

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. 17 of 2026

Munidei Majhi & 3 Ors.

...Appellants

-Vs-

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

...Respondents

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//Certified to be True Copies of the respective originals//
Dated on this 13th day of July, 2026



Through

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DATES AND EVENTS

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

07.08.2025	EDS raised by the 1 st Respondent.
December 2025	Revised Final EIA report for the mining project of the 4 th Respondent (under EIA Notification,2006).
02.12.2025	12 th FAC meeting where the proposal of the 4 th respondent for the mining project was recommended for stage I clearance.
12.12.2025	Reply to EDS by the 3 rd Respondent enclosing letter dated 12.12.2025 from Vedanta along with the minutes of the 12 th FAC.
05.01.2026	Stage I clearance issued by MoEF & CC.
03.02.2026	Since materials were dumped earlier and it was informed that work would commence, Appeal No. 4 of 2026 was filed by the appellants.
27.02.2026	Appeal No. 4 of 2026 admitted by this Hon'ble Tribunal and notice was issued to the respondents
16.04.2026	Working permission dated 27.02.2026 and Order dated 26.03.2026 permitting felling of trees issued by 5 th respondent was obtained by RTI reply dated 16.04.2026
03.04.2026	Prohibitory order issued under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 was issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Rayagada. Received vide RTI reply dated 10.04.2026.
05.05.2026	Stage II clearance issued by the 1 st respondent, served by the 4 th respondent along with its preliminary objection filed on 06.05.2026.

14.05.2026	Appeal No. 11 filed challenging the Stage II clearance along with working permission dated 27.02.2026 and tree felling permission dated 26.03.2026 was admitted by this Hon'ble Tribunal and notice was issued.
04.06.2026	Final Diversion order dated 27.05.2026 issued by 2 nd Respondent obtained by RTI reply dated 04.06.2026. Order is not available in public domain till date.
13 .07.2026	Present 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 "In-Principle" (Stage-I) clearance dated 05.01.2026 culminating in the "Final Approval" (Stage-II) clearance dated 05.05.2026 along with Corrigendum dated 06.05.2026 issued by the 1st respondent, culminating in the "Final Diversion Order" dated 27.05.2026 issued by the 2nd 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 final order 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 and 2nd respondents have 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 and 2nd respondents have 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.

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...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 order 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 Chakrabarthi (F/1354/2012), Swetha S (MS/4373/2024), Advocates, having office at M-1, Vadhula, No:18, Brindavan Street, Mylapore, Chennai- 600 004.

The Respondents are:

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- The address for 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 "In-Principle" (Stage-I) clearance dated 05.01.2026 culminating in the "Final Approval" (Stage-II) clearance dated 05.05.2026 along with Corrigendum dated 06.05.2026 issued by the 1st respondent, culminating in the "Final Diversion Order" dated 27.05.2026 issued by the 2nd 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, A3 and A4.**
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 2nd 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 orders are thus illegal, vitiated and liable to be quashed. Extract from the guidelines is produced as **Annexure A5**. The OM dated 28.08.2015 issued by the 1st respondent MoEF&CC is annexed as **Annexure A6**.

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.
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 witnessed a massive presence of armed police, vehicles and drones flying in the area. The area was being patrolled by armed police and private persons associated with 4th Respondent.

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 were 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 was falsely portrayed as a clash. It is submitted that it was a coordinated attack by armed police at around 3 AM, and the situation remained tense as people were 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 A7**.

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 Appeal 4 of 2026 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 had not received Environmental clearance as on date of the issuance of the prohibitory order. A copy of screenshot from Parivesh portal showing the pendency of the EC proposal as on 12.04.2026 is produced as **Annexure A8**.

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 A9**.

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 the 3rd Respondent on 16.09.2025 (**Annexure A20**) 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 A10**. The copy of maps of the area, including the alleged non-forest area is produced as **Annexure A11**. Copy of news reports are annexed as **Annexure A12**.

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, 3rd and 4th respondent's reply in Appeal No. 4 of 2026 is annexed as **Annexure A30, A31, A32 and A33** respectively.

Appeal No. 11 of 2026

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.
20. Subsequently, Appeal 11 of 2026 was filed against the stage II clearance, working permission and the tree felling order, copy of the 1st, 2nd & 5th, 3rd and 4th respondent's reply in Appeal No. 11 of 2026 is annexed as **Annexure A34, A35, A36 and A37** respectively.

Orders are subject to Appeal No. 04 of 2026 and Appeal No. 11 of 2026

21. 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, Kolkata."
22. 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 stage-II order dated 05.05.2026 was issued.

23. 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.
24. The impugned final diversion order dated 27.05.2026 specifies that "the issuance and continued operational validity of this Stage-II clearance are inherently subject to the final adjudication of Appeal No.04/2026/EZ and Appeal No.11/2026/EZ filed by 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."
25. During the pendency of the above Appeals, the Appellants heard that the 2nd respondent had issued final diversion order but a copy of this order was not available in the public domain. In order to avoid delay, the appellants were forced to file an R.T.I to locate the order, which was filed on 21.05.2026. Finally, on 04.06.2026, a reply was provided and the final diversion order dated 27.05.2026 was received by the appellants. Copy of the RTI reply dated 04.06.2026 along with the order dated 27.05.2026 is annexed as **Annexure A1**.
26. On obtaining the final diversion order through RTI, in order to save time and to avoid multiplicity of proceedings, the Appellants filed I.A. 77 of 2026 on 29.06.2026 after duly serving the Respondents, seeking to amend the prayer in Appeal No. 11 of 2026 to assail the final diversion order dated 27.05.2026 issued by the 2nd respondent. The I.A. is pending before the Hon'ble Tribunal.
27. The present Appeal is being filed challenging the final diversion order dated 27.05.2026, which is a culmination of the "In-Principle" (Stage-I) clearance

dated 05.01.2026 and the "Final Approval" (Stage-II) clearance dated 05.05.2026 along with Corrigendum dated 06.05.2026, in order to avoid avoidable delay.

28. The impugned final diversion order has not been published in the public domain or communicated to the public. A copy of the final diversion order was not uploaded on the 1st Respondent's Parivesh Portal. The issue of non-publication of the order was raised during the hearing of Appeal 11 of 2026 on 07.07.2026. Even thereafter, the 1st Respondent has not uploaded the order on its website. Under the head "activity", it has been stated "Final Diversion Order issued", but when clicked, the Stage II clearance has been uploaded in this link. Screenshots of Parivesh Portal taken on 02.06.2026 & 09.07.2026 are annexed as **Annexure A38**.

29. The 4th Respondent, in its counter dated 06.07.2026 in Appeal No. 11 of 2026, mentions the issuance of final diversion order, however, has not produced the same before this Hon'ble Tribunal. In fact, none of the Respondents have placed the final diversion order on record in Appeal No. 11 of 2026. Though it is the 2nd respondent who has issued the diversion order as early as 27.05.2026, they have not produced the same or even mentioned the same in their counter affidavit filed on 06.07.2026. Instead, they merely state that the challenge to stage-II clearance in Appeal 11 of 2026 is premature. Similarly, the 3rd respondent in whose favour the diversion order has been issued has also not produced a copy of the same along with their counter dated 06.07.2026. There appears to be material suppression on behalf of all Respondents in this regard, and they ought not be rewarded for the same. In fact, a perusal of the final diversion order dated

27.05.2026 received under RTI imposes the following obligations to communicate the clearances,

- a. They shall publish the entire forest clearance granted In verbatim along with conditions and safeguards imposed by the Central Government, in Stage-I forest clearance in two widely circulated daily newspapers, one in vernacular language and the other in English language so as to make people aware of the permission granted to the Project for use of forest land for non-forest purposes.
- b. They shall submit the copies of forest clearance orders granted by the Central government/State Government to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and municipal bodies along with the relevant offices of the State Government, who in turn, shall display the same for 30 days from date of receipt.

This has not been done till date and there is no publication of the final diversion order.

30. The judgment of this Hon'ble Tribunal in Vimal Bhai Vs Union of India (Appeal No. 07 of 2012, dated 07.11.2012) has emphasized on the requirement to publish the entire forest clearances in public domain. This Hon'ble Tribunal ordered that,

"The MoEF is directed to issue necessary Notification, stream lining the procedure to be adopted by the State Government and other Authorities for passing orders/decision for granting Forest Clearance under Section 2 of the FC Act, as well as the modalities for communicating the said order in the Public domain on Government portal."

31. However, the Respondents have failed to communicate the final diversion order to public. Therefore, there is no delay in the filing of the present Appeal. Nevertheless, in abundant caution, if the date of reply of the RTI is taken into account, there is a delay in filing of this present appeal. Thus, a separate application for condonation of delay is filed along with the present Appeal. It is reiterated that the final diversion order is neither available in public domain nor part of the record in the pending appeals and has not been communicated in the manner required under law.

32. It is submitted that the impugned orders for diversion of forest land for the subject road have 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. The 2nd respondent has also issued the final diversion order without application of mind.

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

33. 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 A13**.

34. 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 A14.**

35. 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

36. The 4th respondent Vedanta was declared preferred bidder of the Sijimali Bauxite Mine (Auctioned Block) (Area: 1549.022 ha) for the proposed Bauxite mine of 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.

37. 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.

38. 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.

39. 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

40. 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 A15**.

41. 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"

42. 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."

43. 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."

44. 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"*.

45. 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 A16.**

46. 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 A17.**

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

48. 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 A18.**

49. 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 A19.**

50. 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.

51. 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 A20.**

52. 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.'

53. 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 OI IDC Act, 1980

54. 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 order 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 A21**.

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

55. 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)

56. 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 A22**.

57. 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 order legal but the failure to even comply with these observations is demonstrative of the manner in which the impugned order 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

58. 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.'
59. 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]*

60. 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'.

61. 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 A23**.

62. 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 A24**. 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.

63. 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 A25**.

64. It is submitted that the 2nd Respondent is obligated to pass a "reasoned order" for final diversion. However, in the present case, the diversion order mechanically follows the stage-2 clearance and there appears to be no independent application of mind by the 2nd respondent before passing the said order.

Sequence of events leading to the impugned orders

65. 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.

n. On 27.05.2026, the final diversion order has been issued and the same has not been communicated or put up in the public domain as required by law.

A copy of all the above-mentioned EDS raised, replies of the Respondents and project documents are collectively produced as **Annexure A26.**

66. 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

67. 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.

68. The above claim of the respondents is 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 27**.

69. 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.

70. 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 order 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 order is thus illegal and vitiated. The illegality in the stage I clearance and stage II clearance are the same in the final diversion order. The appeal is thus largely the same.

71. 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 order 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, Stage II clearance and final diversion order as downloaded from the MoEF&CC portal are produced as **Annexure A28**.

72. The MoEF&CC permits diversion of forest lands for stand alone linear projects without mandatory Gram Sabha consent. By obtaining clearance for the subject road as a separate linear project, the respondents have bypassed the mandatory Gram Sabha consent under the FRA. This amounts to a fraud on the process. The mining project cannot exist without the subject road and it is an integral part of the mining project and Gram Sabha consent under the FRA ought to have been taken for the entire extent of forest land diverted.

73. Copies of the MoEF&CC's orders dated 05.02.2013 and 03.08.2009 are produced as **Annexure A29**.

74. The impugned final diversion order issued by the 2nd Respondent is vitiated in law as it has been issued without considering the fact that the subject road is not a standalone public infrastructure as sought to be projected by the respondents, but an integral part of the 4th Respondent's mining project. The road is made for and meant only for the 4th respondent's mining project, and none of the villages claimed to be serviced by this road even fall on this road, and this justification is without merit and factually incorrect. The ministry has already examined and considered this contention and has come to the conclusion that this road is primarily meant for transport of mine minerals.
75. The 2nd respondent has failed to act as independent statutory authority but rather has acted as though they are an agent of the project proponent and have failed to consider necessary facts and the law while issuing the impugned final diversion order.
76. 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.
77. The appellants have approached this Hon'ble Tribunal on the following among other

GROUND

- A. The impugned orders have 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 respondents 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 2nd respondent has issued the impugned order 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 2nd respondent has failed in its statutory duty and has erred in issuing the impugned order for diversion of forest lands in violation of the law.

- G. The 2nd 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 order 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 5th respondent has failed to see that even the compensatory levies were paid by the 4th respondent, and they ought not to have issued permission in a mechanical fashion.
- J. The impugned final diversion order has been granted mechanically without examining the illegality pervading the process despite the pendency of Appeal No.s 4 of 2026 and 11 of 2026. The illegality in the stage I and II clearance also applies to the final diversion order.
- K. The 1st and 2nd respondents have made a mockery of the law by issuing the impugned clearance without any assessment or consideration of the impact on the landscape, the environment and ecology and the lives and livelihood of tribal communities in the area.
- L. The final diversion order has been issued without application of mind and consideration of ground realities and the entire statutory process has been reduced to a formality.

LIMITATION

The Appellants state that the impugned order dated 27.05.2026 was received as part of the RTI Reply dated 04.06.2026. The impugned order has not been communicated to the public as mandated by law and is not even available on the portal of the State Government or the Parivesh portal. In abundant caution, an application has been filed seeking condonation of delay.

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 "In-Principle" (Stage-I) clearance dated 05.01.2026 culminating in the "Final Approval" (Stage-II) clearance dated 05.05.2026 along with Corrigendum dated 06.05.2026 issued by the 1st respondent, culminating in the "Final Diversion Order" dated 27.05.2026 issued by the 2nd Respondent in favor of the 3rd Respondent 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, Odisha, pending disposal of the present appeal.
- B. 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 may be pleased to

- A. Quash / set aside the "In-Principle" (Stage-I) clearance dated 05.01.2026 culminating in the "Final Approval" (Stage-II) clearance dated 05.05.2026 along with Corrigendum dated 06.05.2026 issued by the 1st respondent, culminating in the "Final Diversion Order" dated 27.05.2026 issued by the 2nd respondent in favor of the 3rd respondent 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, Odisha.
- B. Issue such other orders as it deems fit in the interest of the case and render justice.

Y.

Counsel for the Appellant

ସୁନୀତମ ମଜ୍ଝି
ସୁନୀତମ ମଜ୍ଝି
Sundarsing majhi
x
Appellants

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 Kui and are true to the best of my knowledge and based on legal advice and that I have not suppressed any material fact.

Date: 13.07.2026

Place: Bhawanipatna

ସୁନୀତମ ମଜ୍ଝି
ସୁନୀତମ ମଜ୍ଝି
Sundarsing majhi
x
Appellants

Attested by me
S K Bohidar
13-7-2026

S K BOHIDAR
NOTARY
GOVT OF ODISHA
Regd No.-83/04
BHAWANIPATNA
D O E-28 12.2029

x
APPELLANTS

**VAKALATNAMA
BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL AT CALCUTTA**

State: Odisha

Appeal No. _____ of _____ 2026

Munidei Majhi & 3 Ors.

Appella

-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 Vakalatnama 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.

ମୁନିଦେଇ ମାଜି
ରୁପାସିଂ ମାଜି
ସୁନ୍ଦରୁସିଂ ମାଜି

Sundurusing Majhi
X

IN WITNESS WHEREOF We sign and execute this Vakalatnama on this the 13 day of July 2026

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

Yogeshwaran A
Poongkhulali B
Santanu Chakraborthy

Atindriya Chakrabarthi
Swetha S

Chakrabarthi

Joongh
(13/7/2026)
Y. (MS/1421/2022)
S. Chakrabarthi
(13/7/2026)

Atindriya Chakrabarthi

NAME OF THE ADVOCATES

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

Attended by me.
S K BOHIDAR
NOTARY
GOVT OF ODISHA
Regd No.-83/04
BHAWANIPATNA
D O E-29 12.2029

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, 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.

Sundarsing Majhi ଶୁଣିବା ମାଜି

Rupasing Majhi
(Appellant 2)

Sundurusing Majhi
(Appellant 3)

Saru Majhi
(Appellant 4)

ଶୁଣିବା ମାଜି

Attended by me.
S K Bohidar
13-7-2024

S K BOHIDAR
NOTARY
GOVT OF ODISHA
Regd No.-83/04
BHAWANIPATNA
D O E- 29 12.2029

44

RTI MATTER/ URGENT

By e-mail: maamatimalisurakhyamanacha@gmail.com

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

No.FE-DIV-RTI-0029-2026- 12493 /FE&CC, Date 04 JUN 2026

From

Shri Krutibas Parida,
Deputy Secretary to Govt. & PIO (Diversion Section)

To

Ms. Munidei Majhi,
C/o-Gunasing Majhi,
At-Sagabari, Po-Sunger, Kashipur,
Rayagada, Rayagada, Odisha,
Contact No.7846933240

Sub: Supply of information under RTI Act, 2005 dtd.21.05.2026 of Munidei Majhi.

Madam,

In inviting a reference to this Department Letter No.11627/FE&CC dtd.25.05.2026 on the subject cited above, I am to furnish herewith the available information as sought for by you vide your RTI application dtd.21.05.2026 under RTI Act, 2005 (through e-mail: maamatimalisurakhyamanacha@gmail.com).

1. With reference to the information sought under Point No.1 of your RTI Application dated 21.05.2026, it is intimated that this Department has not issued any Final Diversion Order for non-forestry use of 4.911 ha of forest land in favour of IDCO for construction of the 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.

However, it is informed that the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, has conveyed Stage-II (Final) 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 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 fulfilment of the conditions vide letter dtd.05.05.2026 (copy enclosed). A copy of the Corrigendum thereon dated 06.05.2026 issued in this regard is also enclosed.

2. With reference to the information sought under Point No.2 of your RTI Application dated 21.05.2026, it is intimated that after receipt of the final approval order of GoI, MoEF&CC, the State Government in FE&CC Department has issued Reasoned Order vide Order No.11774/FE&CC dtd.27.05.2026 and a copy of the said order is enclosed herewith for your information.

As regards to the NOTE in your RTI Application dtd.21.05.2026 stating that all communications incidental or ancillary to this RTI application, untill its final disposal, be made through the applicant's e-mail address provided therein, in this regard, it is intimated that this Department has already issued the Reasoned Order in respect of the above FC diversion proposal on 27.05.2026. Since, the Reasoned Order has been issued by this Department it may be presumed that no further action may need in this connection.

This is for kind information.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

V. Parida
04/06/2026
Deputy Secretary to Government & PIO

(Continued)

45

Memo No. 12494/FE&CC, Dt. 04 JUN 2026

Copy forwarded to the RTI Cell (Nodal) of FE&CC Department w.r.t. this Department Letter No.11627/FE&CC, dtd.25.05.2026 for information & necessary action.

KP
Deputy Secretary to Government & PIO



FE-DIV-RTI-0029-2026/1/2026

By Speed Post/e-mail

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

No. FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2025- 11774 /FE&CC, Bhubaneswar, dated the **27 MAY 2026**
10F (Cons) 18/2025

ORDER

Sub: 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.

WHEREAS, the Consultant (Env.), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janpath, Bhubaneswar had applied 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.

And whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar had accorded '**Stage-I/in-principle**' approval 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 fulfilment of the conditions as laid down therein vide Letter dtd.05.01.2026 (**Annexure-I**).

And whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar in consideration of the compliance of the conditions of the '**Stage-I/in-principle**' approval, have granted "**Stage-II/ final 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 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 fulfilment of the conditions as stipulated therein vide Letter dtd.05.05.2026(**Annexure-II**) and Corrigendum thereon dtd.06.05.2026 (**Annexure-III**).

Now, therefore, the Government of Odisha, do hereby allow 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, as per approved land schedule.

The Collector, Rayagada & Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division, as the case may be are hereby authorized to handover the forest land coming within their jurisdiction, as has been finally diverted after necessary compliance following due procedure of law. Before handing over the diverted forest land to the user agency, it shall be ensured that Net Present Value of the forest land for this project for which approval has

been obtained shall be deposited in full, at applicable rates.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division is also directed to monitor compliance to the conditions stipulated for such diversion in the respective forest/ wildlife clearance order and to report violations, if any, to the Nodal Officer, O/o Principal Chief Conservator Forests & HoFF, Odisha and to the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department.

Execution of project activities will be subject to availability of all other statutory clearances required under relevant Acts/ Rules for this project, deposit of requisite funds and compliance of Court's order, if any.

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 and Appeal No.11/2026/EZ filed by 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.

By order of the Governor

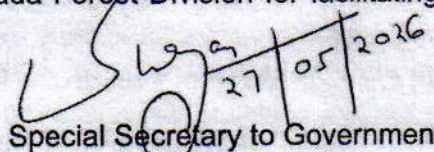
 27/05/2026
(Swayam Mallick)

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 11775 /FE&CC Date 27 MAY 2026

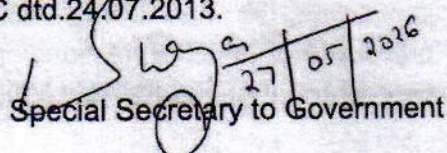
Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha for kind information and necessary follow up action.

Appropriate instruction to the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division and user agency may be imparted for required follow up action at their end. It may be ensured by the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division that Net Present Value of the forest land involved in this project of the user agency is deposited by them in appropriate head in full, at applicable rates. The user agency may also be instructed to furnish compliance to the conditions of forest/ wildlife clearance pertaining to the project in every quarter to the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division for facilitating monitoring of compliances.

 27/05/2026
Special Secretary to Government

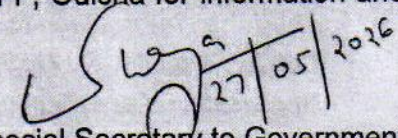
Memo No. 11776 /FE&CC Date 27 MAY 2026

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Asst. Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF&CC (FC Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi, Pin-110003/ Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF&CC, Government of India, Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar-23 for kind information and necessary follow up action in compliance to the order of Hon'ble NGT dtd.07.11.2012 in Appeal No.07/2012 communicated by the MoEF, Government of India vide their letter F. No.7-23/2012- FC dtd.24.07.2013.

 27/05/2026
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 11777 /FE&CC Date 27 MAY 2026

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha/ Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FD&NO, FC Act), O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha for information and necessary action.


27/05/2026
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 11778 /FE&CC Date 27 MAY 2026

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Koraput Circle/ Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division for information and immediate necessary compliance.

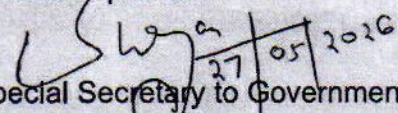
It may be ensured by the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division that Net Present Value of the forest land involved in this project of the user agency shall be deposited by them in full, at applicable rates in appropriate head before handing over of the forest land to the user agency. Besides, funds, if any, due to be deposited by the user agency for this project shall also be deposited by the project proponent before the forest land is handed over to them. The user agency may also be instructed to furnish compliance to the conditions of forest/ wildlife clearance pertaining to the project in every quarter to the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division for facilitating monitoring of compliances by them.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division is also instructed to ensure that the direction given to the user agency are executed immediately.


27/05/2026
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 11779 /FE&CC Date 27 MAY 2026

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to Steel & Mines Department/ Works Department/ Revenue & Disaster Management Department/ Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department/ Member Secretary, SPCB, Odisha/ Collector, Rayagada for information and necessary follow up action.


27/05/2026
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 11780 /FE&CC Date 27 MAY 2026

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Consultant (Env.), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janpath, Bhubaneswar for information and immediate necessary action.

The user agency is asked to take following actions immediately as per orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dtd.07.11.2012 in Appeal No.07/2012 communicated by the MoEF, Government of India vide their letter F. No.7-23/2012-FC dtd.24.07.2013.

- i. ***They shall publish the entire forest clearance granted in verbatim along with conditions and safeguards imposed by the Central Government in Stage-I/II forest clearance in two widely circulated daily newspapers, one in vernacular language and the other in English language so as to make people aware of the permission granted to the Project for use of forest land for non-forest purposes.***
- ii. ***They shall submit the copies of forest clearance orders granted by the Central Government/State Government to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and***

Municipal bodies along with the relevant offices of the State Government, who in turn, shall display the same for 30 days from date of receipt.

- iii. **Detailed action taken in compliance to the above order of State Government shall be intimated to the DFO, Rayagada Forest Division/ RCCF, Koraput Circle/ PCCF & HoFF, Odisha/ Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department for reference.**

Besides the above, the user agency is also asked to deposit Net Present Value of forest land for this project in full, if not deposited yet, at applicable rates. R equisite funds due for deposit by the user agency on account of this project shall also be deposited under appropriate head.

The user agency shall furnish compliances to the conditions prescribed in the forest/wildlife clearance order to the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division in every quarter, for the purpose of monitoring by him.

[Signature]
27/05/2026
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 11781 /FE&CC Date 27 MAY 2026

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Head, State Portal, I.T. Centre, Odisha Secretariat, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action. He is requested to upload this order along with its enclosures in the website of Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department **immediately** for information of all concerned. **This is required in compliance to order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dtd.07.11.2012 in Appeal No.7/2012. Hence this may be done unfaithfully.**

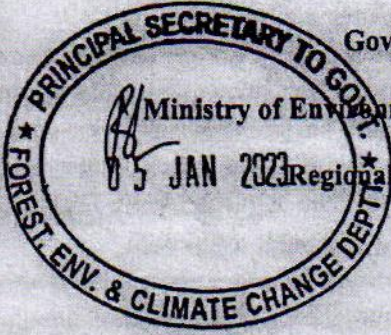
[Signature]
27/05/2026
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 11782 /FE&CC Date 27 MAY 2026

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Deputy Secretary to Government, Office Establishment Section, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department for information and necessary action with reference to their letter No.12939/F&E dtd.16.07.2016.

[Signature]
27/05/2026
Special Secretary to Government





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 Tingarjhol, 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 upload 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 Tingarjhol 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.

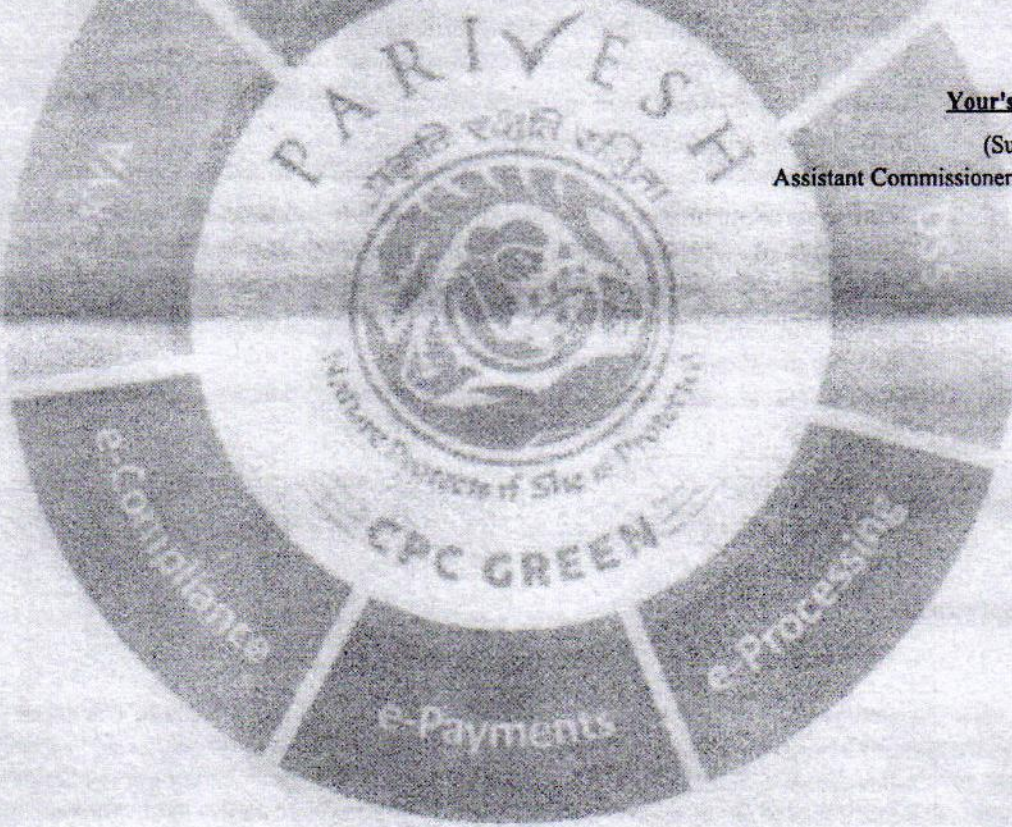
Copy To

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)



Validity unknown

Digitally Signed by: Shri Sujoy Dutta
Technical Officer, IRO

Date: 05/01/2025

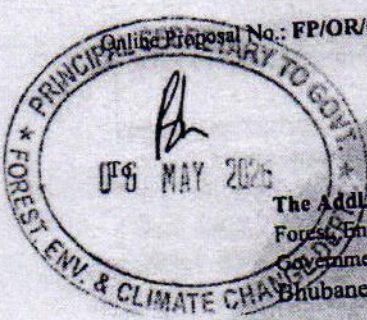
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Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Regional Office, Bhubaneswar



Dated: 05/05/2026



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 Tingarjhol, 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 upload 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, Chandrasekharapur, 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 valid

Digitally Signed by : Shri. Santanir's faithfully
Babu (Santanir's faithfully)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (RO)
Date: 05/05/2026

SP1.5 ecg (17/10/2008)



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)

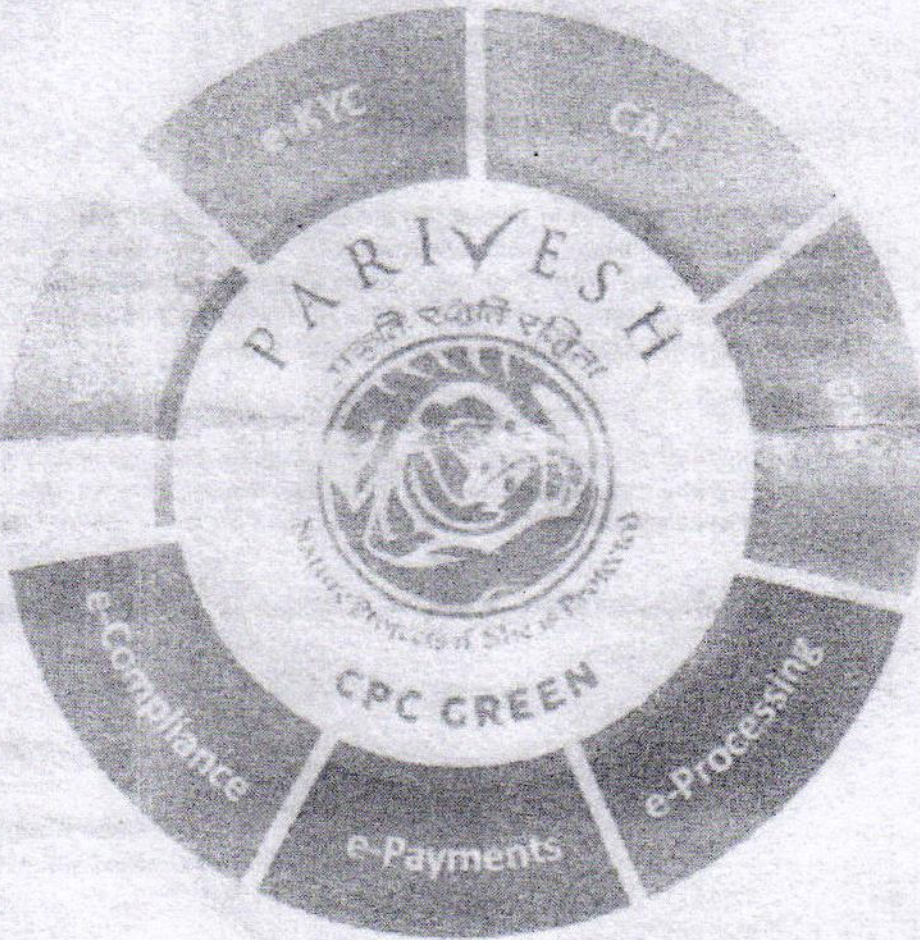
To,

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

Copy To

FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025

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

SP/Secy's. m. 10/5

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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 .
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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.

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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.
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	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.
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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.
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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

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

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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.

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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)

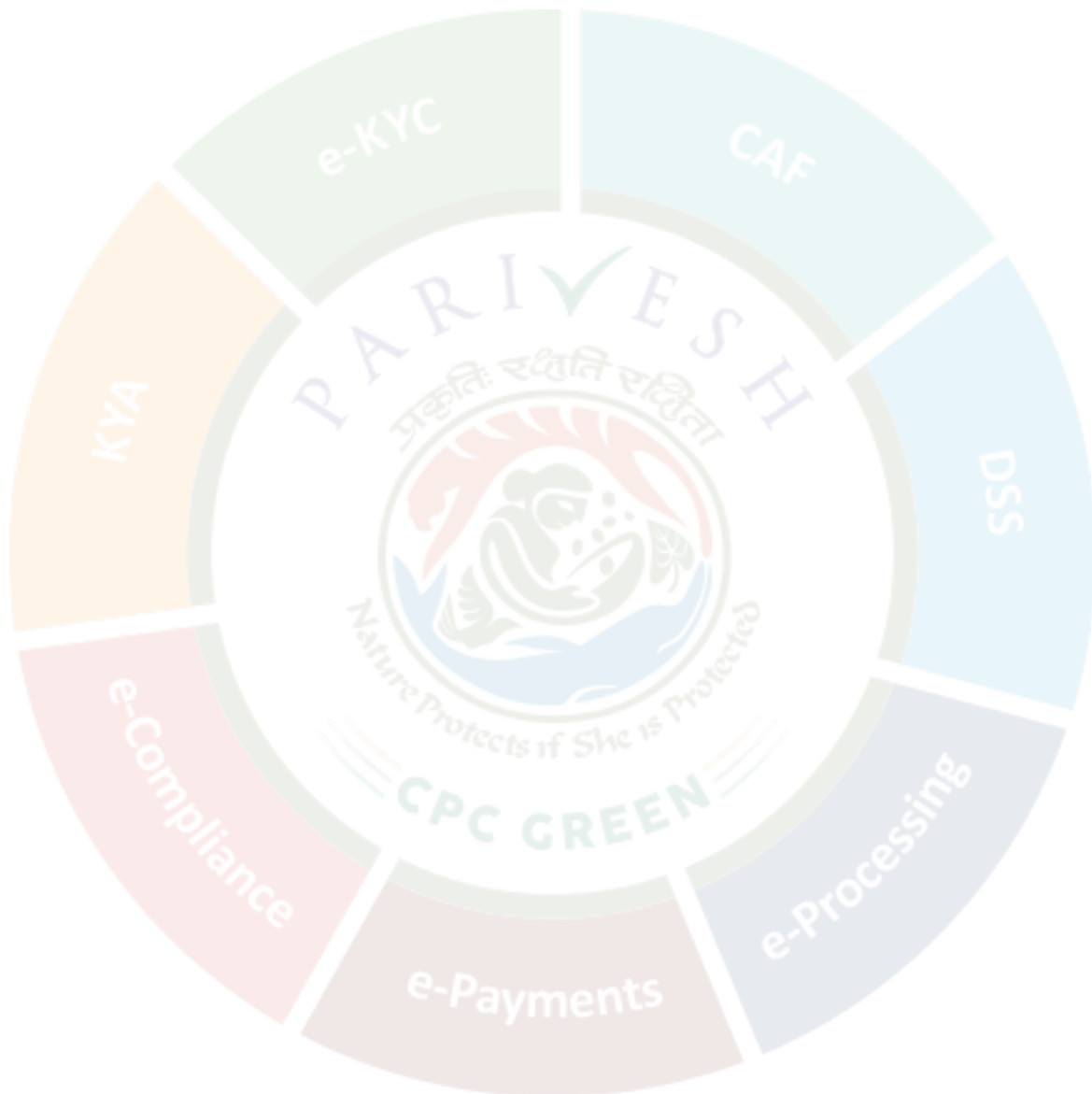
Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

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, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division, Rayagada, Odisha.
5. The Chief General Manager (Env.), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janpath, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



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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 Tingarjhol, 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 upload 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 Tingarjhol 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.

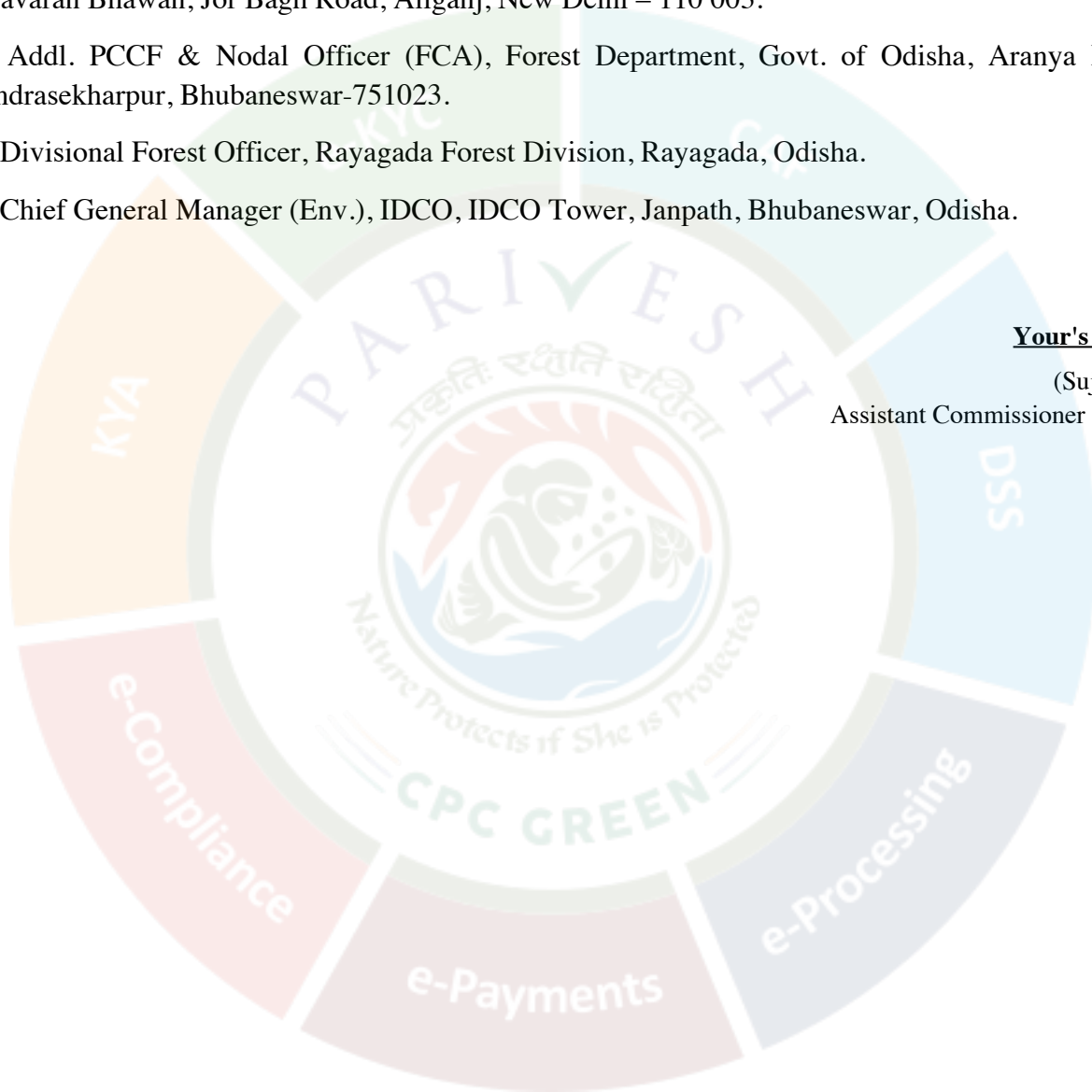
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1. The Chief Executive Officer, National Authority CAMPA, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, 3rd Floor, Supreme Court Metro Station Building, New Delhi-110 001.
2. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest & 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)





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,


(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 CO₂ 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 trees 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 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 unclassified 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 Adhiniyam 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 offence 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 Adhiniyam 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 Adhiniyam 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 Adhiniyam 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 section 15 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 allocatee, and in such case, complete compliance of such conditions shall be made prior to handing over of forest land to the new allocatee. For the remaining conditions, the new allocatee 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 allocatee and which constitutes an offence under the Adhiniyam, the penal clauses will be invoked against the previous allocatee only and not against the new allocatee.
 - (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 allocatee. Also, in case the CA land has not been made available previously, the forest land shall be handed over to the new allocatee 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 allocatee.
 - (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 allocatee 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 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.
- (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 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.
- 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).

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

28/08/15

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

22/08/2014

- (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,

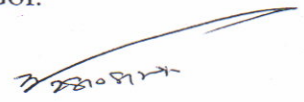


(H.C. Chaudhary)
Director

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

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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.

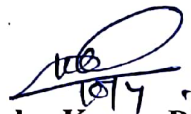
Since the subject matter of the information sought for by the applicant is closely connected with the functioning of your office, the application is transferred under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 for appropriate action at your end as per the provision of the said Act. The required information of 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- maamatimalisurakhyamanacha@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.

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.

5. Initiation of Proceedings:

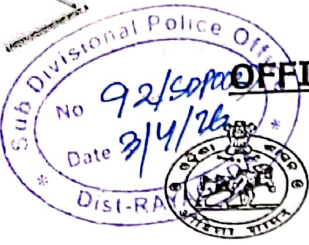
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No requisition or request was submitted by the Police to the SDM, Rayagada for initiation of proceedings under Section 163 of the BNSS in respect of the affected Sijimali region.

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.

gwl
10.4.2026
SDPO, Rayagada
SDPO, Rayagada



123
OFFICE OF THE SUB-COLLECTOR & SUB-DIVISIONAL
MAGISTRATE, RAYAGADA

(Confidential Section)

(Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar)

No. 2267

Date. 03-04-2026

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 CRR 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. 124

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 Kasipur 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 ¹²⁶ 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 try 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.

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.

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

Ramprasad
3-4-26
Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Rayagada
Rayagada
Date 03-04-26

Memo No 2268

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

Ramprasad
3-4-26
Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Rayagada
Rayagada
Date 03-04-26

Memo No 2269

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

Ramprasad
3-4-26
Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Rayagada
Rayagada
Date 03-04-26

Memo No 2270

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

Ramprasad
3-4-26
Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Sub-Collector
Rayagada
Date 03-04-26

Memo No 2271

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

Ramprasad
3-4-26
Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Sub-Collector
Rayagada
Date 03-04-26

Memo No 2272

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

Ramprasad
3-4-26
Sub-Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate
& Sub-Collector
Rayagada
Rayagada

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सत्यमेव जयते

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/45 3451/2025	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 & KSHIPUR, 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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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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April 12, 2026 at 11:30 AM GMT+5:30

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भारत सरकारGovernment of India

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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

ADS Raised

12/03/2026-N/A

Proposal Accepted and Referred to EAC

13/02/2026-12/03/2026

Under Examination

29/12/2026-13/02/2026

EDS Raised & Replied

26/12/2026-29/12/2026

Under Examination

13/12/2026-26/12/2026

EDS Raised & Replied - Relisted by Project Proponent

11/12/2026-13/12/2026

Delisted by System (EDS Raised)

01/09/2026-11/12/2026

EDS Raised

01/08/2026-01/09/2026

Under Examination

10/07/2026-01/08/2026

EDS Raised & Replied

08/07/2026-10/07/2026

EDS Raised & Replied

08/07/2026-08/07/2026

EDS Raised & Replied - Relisted by Project Proponent

08/07/2026-08/07/2026

Delisted by System (EDS Raised)

30/10/2024-08/07/2026

EDS Raised

26/01/2024-30/10/2024

Under Examination

29/12/2023-26/01/2024

Submitted on 29/12/2023

27/11/2023-29/12/2023

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



OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION
Email: dforгда17@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 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 Tingarijholi 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.

Sheroll
27.2.26
(Sri Sachin Annasaheb Ohol, IFS)
Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Dt. 27/02/2026

Memo No. 1096 /
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.

Sheroll
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) & 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.

Shoroll
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.

Shoroll
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.

Shoroll
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.

Shoroll
Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

Memo No. 1101 /4FDate. 27/02/2026

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

Shoroll
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 Tingarjhol 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



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Item No-2

288

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION

Email: dforagda17@gmail.com, dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in

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 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 trees standing 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 joint 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 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,

[Signature]
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.

[Signature]
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.

[Signature]
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.

[Signature]
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.

[Signature]
Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

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.

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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, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rayagada Division

143

Sri Ashok Kumar Mishra
Consultant (Environment)



1203

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.

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, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar for information & necessary action, with reference to their letter No.197/25, dt.02/03/2026.

Consultant (Environment)

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
camenv@idco.in | www.idco.in

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**

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Yours faithfully,

Consultant (Environment)

Memo No. 6177/ Date: 05/03.2026

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Consultant (Environment)

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Consultant (Environment)

Receipt No. 1180

Date: 05/03/26

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	

Smita
FORESTER
SUNGER SECTION

[Signature]
Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range

[Signature]
Revenue Inspector
Adatakiri

[Signature]
Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar



[Signature]
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														

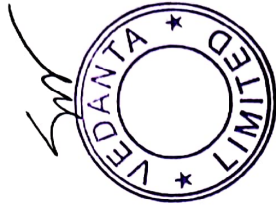
B. Krishna
FORESTER
SUNGER SECTION

St. R.
Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range

W.D.
TAHASILDAR, KASHIPUR

S. S.
Revenue Inspector
Adatikiri

g
Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar



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	Klssam	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						

Smita
FORESTER
SUNGER SECTION

SK
Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range

S
Revenue Inspector
Adatakiri

d
Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar



WJ
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			

S. Mishra
FORESTER
SUNGER SECTION

[Signature]
Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range

[Signature]
Consultant Environment
revenue Inspector IDCO, Bhubaneswar
Adatakiri



[Signature]
TAHASILDAR, KASHIPUR

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
Adatikuri


Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range


TAHASILDAR, KASHIPUR


Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar



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

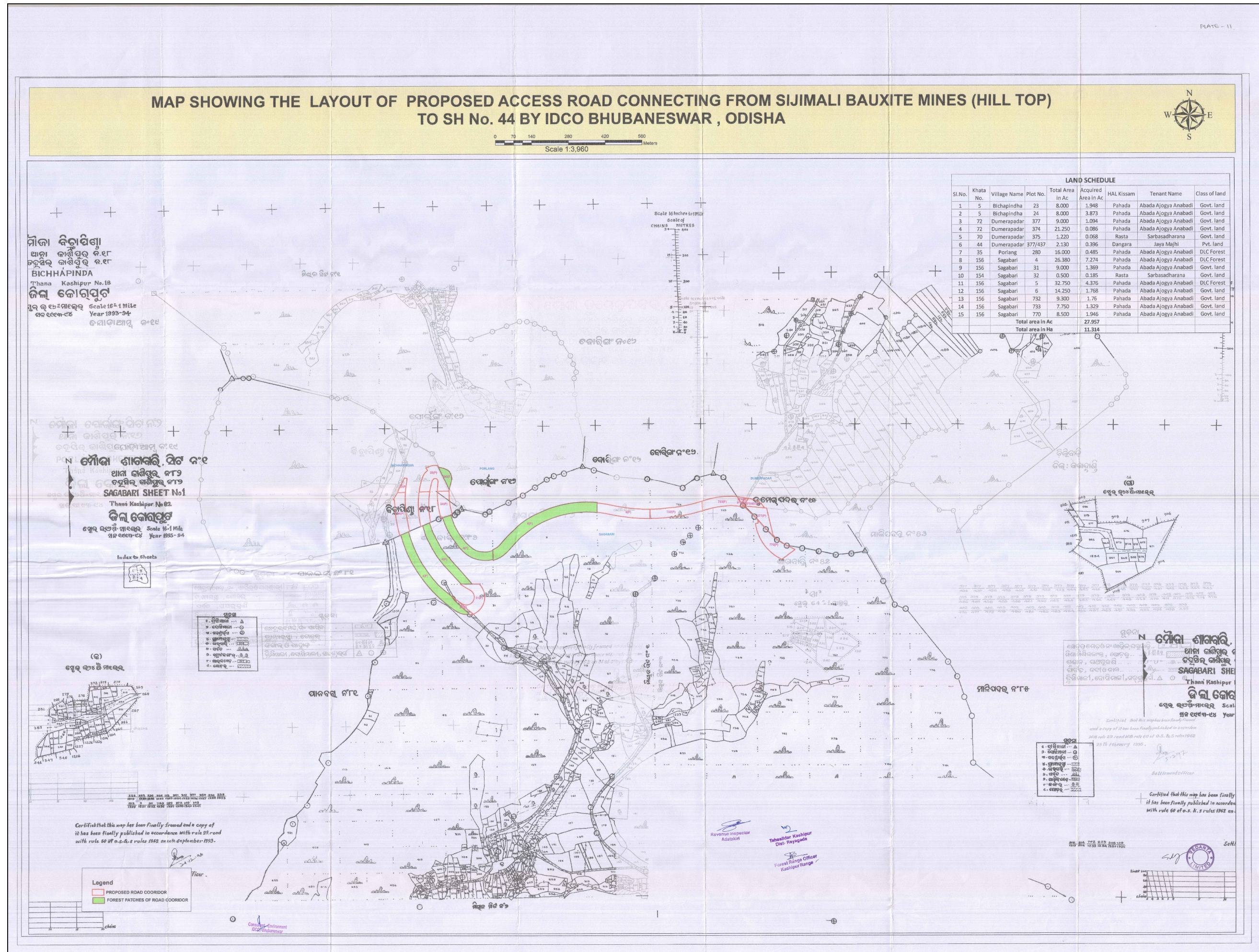

Revenue Inspector
Adatakiri


Forest Range Officer
Kashipur Range


TAHASILDAR, KASHIPUR


Consultant Environment
IDCO, Bhubaneswar





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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

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



Residents of Kutamal village in Rayagada district protesting against the police for firing tear gas shells on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

them to come out of their homes around 3 a.m.

"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 pre-

sent 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.

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) Adhini-

yam, 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 Kashi-pur 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.

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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 Project

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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

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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
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2.4. State	MAHARASHTRA
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2.5. District	MUMBAI SUBURBAN
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2.6. Pin Code	400093
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2.7. E-mail address	mines.kuraloi@vedanta.co.in
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2.8. Mobile number	xxxxxxx1828
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3. Details of the person making application

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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

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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, 21,22,23,24,25,26, 28,28/272,28/21 219,28/220,28/ /222,28/223,28 28/225,28/226 27,28/228,28/ /230,28/231,28 28/233,28/234 35,28/236,28/ /238,28/239,2 28/241,28/242 31,32,33,34,35, 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, 80,81,82,83,84, /202,85/203,8 85/205,85/206 7,88,88/199,88

Thuam

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E44F2	ODISHA	Kalaha ndi	ul Ramp ur	Nakar undi	10,10/604,11,12,1 ,14
E44F2	ODISHA	Rayag ada	Kaship ur	Aligun a	1,2,7,8,10,249,25 ,254,258,259,2
					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
E44F2	ODISHA	Rayag ada	Kaship ur	MALIPA DAR	63,64,65,66,67 ,70,71,72,73,74,7 7,78,79,80,81,82 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	Kalaha ndi	Thuam ul Ramp ur	CHULB ADI	444/601,405,4 417,428,439,44 463,484
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayag ada	Kaship ur	Bundel	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayag ada	Kaship ur	Dumer padar	377,378,403,43

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E44F3	ODISHA	Kalaha ndi	Thuam ul Ramp ur	Mahaj al	1,67,68,69,70,7
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalaha ndi	Thuam ul Ramp ur	Tadad ei	1,2,3,4,5,5/11,5/
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayag ada	Kaship ur	Katibh ata	1
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalaha ndi	Thuam ul Ramp ur	Ambaj hola	234,235,236
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalaha ndi	Thuam ul Ramp ur	Saleba li	1
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalaha ndi	Thuam ul Ramp ur	Talam bpada r	414,415
E44F2	ODISHA	Kalaha ndi	Thuam ul Ramp ur	Taram undi	1.2.3.4.5.6.7.50. 53.54.55.56.57
		Kalaha ndi	Thuam ul	Upara	108 109 110 111 11

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E44F2	ODISHA	Kandamandi	Rampur	mbpadar	135,136,137,138,139,140,141,142,143,144,145,146,147,148,149,150,151,152,153,154,155,156,157,158,159,160,161,162,163,164,165,166,167,168,169,170,171,172,173,174,175,176,177,178,179,180,181,182,183,184,185,186,187,188,189,190,191,192,193,194,195,196,197,198,199,200,201,202,203,204,205,206,207,208,209,210,211,212,213,214,215,216,217,218,219,220,221,222,223,224,225,226,227,228,229,230,231,232,233,234,235,236,237,238,239,240,241,242,243,244,245,246,247,248,249,250,251,252,253,254,255,256,257,258,259,260,261,262,263,264,265,266,267,268,269,270,271,272,273,274,275,276,277,278,279,280,281,282,283,284,285,286,287,288,289,290,291,292,293,294,295,296,297,298,299,300,301,302,303,304,305,306,307,308,309,310,311,312,313,314,315,316,317,318,319,320,321,322,323,324,325,326,327,328,329,330,331,332,333,334,335,336,337,338,339,340,341,342,343,344,345,346,347,348,349,350,351,352,353,354,355,356,357,358,359,360,361,362,363,364,365,366,367,368,369,370,371,372,373,374,375,376,377,378,379,380,381,382,383,384,385,386,387,388,389,390,391,392,393,394,395,396,397,398,399,400,401,402,403,404,405,406,407,408,409,410,411,412,413,414,415,416,417,418,419,420,421,422,423,424,425,426,427,428,429,430,431,432,433,434,435,436,437,438,439,440,441,442,443,444,445,446,447,448,449,450,451,452,453,454,455,456,457,458,459,460,461,462,463,464,465,466,467,468,469,470,471,472,473,474,475,476,477,478,479,480,481,482,483,484,485,486,487,488,489,490,491,492,493,494,495,496,497,498,499,500,501,502,503,504,505,506,507,508,509,510,511,512,513,514,515,516,517,518,519,520,521,522,523,524,525,526,527,528,529,530,531,532,533,534,535,536,537,538,539,540,541,542,543,544,545,546,547,548,549,550,551,552,553,554,555,556,557,558,559,560,561,562,563,564,565,566,567,568,569,570,571,572,573,574,575,576,577,578,579,580,581,582,583,584,585,586,587,588,589,590,591,592,593,594,595,596,597,598,599,600,601,602,603,604,605,606,607,608,609,610,611,612,613,614,615,616,617,618,619,620,621,622,623,624,625,626,627,628,629,630,631,632,633,634,635,636,637,638,639,640,641,642,643,644,645,646,647,648,649,650,651,652,653,654,655,656,657,658,659,660,661,662,663,664,665,666,667,668,669,670,671,672,673,674,675,676,677,678,679,680,681,682,683,684,685,686,687,688,689,690,691,692,693,694,695,696,697,698,699,700,701,702,703,704,705,706,707,708,709,710,711,712,713,714,715,716,717,718,719,720,721,722,723,724,725,726,727,728,729,730,731,732,733,734,735,736,737,738,739,740,741,742,743,744,745,746,747,748,749,750,751,752,753,754,755,756,757,758,759,760,761,762,763,764,765,766,767,768,769,770,771,772,773,774,775,776,777,778,779,780,781,782,783,784,785,786,787,788,789,790,791,792,793,794,795,796,797,798,799,800,801,802,803,804,805,806,807,808,809,810,811,812,813,814,815,816,817,818,819,820,821,822,823,824,825,826,827,828,829,830,831,832,833,834,835,836,837,838,839,840,841,842,843,844,845,846,847,848,849,850,851,852,853,854,855,856,857,858,859,860,861,862,863,864,865,866,867,868,869,870,871,872,873,874,875,876,877,878,879,880,881,882,883,884,885,886,887,888,889,890,891,892,893,894,895,896,897,898,899,900,901,902,903,904,905,906,907,908,909,910,911,912,913,914,915,916,917,918,919,920,921,922,923,924,925,926,927,928,929,930,931,932,933,934,935,936,937,938,939,940,941,942,943,944,945,946,947,948,949,950,951,952,953,954,955,956,957,958,959,960,961,962,963,964,965,966,967,968,969,970,971,972,973,974,975,976,977,978,979,980,981,982,983,984,985,986,987,988,989,990,991,992,993,994,995,996,997,998,999,1000
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Kutamal	21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100,101,102,103,104,105,106,107,108,109,110,111,112,113,114,115,116,117,118,119,120,121,122,123,124,125,126,127,128,129,130,131,132,133,134,135,136,137,138,139,140,141,142,143,144,145,146,147,148,149,150,151,152,153,154,155,156,157,158,159,160,161,162,163,164,165,166,167,168,169,170,171,172,173,174,175,176,177,178,179,180,181,182,183,184,185,186,187,188,189,190,191,192,193,194,195,196,197,198,199,200,201,202,203,204,205,206,207,208,209,210,211,212,213,214,215,216,217,218,219,220,221,222,223,224,225,226,227,228,229,230,231,232,233,234,235,236,237,238,239,240,241,242,243,244,245,246,247,248,249,250,251,252,253,254,255,256,257,258,259,260,261,262,263,264,265,266,267,268,269,270,271,272,273,274,275,276,277,278,279,280,281,282,283,284,285,286,287,288,289,290,291,292,293,294,295,296,297,298,299,300,301,302,303,304,305,306,307,308,309,310,311,312,313,314,315,316,317,318,319,320,321,322,323,324,325,326,327,328,329,330,331,332,333,334,335,336,337,338,339,340,341,342,343,344,345,346,347,348,349,350,351,352,353,354,355,356,357,358,359,360,361,362,363,364,365,366,367,368,369,370,371,372,373,374,375,376,377,378,379,380,381,382,383,384,385,386,387,388,389,390,391,392,393,394,395,396,397,398,399,400,401,402,403,404,405,406,407,408,409,410,411,412,413,414,415,416,417,418,419,420,421,422,423,424,425,426,427,428,429,430,431,432,433,434,435,436,437,438,439,440,441,442,443,444,445,446,447,448,449,450,451,452,453,454,455,456,457,458,459,460,461,462,463,464,465,466,467,468,469,470,471,472,473,474,475,476,477,478,479,480,481,482,483,484,485,486,487,488,489,490,491,492,493,494,495,496,497,498,499,500,501,502,503,504,505,506,507,508,509,510,511,512,513,514,515,516,517,518,519,520,521,522,523,524,525,526,527,528,529,530,531,532,533,534,535,536,537,538,539,540,541,542,543,544,545,546,547,548,549,550,551,552,553,554,555,556,557,558,559,560,561,562,563,564,565,566,567,568,569,570,571,572,573,574,575,576,577,578,579,580,581,582,583,584,585,586,587,588,589,590,591,592,593,594,595,596,597,598,599,600,601,602,603,604,605,606,607,608,609,610,611,612,613,614,615,616,617,618,619,620,621,622,623,624,625,626,627,628,629,630,631,632,633,634,635,636,637,638,639,640,641,642,643,644,645,646,647,648,649,650,651,652,653,654,655,656,657,658,659,660,661,662,663,664,665,666,667,668,669,670,671,672,673,674,675,676,677,678,679,680,681,682,683,684,685,686,687,688,689,690,691,692,693,694,695,696,697,698,699,700,701,702,703,704,705,706,707,708,709,710,711,712,713,714,715,716,717,718,719,720,721,722,723,724,725,726,727,728,729,730,731,732,733,734,735,736,737,738,739,740,741,742,743,744,745,746,747,748,749,750,751,752,753,754,755,756,757,758,759,760,761,762,763,764,765,766,767,768,769,770,771,772,773,774,775,776,777,778,779,780,781,782,783,784,785,786,787,788,789,790,791,792,793,794,795,796,797,798,799,800,801,802,803,804,805,806,807,808,809,810,811,812,813,814,815,816,817,818,819,820,821,822,823,824,825,826,827,828,829,830,831,832,833,834,835,836,837,838,839,840,841,842,843,844,845,846,847,848,849,850,851,852,853,854,855,856,857,858,859,860,861,862,863,864,865,866,867,868,869,870,871,872,873,874,875,876,877,878,879,880,881,882,883,884,885,886,887,888,889,890,891,892,893,894,895,896,897,898,899,900,901,902,903,904,905,906,907,908,909,910,911,912,913,914,915,916,917,918,919,920,921,922,923,924,925,926,927,928,929,930,931,932,933,934,935,936,937,938,939,940,941,942,943,944,945,946,947,948,949,950,951,952,953,954,955,956,957,958,959,960,961,962,963,964,965,966,967,968,969,970,971,972,973,974,975,976,977,978,979,980,981,982,983,984,985,986,987,988,989,990,991,992,993,994,995,996,997,998,999,1000
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Pelana kona	84,85,86
E44F3	ODISHA	Rayagada	Kashipur	Shagabari	768,770,771,772,773,774,775,781,782,783,784,785,786,787,788,789,790,791,792,793,794,795,796,797,798,799,800,801,802,803,804,805,806,807,808,809,810,811,812,813,814,815,816,817,818,819,820,821,822,823,824,825,826,827,828,829,830,831,832,833,834,835,836,837,838,839,840,841,842,843,844,845,846,847,848,849,850,851,852,853,854,855,856,857,858,859,860,861,862,863,864,865,866,867,868,869,870,871,872,873,874,875,876,877,878,879,880,881,882,883,884,885,886,887,888,889,890,891,892,893,894,895,896,897,898,899,900,901,902,903,904,905,906,907,908,909,910,911,912,913,914,915,916,917,918,919,920,921,922,923,924,925,926,927,928,929,930,931,932,933,934,935,936,937,938,939,940,941,942,943,944,945,946,947,948,949,950,951,952,953,954,955,956,957,958,959,960,961,962,963,964,965,966,967,968,969,970,971,972,973,974,975,976,977,978,979,980,981,982,983,984,985,986,987,988,989,990,991,992,993,994,995,996,997,998,999,1000

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]**165**
1548.786**Project Activity Cost****7. Project/Activity Cost**

**7 Total Cost of the Project at
.1 current price level (in
. Lakhs)**

79200

Amount in Words : **Seventy
Nine Thousand Two Hundred
Lakh(s) Only**

8. Employment likely to be generated

166

8.1. During construction phase

Permanent employment

8.1 No. of permanent 1. employment (No.s) [A]	100
8.1. Period of employment 2. (No. of days) [B]	365
8.1. No. of man-days [X]= 3. [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 No. of permanent 1. employment (No.s) [A]	600
8.2 Period of employment 2. (No. of days) [B]	365
8.2. No. of man-days [X]= 3. [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	
---------------------------------	--

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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/Notificat
ion 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-

169

Non-Coal

Category

1.4. Exempted Category	NA
-------------------------------	----

1. Is Related to	No
5. Encroachment?	

1.6. Whether any proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Proposed Land	No
--	----

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
--	---------

Project Area,

170

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

171					
Topo sheet No.	Dist rict	Villag e	Rang e	Forest land proposed for diversion (ha)	Forest Land (ha)
E44F 2	Kal ah an di	Amb ajhol a	Ram pur Nort h	0	11.805
E44F 3	Kal ah an di	Chulb adi	Ram pur Nort h	55.200	86.204
E44F 2	Kal ah an di	TIJMA LI	Ram pur Nort h	79.681	102.373
E44F 2	Kal ah an di	Maha jal	Ram pur Nort h	0	75.529
E44F 2	Kal ah an di	Nakar undi	Ram pur Nort h	8.082	7.175
E44F 2	Kal ah an	Saleb ali	Ram pur Nort	0	2.703

172

di h

E44F 2	Kal ah an di	Tada dei	Ram pur Nort h	0.660	38.904
E44F 2	Kal ah an di	Tala mbp adar	Ram pur Nort h	0	9.284
E44F 2	Kal ah an di	Tara mun di	Ram pur Nort h	0	208.540
E44F 2	Kal ah an di	Upa r amb pada	Ram pur Nort h	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	

173

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

174

Remarks Details

Division	Rayagada Division
No. of Patches	20
KML	62450990_FC_KML_17477 50480643_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		

175

E44F 2	ag ad a	Kuta mal	shi pu r	85.499	64.55
E44F 3	Ray ag ad a	MALIP ADAR	Ka shi pu r	421.46	144.488
E44F 3	Ray ag ad a	Dum erpa dara	Ka shi pu r	0.567	7.754
E44F 3	Ray ag ad a	Katib hata	Ka shi pu r	4.553	0
E44F 3	Ray ag ad a	Pelan akon a	Ka shi pu r	3.541	0
E44F 3	Ray ag ad a	Shag abari	Ka shi pu r	2.007	19.512

Patch Details

176

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

177

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

178

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)
------------------	--	-----------------------------

179

Mined out reclaimed and rehabilitated 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
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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
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Afforestation Details

7. Details of land identified for Compensatory Afforestation

180

**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				Plot No. /Khasra Present		
No.	State	District	Village	No.	Owner	Are
E44E14	ODI	Kalah	SAMA	103(P), 104, 105,	GoO	85.
	SHA	andi	PALA	106, 107, 108(P)		00
E44F5	ODI	Rayag	Barat	4(P), 23(P),	GoO	34.

SHA ada 181 Gran 24, 25 09

E44F5	ODI SHA	Rayag ada	DEMU PADA R	129(P), 132(P), 133, 134, 135(P), 136(P), 137(P)	GoO	58. 00
E44F5	ODI SHA	Rayag ada	JAMB APAD AR	4(P), 6(P), 25, 46(P), 47	GoO	40. 40
E44F2	ODI SHA	Kalah andi	Kanjig uda	240(P), 237(P), 241(P), 242(P)	GoO	55. 00
E44F5	ODI SHA	Rayag ada	MARA GALU	1(P), 3, 5(P)	GoO	34. 9
E44F10	ODI SHA	Rayag ada	DAMB ALU	1(P)	GoO	3.2
E44F5	ODI SHA	Rayag ada	PIRELA PADA R	2, 3, 4, 5(P), 21(P)	GoO	77.8 1
E44F5	ODI SHA	Rayag ada	BADIN GAPA	1(P), 43(P),	GoO	38. 4

				182 DAR	44	
E44F10	ODI SHA	Rayag ada	LADIP ANGA	208(P), 362(P), 363(P), 364(P)	GoO	46. 22
E44F5	ODI SHA	Rayag ada	UMBE R	46(P), 87, 88(P), 91, 92	GoO	69. 66
E44F5	ODI SHA	Rayag ada	ALIBH ATA	1, 2, 3(P)	GoO	36. 5
E44F5	ODI SHA	Rayag ada	BARA PAJIB ALI	1, 2, 3, 4(P), 10, 11, 14(P)	GoO	87. 1
E44F2	ODI SHA	Kalah andi	Malati padar	302, 307(P)	GoO	18.7 3
E44F10	ODI SHA	Rayag ada	KAUG URA	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

184
Yes

different from the User
Agency

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 **185**
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)?

186
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**

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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 plan

189

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

190					
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
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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

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19.6. Production

capacity (in MTPA) as
per Lol / Vesting Order / 9
Mining lease, if any
prescribed

**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 **192**
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 **35/04**
months)

23.2. Life of the mine as
per total estimated
reserves, if any (in years **35/04**
and months)

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

193

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

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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

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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

196

or 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

need to stalling/loading **197** 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

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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

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7	Encroachment Certificate	Non-Encroachment Certificate	encroachment certificate.pdf Preview
8	CA Topo Map	CA Topo Map	total 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

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

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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-

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Project		Sijimali.pdf Preview
23	Undertaking to maintain the Safety Zone As Greenbe	Undertaking to maintain the Safety Zone As Greenbelt.pdf Preview
24	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.pdf Preview
26	Undertaking for Payment of Cost of CA	Undertaking for Payment of Cost of CA.pdf Preview
	Undertaking for	Undertaking for Payment

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27	Undertaking for Payment of Cost of Additional CA	Undertaking for Payment of Cost of Additional CA	Undertaking 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

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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

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			Preview
38	PLATE VII	Phased Reclamation Map	Phased Reclamation 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

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

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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 forest	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 PLAN	UNDERTAKING FOR R & R PLAN	UNDERTAKING FOR R & R PLAN.pdf Preview

Undertaking

☒ I hereby give undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures

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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 hereby 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
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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
--	----

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 Encroachment?	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

3. Details of Forestland proposed to be diverted (Village / Division / District Wise Breakup)

216	
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_fore patch.kml Preview

Location Details

Toposheet No.	District	Village	Range	Forest land proposed for diversion	Non Forest land
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, Dumerpadar and Bichapinda villages

Remarks Details

Forest land comes in Porlang and Shagabari villages and Non-forest land comes in Shagabari, Dumerpadar and Bichapinda villages
--

217 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	

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	ODISH A	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
--	--	--

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

S.	Document Name	Remark	Document
No.			

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 approach road	KML file of the total approach 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_compressed.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	Suitability Certificate	Suitability 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

Common Application Form

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Annexure - A15

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 Lol/Vesting order	28/02/2026
16.1.3.	Lease Period	73/02
16.1.4.	Date of expiry of lease	28/02/2073
16.1.5.	Lease area (in ha) as per Lol/Vesting order/Mining Lease	1549.022
16.1.6.	Production capacity (in MTPA) as per Lol / 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-MiFLOBXT/4/2023-BBS-IBM_RO_BB S dated 16.08.2023, Bhubanesh war, 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

226

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)
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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

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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-Monsoon: 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

CHAPTER - 1 INTRODUCTION

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/ Bhubaneswar 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-MiFLoBXT/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-kpru 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,

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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 Chowk. 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

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

Traffic Study Report

top road which connects to the railway siding.

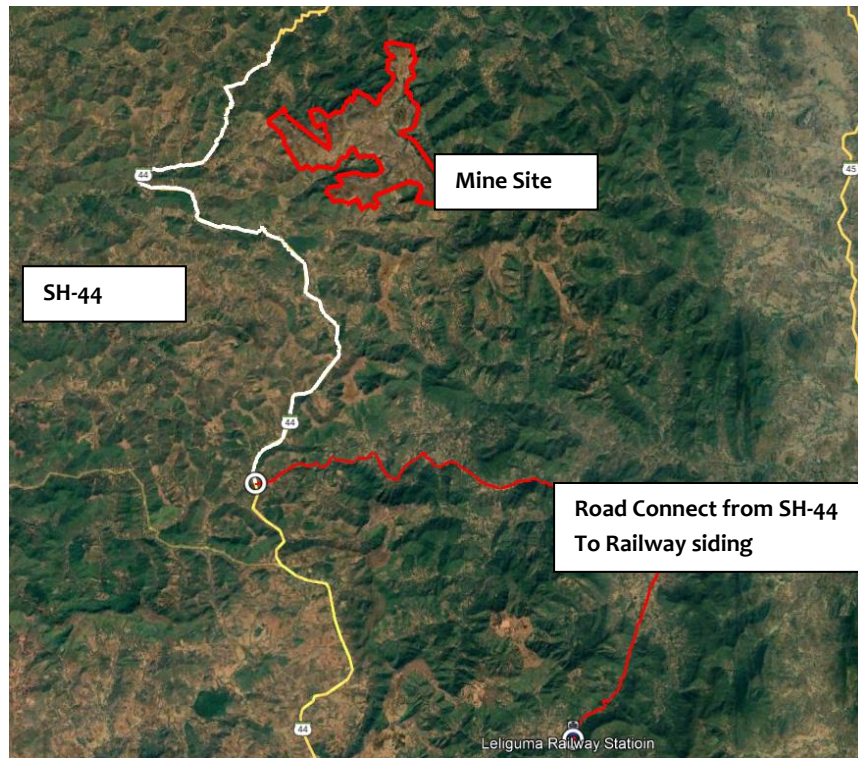


SH-44



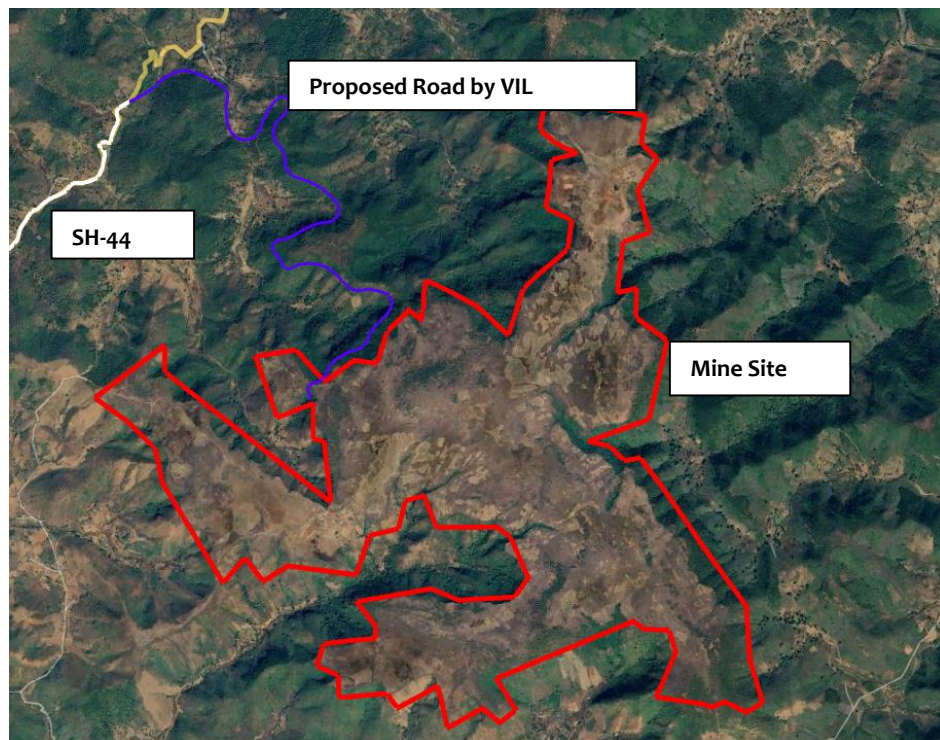
Leliguma Road

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.



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

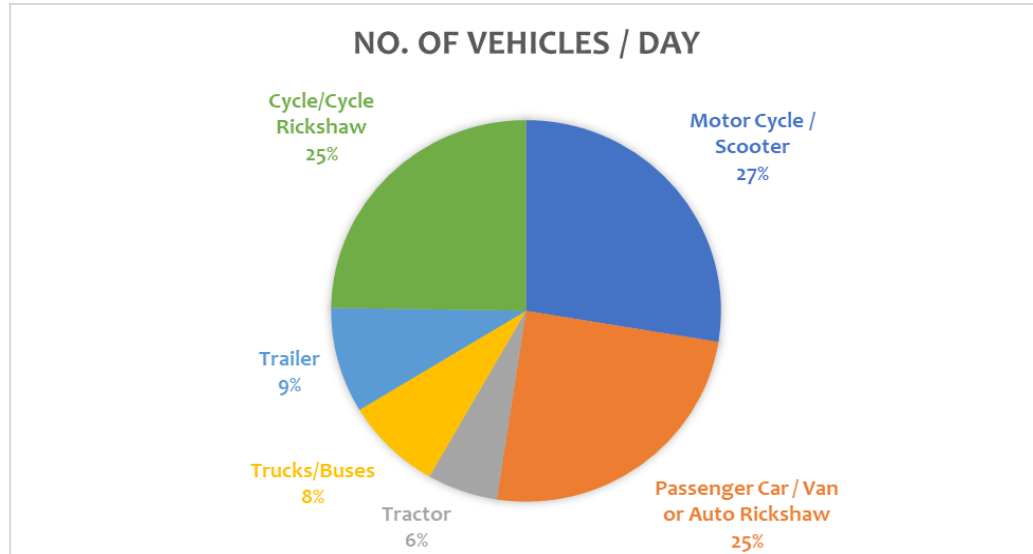


Figure 1.1 Traffic Volume Count at SH - 44

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

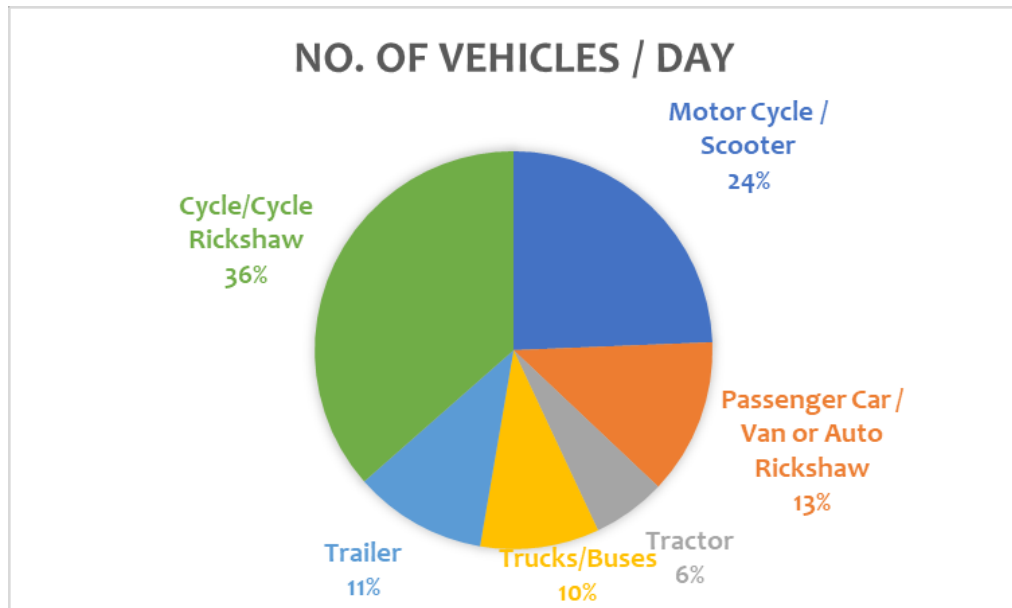


Figure 1.2 Traffic Volume Count at Village Road Mandibisi Sikarpai Chowk to Leliguma station

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

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

Traffic Study Report

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.



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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 & Kshipur,
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.

1st Floor, 'C' wing, Unit 103,
Corporate Avenue Atul Projects,
Chakia, Andheri (East),
Mumbai City, Maharashtra- 400 093
Email- shuvrendu.choudhury@vedanta.co.in

EIA CONSULTANT



J.M. EnviroNet Pvt. Ltd.

(Registered EIA Consultant Organization from NABET-QCI)
Certificate No.:NABET/EIA/23-26/SA 0250 valid upto 7th August, 2026
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)

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

ToR Compliance

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 XIII A & XIII B
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 Tijimali, 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.	<i>Chapter 4 Para 4.6.5.4.2 Pg No 206</i> 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 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 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.

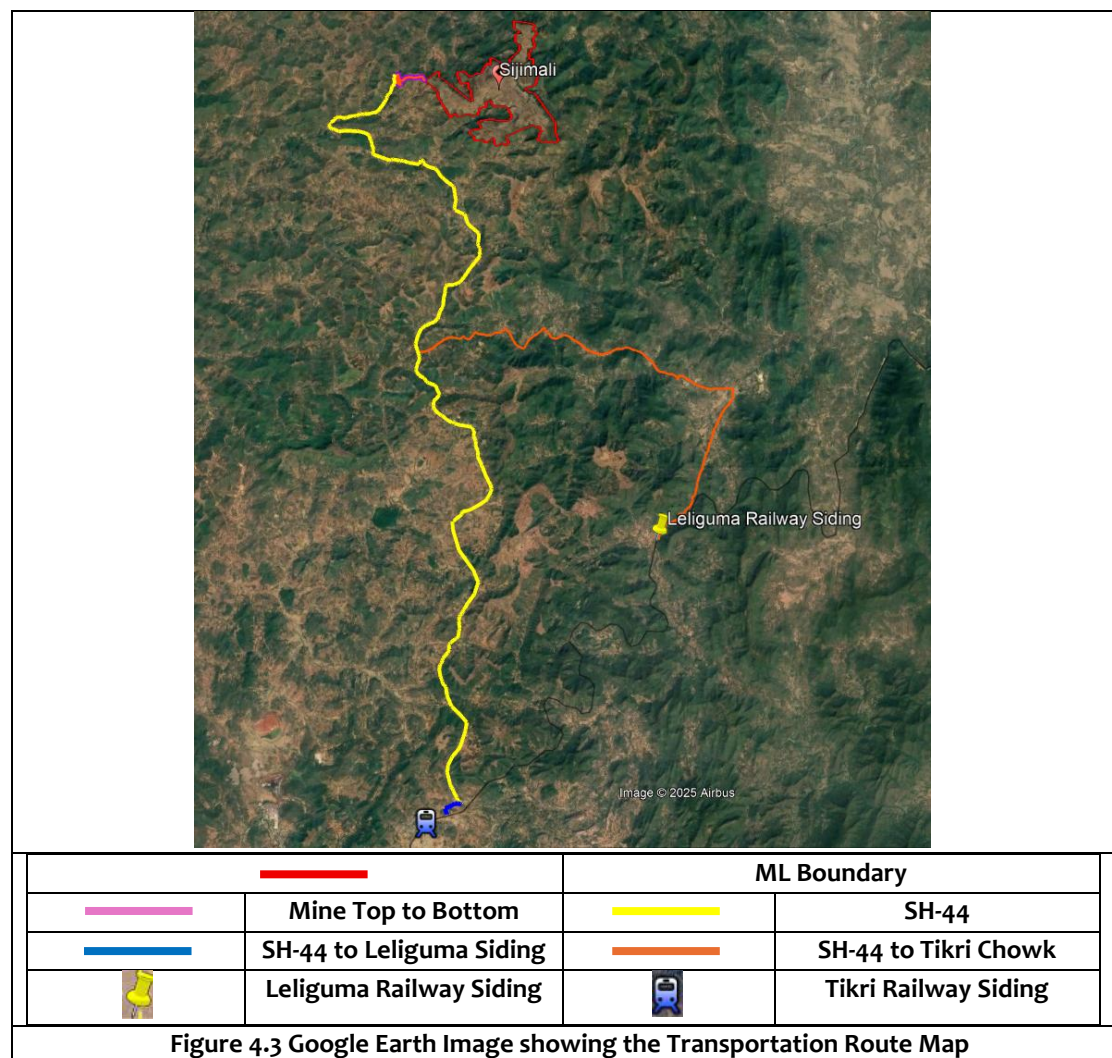
Alternatively, the proposed Tikiri railway siding is located approximately 55 km distance from the Sijimali mining lease boundary.

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:



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 XIII A**.

Request Letter to construct the Private Siding at Lelligumma Station has been forwarded 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 forwarded 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 XIII B**.

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,

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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 requirement: 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,


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.


Additional Secretary to Government

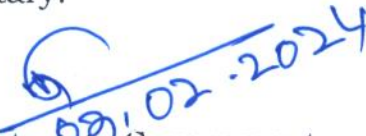
Memo No. 877 /I, dated 3/2/2024

Copy alongwith copy of enclosure forwarded to OSD to Chief Secretary, Odisha for kind information of Chief Secretary.


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.


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**