having a bearing on the present approval, shall be duly noted and complied with as and when applicable. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure–1.38**.
1.39	Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in Para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 vide Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023.	It is submitted that the stipulation that violation of any of the conditions will amount to violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in Para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 vide Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023 has been duly noted, and the conditions shall be complied with in letter and spirit. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure–1.39**.

Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

ANNEXURE A30




DUMERPADAR
19°31'18.77"N
83° 6'23.27"E
PORLANG
19°31'7.54"N
83° 5'16.69"E
Proposed Sijimali Bauxite M
Proposed Approach Road
BICHAPINDA
19°30'46.60"N
83° 5'23.25"E
y 44
SAGABARI
19°29'54.03"N
83° 5'32.60"E
MALIPAD
19°29'45.89"N
83° 7'18.17"E

ANNEXURE A31

INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, RAYAGADA

e-Mail-itdarayagada@gmail.com, Contact No.06856-235165, Pin Code-765001

No. 157 /XI117/2024 Dated. 03 .02.2025

To

The Chief General Manager (Env),
Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Issuance of FRA Certificate for development of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 for facilitating Bauxite Transportation by M/s Vedanta in Rayagada district.

Ref: Your letter No.HO-CGM(Env)/394/2024 Dated.31.08.2024

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the letter on the subject cited above, I am to send herewith the FRA certificate in Form-I to an extent of 12.135 Acre for development of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 for facilitating Bauxite Transportation by M/s Vedanta in village Porlang & Sagabari under Kashipur Tahasil of Rayagada district .

This is for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

3/2/25

Project Administrator-
Cum-Nodal Officer, FRA
ITDA, Rayagada

Memo No. 158 /2025 Dated. 03 .02.2025

Copy submitted to the Additional District Magistrate, Rayagada for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to District Office (Revenue Section) Letter No.2570/XXXV-08/2024 (Part-II) dated.06.09.2024.

3/2/25

Project Administrator-
Cum-Nodal Officer, FRA
ITDA, Rayagada

FORM – I

(for linear projects)

Government of Odisha

Office of the District Collector, Rayagada.

No. 150/XI-117/25 Date:- 31/01/2025

TO WHOM SOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

In compliance of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) Government of India's letter No.11-9/98-FC (Pt.) dated–3rd August 2009 wherein the MoEF issued guidelines on submission of evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA for short) on the forest land proposed to be diverted for non-forest purposes read with MoEF letter dated 5th February 2013 wherein MoEF issued certain relaxation in respect of linear project, it is to certify that **12.135 Acre** (includes 11.650 acre in village Sagabari and 0.485 Acre in village Porlang) proposed to be diverted in favour of **Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), Bhubaneswar** for development of **road from Sijimali Bauxite mines top to SH-44 for facilitating Bauxite Transportation by M/S Vedanta Ltd.** in **Rayagada district** falls within jurisdiction of **Kashipur Tahasil**. The detail land schedule is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

It is further certified that:

(a) The complete process of identification and settlement of rights under the FRA has been carried out for the **12.135 Acre** (includes 11.650 acre in village Sagabari and 0.485 Acre in village Porlang) proposed for development of road from Sijimali Bauxite mines top to SH-44 for facilitating Bauxite Transportation by M/S Vedanta Ltd. A copy of records of all consultations and meetings of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee(s) and District Level Committee are enclosed as **Annexure-II and Annexure-III**.

(b) The diversion of forest land for facilities managed by the Government as required under section3 (2) of the FRA have been completed and the Gram Sabhas have given their consent to it.

(c) The proposal does not involve recognized rights of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) and Pre-agriculture communities (PAC).

Encl: As above.

30/1/25

Parul Patwari, IAS,
Collector-Cum-Chairperson,
DLC, FRA, Rayagada.

Annexure-I

Name of Tahasil- Kashipur

Name of RI Circle- Adatakiri

Name of District- Rayagada

Sl No	Village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Total Area(Ac.)	Alloted Area (Ac.)	Kissam
1	Porlang	35	280	16.00	0.485	Pahada (DLC listed land)
2	Sagabari	156	4(P)	26.38	7.274	Pahada (DLC listed land)
3			5(P)	32.75	4.376	Pahada (DLC listed land)
Total Area(Ac.)					**12.135**	

N.B: No IFR titles have been issued on the above proposed plots

30/1/15

Collector, Rayagada

Annexure - II

609
07.12.24

PROCEEDING OF THE SUB-DIVISIONAL LEVEL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19.11.2024 AT 11.00AM IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF SUB-COLLECTOR OFFICE, RAYAGADA ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEDULE TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (Recognition of Forest Rights Act-2006).

The SDLC meeting of Rayagada Sub-Division was held in the Conference Hall of Sub-Collector's Office, Rayagada on 19.11.2024 at 11.00 AM. The Sub-Collector-cum-Chairman, SDLC, Rayagada presided over the meeting.

At the outset, the Chairman-Cum-Sub-Collector welcomed the members present in the meeting and focused on the guidelines and procedures involved in the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act-2006).The list of Members present in the meeting is enclosed at Annexure-I.

The following matters have been taken into consideration in the meeting.

Discussion on IFR, CFR & CFRR Case Records

The proposals of 374 IFR claims have been received from Rayagada, Kolnara and Kashipur Tehsils duly recommended by the concerned FRC and Gram Sabha/ Palli Sabha. The members of SDLC verified and scrutinized all the claims. On verification 114 claims are found correct and genuine. Accordingly SDLC has approved 114 IFR claims and decided to recommend before the DLC to issue title certificate in favour of the beneficiaries.

Secondly, the rest 258 IFR claims have been found incomplete due to various reasons which shall be returned to the concerned Gram Shabha through concerned Tahsildars for reverification and resubmission to the SDLC.

Sl. No.	Name of the Block	Name of GP	Name of Village	Approved Claims
		Pitamahal	Podi	07
		Tadama	Perigaon	45
		Kuli	Nandabadi	06
		Dangalody	Kundam	02
2	Kolnara	Rekhapadar	Muteli	19
		Bankili	Badisola	04
3	Kashipur	Siripai	Balkapai	13
		Siripai	Sirlijhodi	11
		Siripai	Leliguma	07
Total				114

The following 03 nos of Community Right and 03 nos of Community Forest Resources Right claims have been received from the Tahasildar Kashipur after due compliance from Gramsabha. Accordingly, the committee has decided to recommend before the DLC to issue title.

Sl. NO.	Name of the Block	Village	CFR	CRR
1	Kashipur	Leliguma	01	01
2		Balkapai	01	01
3		Sirlijhodi	01	01
Total			03	03

PROPOSAL FOR ISSUE OF NOC FOR DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND TO AN EXTENT OF Ac 12.135 FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ROAD FROM SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES TOP TO SH-44

As per the letter No. 2269 dated 24.09.2024 of the Project Administrator-cum-Nodal Officer, FRA, ITDA, Rayagada, the proposal of diversion of an area Ac 12.135 of forest land to non-forest purpose for development of road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 for facilitating Bauxite transportation by M/S Vedanta Ltd. Under Kashipur Tahasil in Rayagada District has been discussed in the meeting.

As per the guideline provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) Government of India 5th February 2013 there is certain relaxation in respect of linear project that resolution/consent of the Gram Shabha of the area may not be required for the project like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipelines/Optical fibers and transmission lines.

Accordingly, report received from Tahasildar and BDO Kashipur have been taken into the consideration for this linear Project It is ascertained that no Primitive Tribal Goups (PTG) or Pre-Agriculture Communities (PAC) are staying in the area.

The committee has decided to recommend the proposal of diversion of the following area 12.135 Ac for the purpose of linear project to the DLC for issuing Certificate under Forest Right Act. (The report of Tahasildars and BDOs are enclosed)

Sl. No.	Name of Tahasil	Name of Village	Khata No	Plot No.	Area (Ac)
1	Kashipur	Sagabari	156	4 (P)	7.274
2		Sagabari	156	5 (P)	4.376
3		Porlang	35	280 (P)	0.485
Grand Total					12.135

Other Matter

The Tahasil level FRA Cell Committee under Rayagada Sub-Division were instructed by the Chairman to follow up the guidelines laid down by the Government from time to time regarding implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act-2006) and do the needful with regard to the FRA application received as and when at their level and place the same after proper scrutiny and verification in all respect.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and participants.

19.11.2024

Sub Collector-cum- Chairman
SDLC, Rayagada

Memo No 5826 /2024 Dated: 19/11/2024

Copy to all the members of the Committee for information and necessary action.

Copy to concerned FRC committee for information and necessary action.

19.11.2024

Sub Collector-cum- Chairman
SDLC, Rayagada

Memo No 5827 /2024 Dated: 19/11/2024

Copy to all the Tahasildars of this Sub division for information and necessary action.

Copy to all the WEOs of this Sub division for information and necessary action.

19.11.2024

Sub Collector-cum- Chairman
SDLC, Rayagada

Memo No 5828 /2024 Dated: 19/11/2024

Copy submitted to Collector-Cum- Chairman, District level (FRA) Committee, Rayagada/ PA-ITDA, Rayagada for information and necessary action.

19.11.2024.

Sub Collector-cum- Chairman
SDLC, Rayagada

Annexure - III

Proceedings of the District Level Committee meeting held on 18.12.2024 on implementation of Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Amendment Rule, 2012

Date of Meeting : 18.12.2024
Time : 10:30 A.M
Venue : Sadbhabana Sabhagruha, Collectorate, Rayagada

The District Level Committee (DLC) meeting on implementation of Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Amendment Rule, 2012 was convened on 18.12.2024 at 10:30 A.M in the Sadbhabana Sabhagruha, Collectorate, Rayagada under the Chairmanship of the Collector-cum-Chairperson, DLC, FRA, Rayagada. The following members attended the meeting.

- Collector-cum-Chairperson, DLC, FRA, Rayagada
- Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada
- Divisional Forest Officer, Paralakhemundi (Virtual)
- Sub-Collector-Cum-Chairperson, SDLC, Gunupur
- Sub-Collector-Cum-Chairperson, SDLC, Rayagada
- Project Administrator-Cum-Nodal Officer, ITDA, Rayagada
- District Welfare Officer, Rayagada
- ADWO, ITDA, Rayagada
- ADWO, Sub-Collector Office,Rayagada
- Sri Igan Gomango, Zillaparishad Member, Gunupur
- Sri Barratom Vara Prasad Rao, Zillaparishad Member, K.Singhpur

At the outset the Project Administrator-cum-Nodal Officer, ITDA, Rayagada welcomed all the members present in the meeting and the Collector-cum-Chairperson, DLC, FRA, Rayagada initiated the agenda wise discussion.

Agenda No.1:
Discussion on IFR cases received from SDLC, Gunupur & Rayagada

The Project Administrator-Cum-Nodal Officer, ITDA, Rayagada apprised that the following IFR cases were received from the SDLC, Gunupur duly approved in the SDLC meeting held on dated.24.10.2024 (Copy enclosed) and SDLC Rayagada duly approved in the SDLC meeting held on dated 19.11.2024 and 29.11.2024(Copy enclosed).

Sl. No	Name of The Sub-Division	Name of the Tahasil	Name of the Village	No. of IFR Cases received	No. of cases approved	No. of Cases to be Remanded	Total Area to be Aproved (in Acre)
1	Gunupur	Gunupur	Garamul	15	15	0	28.330
2		Gudari	Parikupuda	12	12	0	19.800
3			Rengam	3	3	0	6.200
4		Chandrapur	Raibiji	15	15	0	33.865
5			Bakaguda	11	11	0	19.257
6			Siripadara	17	16	1	60.939
7			Patsanda	9	9	0	5.567
8			Nauduguda	19	19	0	30.646
9			Balakabaju	16	16	0	30.660
10			Batalaguda	5	5	0	16.989
11			Ghogopadar	20	20	0	43.278
12		Padmapur	Gundripadar	7	7	0	0.169
13			Nandra	14	14	0	0.457
14			Dakrapanga	14	14	0	23.290
15			Rajpur	23	23	0	0.480
16			Pangedikua	10	10	0	0.526
17			Santinagar	36	36	0	6.211
18			Sribhalabapur	25	25	0	5.720

19		Bissamcuttack	Libharakana	15	14	1	9.560
20			Badajamiti	14	11	3	17.810
21			Dachupai	10	10	0	25.010
22			Rekhapai	2	2	0	3.460
23			Goudaguda	3	1	2	1.000
24			Lakhabhata	15	15	0	12.284
25			Kalipanga	16	6	10	7.694
26			Sanyasiguda	18	17	1	17.120
27			Kumbhia	14	14	0	34.190
28			Lelingpadar	22	19	3	27.220
29			Dedipada	29	29	0	41.206
30		Muniguuda	Sana Manjurikupa	6	6	0	7.101
31			Sana Siringul	11	11	0	7.527
32			Kathabadi	18	18	0	13.919
33			Ghatana	20	20	0	41.686
34			Sakadagaon	18	8	10	8.007
Total				**502**	**471**	**31**	**607.178**
35	Rayagada	Kalyansingpur	Kangsari	10	10	0	17.61
36			Siripur	23	23	0	36.759
37			Pipiliguda	10	10	0	8.46
38			Sadalasa	19	19	0	9.074
39			Talaramba	24	24	0	14.815
40			Kusumasila	10	10	0	10.105
41			Kaliaguda	10	10	0	35.92
42		Kashipur	Kichikhal	25	25	0	38.61
43			Gobarghati	50	50	0	82.88
44			Balkapai	13	13	0	20.39
45			Sirlijhodi	11	11	0	23.62
46			Irripiput	41	41	0	69.33
47			Gumuraput	29	29	0	40.33
48			Kiajhol	35	35	0	74.83
49			Leliguma	7	7	0	5.60
50		Kolnara	Muteli	19	19	0	41.376
51			Badisola	9	9	0	0.173
52			Tarapali	10	10	0	12.45
53			Hazaridang	10	10	0	20.820
54			Rainasikabadi	27	27	0	22.180
55			Fakiri	3	3	0	1.05
56			Dengasargi	32	32	0	36.251
57			Bankili	13	13	0	6.401
58			Kamasing	21	21	0	15.318
59			Arabi	20	20	0	34.57
60		Rayagada	Podi	7	7	0	9.504
61			Perigoan	44	44	0	117.916
62			Nandabadi	6	6	0	13.008
63			Kundam	2	2	0	4.132
Total				**540**	**540**	**0**	**823.482**
Grand Total				**1042**	**1011**	**31**	**1430.66**

The Project Administrator-Cum-Nodal Officer, ITDA, Rayagada placed the above IFR cases before the Committee for examination and consideration. The Committee after careful examination approved 1011 IFR cases.

The following 31 IFR cases would be remanded back to the SDLC, Gunupur for re-examination of the cases on following grounds.

1. In 9 IFR cases from Muniguda and 11 from Bissamcuttack Tahasil it is found that the allotted area is more than the available area of concerned plot as per Bhulekh.
2. One case from Chandrapur, where allotted plot is not available in the said khata as per Bhulekh.
3. 10 cases from Bissamcuttack , where it is found that the signature of the concerned officials missing.

Agenda No.2:

Discussion on CR/CFR cases received from SDLC, Rayagada

The following 18 CFR and 18 CFRR cases have been received from the SDLC, Rayagada.

Sl. No	Name of The Sub-Division	Name of the Tahasil	Name of the Village	No. of CFR Cases	No. of CFRR Cases	Total	No. of cases found okay	No. of Cases to be Returned	Total Area to be Aproved (in Acre)
1	Rayagada	Kashipur	Leliguma	1	1	2	2	0	22.980
2			Iripiput	1	1	2	2	0	81.950
3			Kiajhola	1	1	2	2	0	22.270
4			Uppersupel	1	1	2	2	0	38.490
5			Gumuraput	1	1	2	2	0	20.170
6			Perpa	1	1	2	2	0	33.148
7			Adajore	1	1	2	0	2	
8			Adatakiri	1	1	2	0	2	
9			Nikesh	1	1	2	0	2	
10			Bahardulki	1	1	2	2	0	32.780
11			Balmaska	1	1	2	2	0	52.490
12			Kichikal	1	1	2	2	0	28.432
13			Ghobarghati	1	1	2	2	0	54.340
14		Kolnara	Tarapalli	1	1	2	2	0	453.450
15			Rainasikabadi	1	1	2	2	0	75.700
16			Andupadu	1	1	2	2	0	671.855
17			Kamasingi	1	1	2	2	0	46.000
18			Badagumuda	1	1	2	2	0	132.240
	Total			18	18	36	30	6	1766.295

On verification 15 CFR and 15 CFRR cases found eligible and 3 CFR and 3CFRR cases of village Adajore, Adatakri and Pukesh found that the kissam of the suit land stands recorded as Pahada & Parbat. Hence, the committee after careful examination approved 15 CFR and 15 CFRR cases and decided to remand back the 3 CFR & 3 CFRR cases to SDLC, Rayagada for verification of SABIK record whether the allotted plots were in Jungle kissam or the allotted plots included in DLC.

Agenda No.3:

Discussion on Conversion of Forest Village to Revenue Village cases received from SDLC,Rayagada

The following cases have been received from SDLC, Rayagada for conversion of Forest village to Revenue village.

Sl. No	Name of The Sub-Division	Name of the Tahasil	Name of the Village
1	Rayagada	Kashipur	Iripiput
2			Kiajhola
3			Gumuraput

After careful examination the committee approved all the 3 cases for conversion of forest village to Revenue village and recommended for submission to the Board of Revenue, Odisha, Cuttack for further action at their end.

Agenda No.4:

Discussion on issuance of FRA certificate for diversion of Forest Land to lay 18"/12" Dia. Underground Natural Gas Pipeline along with Optical Fiber Cable

The Chief Manager (Const.), GAIL (India) Limited has submitted proposal for issuance of FRA certificate for diversion of Forest land to an extent of 25.2276 Ha. To lay 18"/12" Dia Underground Natural Gas Pipeline along with 40 Mm Dia. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in Rayagada district vide Letter No.GAIL/SAPl/FOREST-RAYAGADA/FRA/CTC/04/2023 DATED. 22.06.2023.

Sl No.	Name of the Tahasil	Area (In Ha.)
1	Rayagada	3.7571
2	Kolnara	4.4724
3	K.Singhpur	4.5350
4	Kashipur	7.5544
5	Gunupur	1.0188
6	Ramanaguda	3.8899
Total		**25.2276**
7	Gunupur	0.3147
Total		**0.3147**

The Pallisabha/Gramsabha of village-Naura, under Gunupur Tahasil has approved the proposal in its Special Gramasabha meeting held on dated 16.09.2024. Similarly, the Pallisabha/Gramsabha of village-Patraput, Jarling, Suluri & Kataki under Ramanaguda Tahasil have approved the proposal in Special Gramasabha meeting held on dated. 13.09.2024 & 14.09.2024. Accordingly the Sub-Collector-cum-Chairperson, SDLC, Gunupur has recommended the proposal after due approval in its SDLC meeting held on dated. 24.10.2024 for issuance of FRA Certificate in favour of GAIL (India) Limited.

The Sub-Collector-cum-Chairperson, SDLC, Rayagada has submitted the report in respect of Rayagada, Kolnara, K.Singhpur and Kashipur Tahasil with a recommendation for issuance of FRA Certificate in favour or GAIL (India) Limited after due approval in SDLC meeting held on dated. 30.07.2024.

After verification of the reports received from the SDLC, Gunupur & Rayagada, the DLC approved the proposal for issuance of FRA certificate in favour of GAIL (India) Limited for diversion of Forest land to an extent of 25.2276 Ha. to lay 18"/12" Dia Underground Natural Gas Pipeline along with 40 Mm Dia. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in Rayagada district. The details of the IFR titles issued in the proposed diversion area is enclosed in **Annexure-I**.

Further The Chief Manager (Const.), GAIL (India) Limited has submitted proposal for issuance of FRA certificate for diversion of Forest land to an extent of 0.3147 Ha. to lay 18"/12" Dia Underground Natural Gas Pipeline along with 40 MM Dia. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in Rayagada and vide Letter No. GAIL/SAPl/FOREST-RAYAGADA/FRA/CTC/05/2023 DATED. 22.06.2023. This patch of land is coming under the Paralakhemundi Forest Division. Accordingly the DFO, Paralakhemundi has been intimated to join the DLC Meeting.

The DFO, Paralakhemundi has joined the meeting virtually and the committee has approved proposal for issuance of FRA certificate in favour of GAIL (India) Limited for diversion of Forest land to an extent of 0.3147 Ha. to lay 18"/12" Dia Underground Natural Gas Pipeline along with 40 MM Dia. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in Rayagada district. The details of the IFR titles issued in the proposed diversion area is enclosed in **Annexure-II**.

Agenda No.5:

Discussion on issuance of FRA certificate in favour of Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh for Linear project for Y-connection Railway line

The Head-Legal, Land & External Affairs, Vedanta Limited has submitted a proposal for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose to an extent of 1.148 Ha in village Anajodi under Muniguda Tahasil for Linear project for Y-connection Railway line. In this connection the SDLC, Gunupur has submitted a report and recommended for issuance of FRA Certificate in favour of Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh after due approval in SDLC meeting held on dated.24.10.2024.

The committee has approved the proposal for issuance of FRA Certificate to an extent of 1.148 Ha. in favour of Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh for Linear project for Y-connection Railway line. The details of the IFR titles issued in the proposed diversion area is enclosed in **Annexure-III.**

Agenda No.6:

Discussion on issuance of FRA certificate for Tikiri-Bhalumaska Railway Road Doubling project

The Deputy Chief Engineer (Con) II, E. Co. Railway, Rayagada applied for issuance of certificate for Tikiri-Bhalumaska Railway Road Doubling project to an extent of 57.322 Ha. vide letter dated.08.05.2023. The Sub-Collector-Cum-Chairperson, SDLC, Rayagada has submitted the report after due approval in SDLC Meeting held on dated. 29.11.2024 and recommended for issuance of FRA certificate in favour of the Deputy Chief Engineer (Con) II, E. Co. Railway, Rayagada. Accordingly the committee approved the project and decided to issue FRA Certificate to an extent of 57.322 Ha. in favour of the Deputy Chief Engineer (Con) II, E. Co. Railway, Rayagada.

Agenda No.7:

Discussion on issuance of FRA certificate for diversion of Forest Land for non-forest purpose for Development of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44

The Chief General Manager (Env.) IDCO, Bhubaneswar has requested for issue of FRA certificate for Ac.11.650 in village Sagabari and Ac.0.485 in village Porlang vide letter No.26050 dated.06.09.2024. The report in this regard has been received from SDLC, Rayagada after due approval in its meeting held on dated.19.11.2024. After careful examination the committee has approved for issuance of FRA certificate in favour of the Chief General Manager (Env.) IDCO, Bhubaneswar for development of Road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines top to SH-44 for facilitating Bauxite transportation by M/S Vedanta Ltd.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and the members.

19.12.2024
P.A.-Cum-Nodal Officer,
ITDA,Rayagada

18/12/24
District Welfare Officer,
Rayagada

18.12.24
Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada

18.12.2024
Divisional Forest Officer,
Paralakhemundi
Dist-Gajapati

18/12/24
Collector-cum-Chairperson
DLC, FRA, Rayagada

Memo No. 2677/2024 Dated.18.12.2024

Copy submitted to the Director (ST), ST & SC Development Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information.

18/12/24
Collector-Cum-Chairperson,DLC,
FRA,Rayagada

Memo No. 2678/2024 Dated.18.12.2024

Copy submitted to the Chief Conservator of Forest, Odisha for favour of kind information.

18/12/24
Collector-Cum-Chairperson,DLC,
FRA,Rayagada

ANNEXURE A32

F. No. 11-9/1998-FC (pt)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi – 110510.
Dated : 03.08.2009

To

The Chief Secretary / Administrator
(All State/UT Governments except J&K)

Subject: Diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - ensuring compliance of the *Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006.*

Sir,

In continuation to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 30.07.2009, I am directed to invite the attention of the State Government to the operationalization of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 which has become effective from 01.01.2008. It is observed that the proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are being received from different states/UT Governments with the submission that the settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA) will be completed later on.

Accordingly, to formulate unconditional proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State/UT Governments are, wherever the process of settlement of Rights under the FRA has been completed or currently under process, required to enclose evidences **for having initiated and completed the above process, especially among other sections, Sections 3(1)(i), 3(1)(e) and 4(5).** These enclosures of evidence shall be in the form of following:

a. A letter from the State Government certifying that the complete process for identification and settlement of rights under the FRA has been carried out for the entire forest area proposed for diversion, with a record of all consultations and meetings held;

b. A letter from the State Government certifying that proposals for such diversion (with full details of the project and its implications, in vernacular / local languages) have been placed before each concerned Gram Sabha of forest-dwellers, who are eligible under the FRA;

c. A letter from each of the concerned Gram Sabhas, indicating that all formalities/processes under the FRA have been carried out, and that **they have given their consent to the proposed diversion and the compensatory and ameliorative measures if any,** having understood the purposes and details of proposed diversion.

d. A letter from the State Government certifying that the diversion of forest land for facilities managed by the Government as required under section 3(2) of the FRA have been completed and that the Gram Sabhas have consented to it.

e. A letter from the State Government certifying that discussions and decisions on such proposals had taken place only when there was a quorum of minimum 50% of members of the Gram Sabha present;

f. Obtaining the written consent or rejection of the Gram Sabha to the proposal.

g. **A letter from the State Government certifying that the rights of Primitive Tribal Groups and Pre-Agricultural Communities, where applicable, have been specifically safeguarded as per section 3(1)(e) of the FRA.**

h. Any other aspect having bearing on operationalisation of the FRA.

The State/UT Governments, where process of settlement of Rights under the FRA is yet to begin, are required to enclose evidences supporting that settlement of rights under FRA 2006 will be initiated and completed before the final approval for proposals.

This is issued with the approval of the Minister of Environment and Forests.

(C.D. Singh)
Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The PMO (kind attention: Director, PMO)
2. The Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Afffairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All States / UTs.
4. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCFs, All States / UTs.
5. All Regional Offices of MoEF located at Bhopal, Shillong, Bangalore, Lucknow, Bhubaneshwar and Chandigarh.
6. The RO (HQ), DIGF(FP), Sr.AIGF(FC)/AIGF(FC), MoEF, New Delhi.
7. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi for placing the same on the website of the MoEF.
8. Guard File.

(C.D. Singh)
Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests

F. No. 11-9/ 98-FC (pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 510.
Dated: 5th February, 2013

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State / Union Territory Governments

Sub: Diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – ensuring compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 03.08.2009 wherein this Ministry issued detailed guidelines on submission of evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

This Ministry has received representations from various Ministries to exempt projects like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipelines/optical fibres and transmission lines *etc.* where linear diversion of forest land in several villages are involved, from the requirement of obtaining consent of Gram Sabha, as stipulated in this Ministry's said letter dated 3.8.2009.

The matter has also been examined by an inter-ministerial Committee. The Committee after examination of the matter had *inter alia* recommended that a resolution of the Gram Sabha of the area, based on full and prior information of the project and a public hearing, endorsing that the project is in the interest of the people living on the forest land, use of which is proposed to be diverted for non-forest purposes may not be required for the projects like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipelines/optical fibres and transmission lines etc. where linear diversion of use of forest land in several villages are involved, unless recognised rights of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) and Pre-Agricultural Communities (PAC) are being affected.

The Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs in his D.O. letter dated 21.01.2013 addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power has informed that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs agrees with the recommendation of said Committee that resolution of the Gram Sabha may not be required in cases of projects like transmission lines where linear diversion of forest land in several villages are involved, unless recognised rights of PTG/ PAC are being affected.

05/02/2013

Accordingly, I am directed to say that proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for projects like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipelines/ optical fibres and transmission lines *etc.* where linear diversion of use of forest land in several villages are involved, unless recognised rights of PTG/ PAC are being affected, are exempted from the requirement of obtaining consent of the concerned Gram Sabha(s) as stipulated in clause (c) read with clause (b), (e) and (f) in second para of this Ministry's said letter dated 03.08.2009.

This issues with approval of the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests.

Yours faithfully,

(H.C. Chaudhary)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Director, Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, New Delhi.
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Power, New Delhi.
4. The Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum, and Natural Gas, New Delhi.
5. The Chairman, Railways Board, New Delhi.
6. The Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi.
7. The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), New Delhi.
8. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments.
9. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT Governments.
10. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests.
11. Joint Secretray in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF.
12. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests in Forest Conservation Division, MoEF.
13. Director R.O. (HQ), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.
14. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEF with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
15. Sr. PPS to the Secretray, Environment and Forests.
16. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretray, MoEF.
17. Guard File.

(H.C. Chaudhary)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests