

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

MA No.113/2024

IN

Original Application No. 173/2022

In the matter of:

Sh. Ram Singh Son of Sh. Angchuka

Village and Post office- Mane

Tehsil-Spiti, District -Lahaul and Spiti

Himachal Pradesh

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

1. State of Himachal Pradesh through Principal Secretary (Forests), to the Government of Himachal Pradesh with headquarters at Shimla.
2. Principal Secretary Public Works Department Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.

.....RESPONDENTS

INDEX

Sr. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1	Compliance report of order dated 11.12.2025 passed in M.A. NO. 113 of 2024 in O.A. NO. 173 OF 2022	1- 8
2	Annexure A1: (Respondent No. 1 has deposited ₹ 1,49,10,000 vide e-Challan bearing No. B26A116838 dated 28.01.2026)	9-10
3	Annexure A2 : (Wildlife Management Plan approved by Chief Wildlife Warden)	11- 26
4	Annexure A3: Observations raised by Forest Advisory Committee on dated 30.07.2025	27-32
5	Annexure A4: (Observations raised by Forest Advisory Committee on dated 26.09.2025)	31-173
6	Annexure A5: (Observations raised by Forest Advisory Committee on dated 27.02.2026)	174-321
7	Annexure A6: (DFO Wildlife Spiti Office letter No./3697 dated 07/03/2026 vide which user agency was requested to provide non forest land for creation of Compensatory Afforestation)	322-29
8	Annexure A7: (Executive Engineer HPPWD Spiti at Kaza office letter No.7811 dated 13/03/2026 vide which they submitted certificate from Director Land records, for Non Availability of Non Forest land for creation of Compensatory Afforestation)	323

9	Annexure A8: (Certificate from Director Land records, stating Non Availability of Non Forest land in entire State for creation of Compensatory Afforestation)	324
10	Annexure A9 : (Reply from Police Department and related correspondence from the Office of DFO Wildlife Spiti)	325-33

Through

Respondent No.1
ANUBHAV SHARMA
S-466, 2nd Floor,
Greater Kailash-I
New Delhi,110048
9736299505
adv.anubhav@outlook.com

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 173/2022

In the matter of:


Sh. Ram Singh Son of Sh. Angchuka
Village and Post office- Mane
Tehsil-Spiti, District -Lahaul and Spiti
Himachal Pradesh

.....**PETITIONER**


Versus

- 1 State of Himachal Pradesh through Principal Secretary (Forests), to the Government of Himachal Pradesh with headquarters at Shimla.
- 2 Principal Secretary Public Works Department Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.

.....**RESPONDENTS**


Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife (South), Shimla-171002

ATTESTED


Executive Magistrate
H.P. Sectt., Shimla

- 2 -


**COMPLIANCE REPORT OF ORDER DATED 11.12.2025
PASSED IN M.A. NO. 113 OF 2024 IN O.A. NO. 173 OF 2022**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:


1. That the above mentioned matter is pending before this Hon'ble Tribunal and vide order dated 11.12.2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue certain directions. The relevant part of the order dated 11.12.2025 is reproduced here in under:-

“However, in view of the fact that respondents have already diverted forest land, cut the trees and constructed the road without approval for the diversion of forest land under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980, the respondents are directed to provide non-forest 28.7516 ha land for compensatory afforestation and deposit compensatory afforestation amount of Rs. 1,49,10,000/- with the Forest Department within one month and the Forest Department is directed to take up the matter of implementation of remedial measures including afforestation by utilizing the Compensatory Afforestation amount within next two months and file compliance report in this regard at-least one week before the next date of hearing fixed.”

2. It is submitted that pursuant to the order dated 11.12.2025, many positive steps have been taken for the purpose of implementing the order in letter and spirit, and the Respondents are vigilant so as to ensure that the directives given in the order dated 11.12.2025 are followed and implemented.
3. However, it is submitted that the implementation of the order was contingent upon the Respondents getting Stage-I / In-principal approval from the Forest Advisory Committee (“FAC”) MoEF& CC. However, owing to the fact the order dated 11.12.2025 directed


Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife (South), Shimla-171002


ATTESTED


Executive Magistrate
H.P. Sectt., Shimla


Compensatory Afforestation to be done on Non-forest land, and the same is not available, the same proposal was deferred. The Respondents have also filed an IA in the present proceedings seeking clarification/ modification of the said directive and the averments made therein may be read as part and parcel of the present report.

4. It is submitted that numerous positive steps were taken for the implementation of the order dated 11.12.2025, and the same are as follows:


- I. Disciplinary actions under CCS and CCA rules have been taken against the officials who have violated the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 of MoEF&CC.
- II. Penalty of Rs. 1,49,10,000/- vide e-Challan bearing No. B26A116838 dated 28.01.2026 has been collected by the Forest Department from the user agency as penalty amount for the construction of the road in violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and for the damages caused as per Indian Forest Act, 1927.
- III. User agency has moved to MoEF&CC for regularisation of the road so constructed under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. In this context, the case had been placed before the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) on three occasions for seeking Stage-I approval (at FAC meetings dated 30.07.2025, 26.09.2025 and 27.02.2026) as per the provisions contained in Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 of MoEF&CC.


Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife (South), Shimla-171002

ATTESTED


Executive Magistrate
H.P. Sectt., Shimla

5. That it is further submitted and reiterated that the present Respondents have the utmost respect for the orders passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal and do not wish to flout the orders passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal. The Respondents reiterate their apology for the delay in the implementation of the orders.
6. It is most respectfully submitted that the process of conducting Compensatory Afforestation (hereinafter "CA") can only begin once the Respondents obtain Stage-I / In-principle approval from the Forest Advisory Committee ("FAC") of MoEF&CC. It is most respectfully submitted that under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the compensatory levies are to be deposited into the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Account, which is only possible after the user agency obtains Stage-I / In-principle approval.
7. That the user agency i.e. Respondent No. 1 has deposited ₹ 1,49,10,000 vide e-Challan bearing No. B26A116838 dated 28.01.2026 (Copy attached as **Annexure A1**) with the Forest Department as penalty amount for the construction of the road in violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the damages caused as per Indian Forest Act, 1927.
8. That the Wildlife Management Development & Biodiversity Conservation Plan in respect of the matter has already been prepared and the same was duly approved on 27.11.2025 by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh / PCCF (Wildlife)(Copy attached as **Annexure A2**). The said approval addresses one of the principal observations raised by the Forest Advisory Committee and


 Conservator of Forests,
 Wildlife (South), Shimla-171002

ATTESTED

 Executive Magistrate
 H.P. Sectt., Shimla

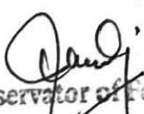
demonstrates that the wildlife-related mitigation and conservation requirements have already been complied with by the applicants.

9. That as far as the issue of providing non-forest land measuring 28.7516 ha for compensatory afforestation is concerned, it is most humbly submitted that before 11.12.2025 the applicants had moved the case to FAC (Forest Advisory Committee) of MoEF&CC for diversion of degraded forest land. The case appeared before FAC, which is the competent authority under Rule 10(5)(i) of The Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 to recommend to the Central Government for consideration the proposal for *ex-post facto* approval involving violation of provisions of The Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. On 30.07.2025, FAC raised the following observations (Copy attached as **Annexure A3**):


- a. State Government shall complete the action taken against the User Agency under IFA, 1927 and submit an updated action taken report.
- b. State Government shall submit the action taken against the officials concerned for not being able to prevent the use of forest land for non-forestry purpose.
- c. State Government shall submit a Wildlife Management Plan approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh.

10. Thereafter, on 26.09.2025, FAC raised the following observations (Copy attached as **Annexure A4**):

- a. The State Government shall look into the action taken against officers responsible for the violation and submit a comprehensive report on the matter to the Ministry.


Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife (South), Shimla-171002

ATTESTED


Executive Magistrate
H.P. Sectt., Shimla

- b. The State Government shall submit a copy of Wildlife Management Plan approved by Chief Wildlife Warden with specific comments.
- c. The State Government shall submit an updated Action Taken Report against the User Agency.

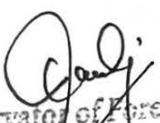
11. That it is brought to the kind attention of this Hon'ble Tribunal that the above observations raised by the FAC were duly attended to by the DFO WL Spiti in letter and spirit.

12. That FAC, in its meeting on 27.02.2026, raised the following observation (Copy attached as **Annexure A5**):


"The matter is presently sub-judice before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Principal Bench, New Delhi), and the next date of hearing is 08.04.2026. In view of the matter being sub judice, the State Government shall first comply with the orders of the Hon'ble NGT in the matter and thereafter the State may approach the Ministry for further deliberation and decision on the proposal."

13. That in this meeting dated 27.02.2026, the focus of FAC was mainly on the observation of this Hon'ble Tribunal wherein vide order dated 11.12.2025 it has been directed to provide non-forest land measuring 28.7516 ha for Compensatory Afforestation (CA), whereas the proposal given by the User Agency was for utilization of degraded forest land since there is no non-forest land available for carrying out the CA.

14. That in view of the observation of FAC, the DFO WL Spiti vide letter dated 07.03.2026 (copy attached as **Annexure A6**) requested the user agency for providing non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation


Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife (South), Shimla-171002

ATTESTED

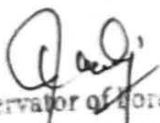

Executive Magistrate
H.P. Sectt., Shimla

(CA), but the User Agency vide letter dated 13.03.2026 informed that there is no non-forest land available for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) in Himachal Pradesh. In this regard, they also produced a certificate of the Director Land Records, Himachal Pradesh bearing No. 10378 dated 19.09.2024 (copy of the letter of user agency is attached as **Annexure A7** and copy of certificate issued by Director Land Records is attached as **Annexure A8**).

15. That due to the non-availability of non-forest land, the applicants have no option except to use degraded forest land for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation. Consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 of MoEF&CC under Chapter 2, allows the use of degraded forest land, twice the land used for diversion of forest land, for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation if non-forest land is not available.

16. That it is further submitted that the Police Department has registered FIR NO. 0026 dated 16.09.2025 regarding illegal road construction from Gecha to Dhankar Helipad against PWD and investigation is ongoing and DCF WL Spiti is pursuing it with Police Department regularly (Letter No. WL Spiti /FCA/ 3035 Dated: Kaza the, 02/01/2026, Letter No. WL Spiti/FCA/3017 dated 16.03.2026, Letter No. WL Spiti/4118 dated 27.03.2026 (**Reply from Police Department and its related correspondence enclosed as Annexure A9**) with reference to NGT MA No. 113/2024 in OA No. 173/2022.

17. That the Respondents have been taking all possible steps to ensure that the order is complied with; however, it is only owing to the facts narrated above that the FAC has deferred to process the case.


 Conservator of Forests,
 Wildlife (South), Shimla-171002

DECLARED BEFORE ME ON _____ DAY OF _____ (month/year) AT _____ BY _____ who is personally known to me or whose name is familiar to me and who is duly identified by _____
ATTESTED

 Executive Magistrate
 H.P. Sectt., Shimla

Therefore, Respondents are requesting this Hon'ble Tribunal for seeking appropriate directions in the matter.

18. That, the replying Respondent has been making all efforts to implement the orders of this Hon'ble Tribunal and the deponent assures that the orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal will be implemented in letter and spirit.

19. In view of the averments made hereinabove, the compliance report by way of affidavit may kindly be taken on record and appropriate orders as deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case may kindly be passed, in the interest of justice.

[Signature]
Deponent
Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife (South), Shimla-171002

Verification:-

I, the deponent do hereby declare on oath that the Contents of my above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are as per information derived from official records. No part of it is wrong and nothing has been concealed.

Verified at Shimla on this 02nd day of April 2026.

[Signature]
Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife (South), Shimla-171002

[Signature]
DEPONENT
Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife (South), Shimla-171002

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
H.P. Sectt., Shimla

Declared before me on 2nd day of April
2026 on oath (Solemnly Affixation)
by Smt. Preeti Bhandari CF Forest (wildlife)
who is personally known to the or who Shimla
has been identified by Sh Mohan Lal Sptt 6-1
who is personally known to me. Forest (wild life)
Shimla

[Signature]
Executive Magistrate
H.P. Sectt., Shimla

RTGS/NEFT ADVICE

Treasury Code:- KZA00	DDO Code	653	SDO Code	00
-----------------------	----------	-----	----------	----

DDO/SDO Description	Executive Engineer, Spiti B & R Division, HP.PWD., Kaza.
---------------------	--

Pre-Assigned Token No.	24127040	Dated :-	28/01/2026
------------------------	----------	----------	------------

To be directly credited to following accounts	Total Amount:-	14910000
---	----------------	----------

Sr. No.	Name of Contractor /Firm	Payee ID	Account No.	IFSC Code	Amount
1	Divisional Forest Officer Spiti Wildlife Division at Kaza		Deposit through Government e- Challan No B26A116838 Dated 28.01.2026		14910000
Total					14910000

Amount in Words

Rupees One crore forty nine lakh ten thousand) Only

[Signature]
 Executive Engineer
 Spiti B&R Division
 HPPWD Kaza


Attested

[Signature]
 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

-10-

E-CHALLAN
Government Of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Finance
Treasures, Accounts & Lotteries

Valid Upto: 03-Feb-2026
HIMGRN: B26A116838 Date: 28-01-2026 01:32:08PM
Dept Copy

Department: Forest
BarCode: 
Period: 28-01-2026 To 31-01-2026
DDO: KZA00-889- DIRECTOR NATIONAL PARK KAZA

Head	₹ Amount
0406-01-102-01-RECEIPT FROM REGISTRATION FEE	14910000
Total/Net Amount	14910000
In words	OneCrore Forty Nine Lakh Ten Thousand


Payee Detail

Licence/Vehicle/Permit/TIN no.
RECEIPT FROM REGISTRATION FEES -RECEIPT FROM PENALTIES AND DAMAGES BILL Penalty of illegal road construction of road from Poh Maidaan to Dhankhar

Remitter Name: Executive Engineer
Address: Executive Engineer, B&R Division HPPWD Kaza Mob: 9591211111


FOR USE IN RECEIVING BANK

Bank CIN No: HIMGRN B26A116838
Amount: ₹ 14910000
Bank: MANAGER, SBI KAZA
Cheque-DD-No.

Attested

REGIONAL FOREST OFFICER
D/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

E-CHALLAN
Government Of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Finance
Treasures, Accounts & Lotteries

Valid Upto: 03-Feb-2026
HIMGRN: B26A116838 Date: 28-01-2026 01:32:08PM
Dept Copy

Department: Forest
BarCode: 
Period: 28-01-2026 To 31-01-2026
DDO: KZA00-889- DIRECTOR NATIONAL PARK KAZA

Head	₹ Amount
0406-01-102-01-RECEIPT FROM REGISTRATION FEE	14910000
Total/Net Amount	14910000
In words	OneCrore Forty Nine Lakh Ten Thousand

Payee Detail

Licence/Vehicle/Permit/TIN no.
RECEIPT FROM REGISTRATION FEES -RECEIPT FROM PENALTIES AND DAMAGES BILL Penalty of illegal road construction of road from Poh Maidaan to Dhankhar

Remitter Name: Executive Engineer
Address: Executive Engineer, B&R Division HPPWD Kaza Mob: 9591211111

FOR USE IN RECEIVING BANK

Bank CIN No: HIMGRN B26A116838
Amount: ₹ 14910000
Bank: MANAGER, SBI KAZA
Cheque-DD-No.

E-CHALLAN
Government Of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Finance
Treasures, Accounts & Lotteries

Valid Upto: 03-Feb-2026
HIMGRN: B26A116838 Date: 28-01-2026 01:32:08PM
Remitter Copy

Department: Forest
BarCode: 
Period: 28-01-2026 To 31-01-2026
DDO: KZA00-889- DIRECTOR NATIONAL PARK KAZA

Head	₹ Amount
0406-01-102-01-RECEIPT FROM REGISTRATION FEE	14910000
Total/Net Amount	14910000
In words	OneCrore Forty Nine Lakh Ten Thousand

Payee Detail

Licence/Vehicle/Permit/TIN no.
RECEIPT FROM REGISTRATION FEES -RECEIPT FROM PENALTIES AND DAMAGES BILL Penalty of illegal road construction of road from Poh Maidaan to Dhankhar

Remitter Name: Executive Engineer
Address: Executive Engineer, B&R Division HPPWD Kaza Mob: 9591211111

FOR USE IN RECEIVING BANK

Bank CIN No: HIMGRN B26A116838
Amount: ₹ 14910000
Bank: MANAGER, SBI KAZA
Cheque-DD-No.



HIMACHAL PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT
WILDLIFE WING
Office of the PR. CCF (WL) cum-CWLW, HP
at Dharamshala-176215
☎ 01792-293001 (O)
e-mail: pccfwl-hp@nic.in



No. C/o Road-Poh Maidan to Dhankar/5192 Dated: 27/11/2025

To:

CF (WL) Shimla

Subject:- Wildlife Management Development & Biodiversity Conservation Plan for approval thereof.

Memorandum:

Refer to your office memo No. WLM/M-188/2871/ dated 27.11.2025 on the subject cited above.

2. The Wildlife Management Development & Biodiversity Conservation Plan formulated as a part of execution of the Road Widening Project from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad (District Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh) for the period 2025-26 to 2028-29, with a budget allocation of Rs. 9,74,360 Lakhs is hereby approved. Further action to implement the Plan may be initiated immediately under intimation to this office.

Encl: As Above

Stamp: 27/11/2025
27-12-2025

Signature of PCCF (WL) & CWLW, HP

PCCF (WL) & CWLW, HP.

Dated:

WLM Branch:

Signature of WLM Branch
29/11/2025

Endst No: As above:

Copy is forwarded to:

- 1. CEO HP State Authority CAMPA alongwith the copy of Wildlife Management Plan and Mitigation Plan (WLMP) for the above proposal for information and necessary action.
- 2. Suptd. Account to this office for information and necessary action.

Endst. No. M-188/3053-84 dt. 09/12/2025 PCCF (WL) & CWLW, HP.

- 1. Copy is forwarded to Dy. CF WL Spiti at Kangra for information and m/action.
- 2. Copy to Suptd. Account Branch of this office for information and m/action.

Attended

Signature of Divisional Forest Officer

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Signature of Superintendent
Superintendent Gr I.
O/CF WL(S) Shimla

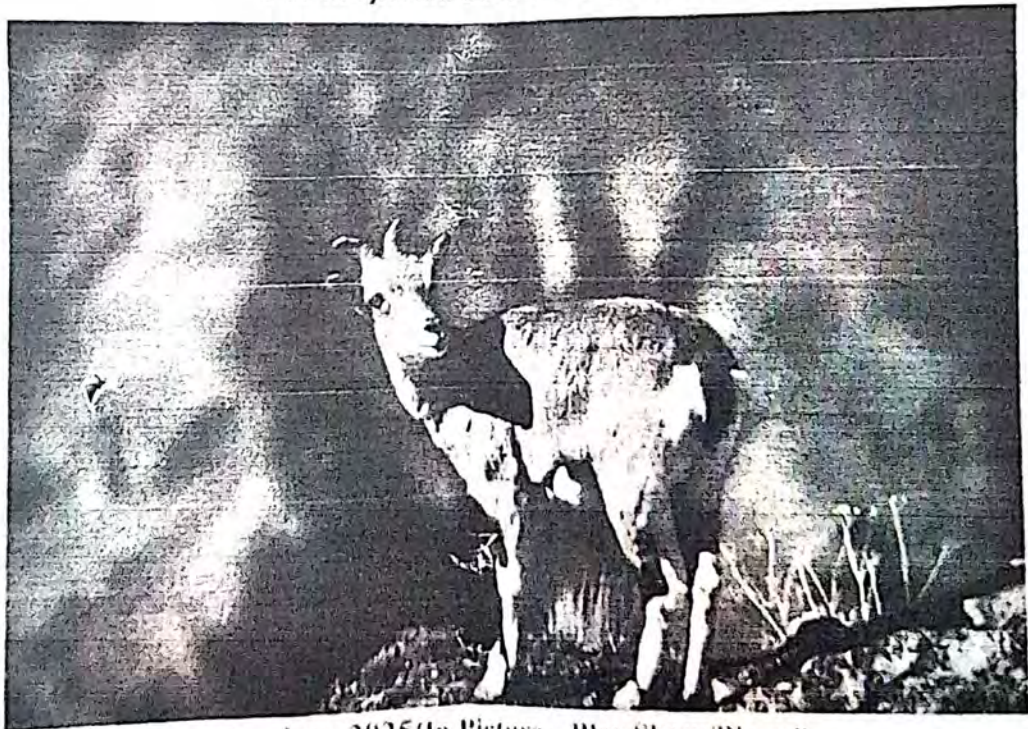


Wildlife Management, Development and Biodiversity Conservation Plan

Formulated as a part of the execution of the Road Widening Project from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad

(District Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh)

For the period 2025-26 to 2028-29



September, 2025 (In Picture - Blue Sheep/Bharal)

Arrestal



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Index

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
 - 2.1 Background of the Proposal
 - 2.2 Significance of Road Development in Spiti
 - 2.3 Forest Diversion and Legal Framework
3. Project Details
 - 3.1 Project Location and Alignment
 - 3.2 Forest Diversion Components
 - 3.3 Cost and Allocations
4. Landscape and the Biodiversity of the Area
 - 4.1 Climate
 - 4.2 Terrain and Landscape
 - 4.3 Geology and Soil
 - 4.4 Water Systems
 - 4.5 Vegetation
 - 4.6 Fauna
 - 4.7 Human Context
5. Impact of Road Projects and need for Wildlife management and conservation plan
6. Objective of Plan Preparation
7. Project Cost
 - 7.1 Wildlife Management Plan Budget
 - 7.2 Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan Budget
8. Area of Implementation
9. Implementation Period
10. Monitoring and Review
 - 10.1 Institutional Responsibilities
 - 10.2 Indicators for Monitoring
 - 10.3 Community Participation

Revised
✱

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

1. Executive Summary

The Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) for the widening of the Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad Road is of critical importance given the ecological significance of the Spiti Valley, which forms part of the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve. The project area, though seemingly barren, supports unique biodiversity adapted to extreme high-altitude conditions. It lies in close proximity to the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary and its Eco-Sensitive Zone, and falls within habitats utilized by Schedule-I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Notably, this includes the Blue Sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*), which is a primary prey base for the endangered Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*). Other species of conservation concern present in the region are the Himalayan Ibex (*Capra sibericahimalayanus*), Tibetan Wolf (*Canis lupus chanco*), Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and Himalayan Marmot (*Marmota caudata*). The avifauna is equally remarkable, with species such as the Himalayan Griffon, Bearded Vulture, Chukar Partridge, and Snowcock reported from the area. These species and their habitats are extremely sensitive to disturbance and require focused conservation interventions. The Wildlife Management Plan therefore seeks to mitigate project impacts, conserve critical habitats, and strengthen biodiversity protection mechanisms while ensuring sustainable development of road connectivity in this remote and strategically important region.

The widening of the road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad in District Lahaul & Spiti involves the diversion of 7.5479 hectares of Forest land. The project area lies within the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve, close to Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary (7.16 km) and its Eco-Sensitive Zone (3.8 km). It traverses critical habitats of Schedule-I species, including the Blue Sheep, and supports populations of Snow Leopard, Himalayan Ibex, Red Fox, and Tibetan Wolf.

The total project cost is ₹487.18 lakhs, of which ₹9.74 lakhs (2%) is earmarked for the Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) and ₹2.44 lakhs (0.5%) for the Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan (SMCP). This plan identifies the biodiversity values of Spiti, highlights ecological challenges, and prescribes conservation interventions to mitigate adverse impacts, conserve habitats, and strengthen community participation.

Attested
[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

2. Introduction

2.1 Background of the Proposal

The project proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee of MoEFCC on 31 July 2025, as the approval was sought by user agency after directions of Hon. National Green Tribunal under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the **Forest Conservation Act, 1980**. The road widening covers a 12.46 km stretch and is crucial for improving connectivity in Spiti, a region characterized by sparse population, harsh climate, and fragile ecosystems. No tree felling is involved since canopy density is zero.

2.2 Significance of Road Development in Spiti

The project enhances access to healthcare, education, and markets while improving disaster preparedness in the region. However, ecological safeguards are essential, as the project lies within habitats frequented by Blue Sheep herds, and in proximity to Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary and other protected areas of Spiti.

2.3 Forest Diversion and Legal Framework

The diversion of **7.5479 hectares of Protected Forest** also forms part of the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve. Approval under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 shall ensure compliance with national environmental safeguards.

Accepted
[Signature]
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
DIO OF WL(S) SHIMLA

3. Project Details

3.1 Project Location and Alignment

The road widening project spans km 0/00 to km 12/460, requiring diversion of 7.5479 ha of Protected Forest and 0.8447 ha of non-forest land.

3.2 Forest Diversion Components

- Road: 7.3879 ha
- Dumping sites: 0.16 ha

3.3 Cost and Allocations

The estimated cost of the project is ₹487.18 lakhs, with mandatory provisions for Wildlife Management (₹9.74 lakhs) and Soil & Moisture Conservation (₹2.44 lakhs).

Adhesh
SH

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S)

-4-

4. Landscape and the Biodiversity of the Area

4.1 Climate

Spiti valley lies in the rain shadow area, receiving only about 200 mm of annual precipitation, mainly as snow. Winters are harsh, extending from November to March, with temperatures dropping below -40°C , while summers reach up to 30°C . Strong winds and wide temperature variations further stress the ecosystem. Recent observations suggest reduced winter snow and increased summer precipitation, leading to flash floods and rangeland degradation.

4.2 Terrain and Landscape

The region is mountainous and barren, with altitudes ranging from 3,000–6,000 m. Valleys are carved by the Spiti and Pin rivers, interspersed with high-altitude plateaus such as the Kibber-Demul plateau. Peaks such as Gya (6,794 m), Manirang (6,593 m), and Chau Chau Kang Nilda (6,380 m) dominate the landscape.

4.3 Geology and Soil


Spiti exposes rock formations from the Pre-Cambrian to the Cretaceous period, rich in fossils like ammonites, brachiopods, and trilobites. The soils are sandy, shallow, and alkaline with poor water retention and low organic matter, though relatively rich in calcium. These fragile soils are prone to erosion and require soil and moisture conservation interventions.

4.4 Water Systems

The Spiti River and its tributaries such as the Pin, Lingti, Ratang, and Guindi nalas sustain the valley. Snowmelt-fed streams provide irrigation for limited agriculture on alluvial fans and terraces. However, unstable riverbanks and high-energy flows restrict large-scale irrigation.

4.5 Vegetation

Vegetation is sparse, dominated by dry alpine scrub, grasses, and medicinal herbs. Willows, poplars, and seabuckthorn grow along valleys, while alpine pastures support grazing. Key medicinal plants include Ratan Jot, Atis, Kutki, Iphedra, and Borgeola.

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CE (WLD) SHIMLA

4.6 Fauna

Spiti is habitat to globally significant wildlife, including Snow Leopard, Himalayan Ibex, Blue Sheep, Tibetan Wolf, Red Fox, and Himalayan Marmot. Avifauna includes Himalayan Griffon, Bearded Vulture, Chukar Partridge, Snowcock, and Choughs. Protected areas such as Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, Pin Valley National Park, and Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary and Tsarap chu conservation reserve safeguard these species.

4.7 Human Context

Spiti is sparsely populated (~2 persons/km²), with most inhabitants engaged in single-crop agriculture and livestock rearing. Cultivated crops include barley, buckwheat, potatoes, peas, and apples. Livestock such as sheep, goats, and yak are central to livelihoods, with pastures forming the basis of subsistence.



Histria affinis



Ephedra Gerardiana

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF V.L.(S) SHIMLA



Chukar Partridge

Red Fox



Snow Leopard

Himalayan Snowcock

Attested
[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

5. Impact of roads and need of Wildlife management and Conservation plan

5.1 Impact of Road Projects on Ecology and Wildlife in Spiti landscape

Road construction and expansion have significant ecological and environmental consequences. It is observed that road projects lead to fragmentation of natural habitats, disturbing the continuity of wildlife corridors. This fragmentation isolates animal populations, restricts their movement, and alters natural behaviour patterns.

Further, increased human access due to new or improved roads often brings encroachment, poaching, and illegal resource extraction, aggravating pressure on forest ecosystems. Vehicle movement causes wildlife mortality through collisions, while noise and headlight glare disturb nocturnal species and affect their feeding and breeding activities. Runoff from construction sites leads to sedimentation of nearby streams and water bodies, impacting aquatic habitats.

Overall, roads act as both a physical and ecological barrier, resulting in loss of habitat connectivity, genetic isolation, and overall decline in species diversity. These cumulative effects are long-term and often irreversible without proper management and mitigation.

5.2 Need for a Wildlife management and conservation plan

A Wildlife Management and Conservation Plan is essential to minimize the adverse impacts of road projects on forest ecosystems and wildlife. Such a plan ensures that habitat loss, fragmentation, and disturbance caused by construction and traffic are effectively mitigated. Plan helps addressing issues like wildlife mortality, poaching risks, pollution, speed regulation, and habitat restoration while promoting sustainable coexistence between infrastructure development and biodiversity conservation. Overall, it ensures that road projects comply with environmental safeguards and contribute to the long-term protection of wildlife and their habitats.

Selected
✱

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
D/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

6. Objective of Plan Preparation

The objectives of this plan are to conserve habitats, prevent ecological degradation, strengthen anti-poaching measures, enhance awareness, and implement soil and moisture conservation interventions in order to ensure long-term ecological security and sustainable livelihoods.

7. Plan and budget

7.1 Wildlife Management Plan Budget

A sum of ₹9.74 lakhs is allocated for wildlife management activities, including awareness, conservation interventions, student engagement, patrolling, and monitoring.

Wildlife Management and Biodiversity conservation Plan

The Wildlife Management and biodiversity conservation plan focus on strengthening conservation efforts and minimizing the ecological impacts associated with the road project. The plan emphasizes awareness and capacity building through nature conservation camps and workshops for students, promoting understanding and participation in wildlife protection. To enhance field monitoring and research, modern equipment such as camera traps will be procured for continuous observation of wildlife movement and behavior. A significant component involves the maintenance and strengthening of the Snow Leopard Conservation Centre at Kibber, which serves as a vital hub for conservation activities and ecological monitoring in the region. In addition, signage boards made of durable UV-printed iron will be installed along critical road sections to alert motorists and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions. The plan also includes administrative, logistical, and miscellaneous operational expenses to ensure smooth implementation and coordination of all conservation measures.

The financial requirements for implementing these activities over a three-year period are summarized in the table ahead.

Attested


[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
D/O OF D.D.(C) SHITLA

Year-wise budgeting table (3 years) with the allocation totalling ₹9,74,360.

Component	Description	1st Year (₹)	2nd Year (₹)	3rd Year (₹)	Total (₹)
Awareness & Capacity Building	Nature Conservation Camps cum Workshops for students	76,600	42,100	36,000	1,54,700
Equipment	Equipment for Wildlife Conservation like Camera traps etc.	1,22,600	1,07,200	1,07,200	3,37,000
Maintenance of Permanent Assets	Snow leopard conservation center at Kibber	1,67,300	1,13,200	50,100	3,30,600
Signage boards	UV printed and iron made	52,500	30,000	22,500	1,05,000
Miscellaneous / Operational Expenses	Administrative, logistics and miscellaneous expenses	17,860	17,000	12,200	47,060
Grand Total		4,36,860	3,09,500	2,28,000	9,74,360

APO IN LIEU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR C/O ROAD FROM POH TO DHANKHAR HELIPAD FOR THE YEAR 2025-26					
S.No	Item of Work	Qty	Rate	Unit	Amount
1	Awareness and Capacity Building				
a)	Nature Conservation Camps cum work shop for Students	2	38300	No	76600
	Total 1				76600
2	Equipment				
a)	Equipments for Wildlife Conservation like Camera Traps etc.	5	24520	No	122600
	Total 2				122600
3	Maintenance of Permanent Assets				
a)	Snow Leopard Conservation Centre at Kibbar	1	1/5	No	167300
	Total 3				167300
4	Signage Boards				
a)	UV printing and Iron Made	6	8750	No	52500
	Total 4				52500
5	Miscellaneous and Operational Expenses				

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- 10 -

a)	Administrative, logistic and miscellaneous expences	L/S	L/S	No	17860
	Total 5				17860
	Grand Total				436860

APO IN LUE OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR C/O ROAD FROM POH TO DHANKHAR HELIPAD FOR THE YEAR 2026-27					
S.No	Item of Work	Qty	Rate	Unit	Amount
1	Awareness and Capacity Building				
a)	Nature Conservation Camps cum work shop for Students	2	21050	No	42100
	Total 1				42100
2	Equipment				
a)	Equipments for Wildlife Conservation like Camera Traps etc.	4	26800	No	107200
	Total 2				107200
3	Maintenance of Permanent Assets				
a)	Snow Leopard Conservation Centre at Kibbar	1	L/S	No	113200
	Total 3				113200
4	Signage Boards				
a)	UV printing and Iron Made	3	10000	No	30000
	Total 4				30000
5	Miscellaneous and Operational Expences				
a)	Administrative, logistic and miscellaneous expences	L/S	L/S	No	17000
	Total 5				17000
	Grand Total				295000

APO IN LUE OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR C/O ROAD FROM POH TO DHANKHAR HELIPAD FOR THE YEAR 2027-28					
S.No	Item of Work	Qty	Rate	Unit	Amount
1	Awareness and Capacity Building				
a)	Nature Conservation Camps cum work shop for Students	2	18000	No	36000
	Total 1				36000
2	Equipment				
a)	Equipments for Wildlife Conservation like Camera Traps etc.	4	26800	No	107200

Accepted

 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

	Total 2					107200
3	Maintenance of Permanent Assets					
a)	Snow Leopard Conservation Centre at Kibbar	1	L/S	No	50100	
	Total 3					50100
4	Signage Boards					
a)	UV printing and Iron Made	3	7500	No	22500	
	Total 4					22500
5	Miscellaneous and Operational Expenses					
a)	Administrative, logistic and miscellaneous expenses	L/S	L/S	No	12200	
	Total 5					12200
	Grand Total					228000

7.2 Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan Budget

A sum of ₹2.44 lakhs is allocated for soil conservation activities, including retaining walls, check dams, vegetative barriers, and gully plugging.

Activity	Approximate % of SMC Budget	Notes
Retaining Walls	40%	To check run-off and erosion on hill slopes
Check Dams/Stone Bunds/Water Harvesting	20%	On small streams and nullahs, for groundwater recharge
Gully Plugging/Filling Gullies	10%	Using brushwood or stones
Grass/Vegetative Barriers	15%	Sowing native grasses along slopes/embankments
Maintenance and Miscellaneous	15%	Repairs, signago, labor, transport

Attested
→

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) BHIMLA

Typical measures:

- 1) Site assessment and soil analysis before intervention.
- 2) Building check dams, contour bunds, and recharge pits on slopes.
- 3) Mulching and planting native grasses/trees to improve moisture retention.

Recommendations to user agency

- 1) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), MoEFCC guidelines, and state forest department advisories recommend a mix of eco-passages, signage, community involvement, water harvesting pits, and regular environmental monitoring for such high-altitude projects.
- 2) Avoid any construction material storage or dumping within forest areas.
- 3) Restrict construction activities during wildlife breeding or migration periods where feasible.
- 4) Regular liaison with wildlife and forest authorities for conflict management.

8. Area of Implementation

The plan covers the 12.46 km road stretch, adjoining habitats such as Dhar Gangehumi, Nipti Nalla, and Baldang, and erosion-prone areas in the vicinity of Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary's ESZ.

9. Implementation Period

The plan will be executed over a three-year period (2025-2028), with seasonal phasing and alignment with the Spiti Wildlife Division's programs.

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

10. Monitoring and Review

10.1 Institutional Responsibilities

Implementation will be overseen by the Spiti Wildlife Division, in collaboration with the HPPWD.

10.2 Indicators for Monitoring

Indicators include habitat quality, wildlife sightings, and slope stabilization effectiveness.


10.3 Community Participation

Local communities will be engaged in monitoring, awareness, and eco-guardianship initiatives.

Prepared by:

Spiti Wildlife division Forest & Wildlife Department, Himachal Pradesh

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

0.02025 ha of forest land in favour of Shri Vijay Jaiswal for construction of approach road for retail Outlet of Reliance BP Mobility Ltd. on Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga Road in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar State subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- i. The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
- ii. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.
- iii. The Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over one hectare degraded forest land at the cost of the user agency. The State shall submit the details of the identified land along with the KML file/maps and suitability certificate.
- iv. The User Agency responsible for violation shall be prosecuted under relevant local Act of the State and/or Central Act for unauthorized use of forest land without the permission of State authority.
- v. The user agency shall develop a green belt in all areas excluding entry and exit points. The green belt shall be developed at a distance of 1 to 1.5 meters away from the boundary wall of the premises. Shrubby or Ornamental plants shall be planted in the front area of the retail outlet. Additionally, plantation must be carried out along the boundary of the retail outlet.
- vi. The State Government will initiate disciplinary action against the officials concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purpose.

Agenda No. 12

Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/514215/2024

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department for non-forestry use of 7.5479 ha of Protected Forest for widening of already constructed road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad km 0/00 to 12/460 in District Lahaul & Spiti in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/514215/2024)-regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 30.07.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis.

Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and CCF, Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The proposal is for diversion of 7.5479 ha of Protected Forest for widening of already constructed road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad km 0/00 to 12/460 in District Lahaul & Spiti in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
 - ii. The component-wise break up of forest land as submitted in SIR by Regional Office, Chandigarh are as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
1	Proposed Road	7.3879	0.8447
2	Dumping site-1	0.04	0
3	Dumping site-2	0.04	0
4	Dumping site-3	0.04	0
5	Dumping site-4	0.04	0
	Total	7.5479	0.8447

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0 of Eco class 6 with no tree felling during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposed area lies at 7.16 km aerial distance from the boundary of Kibber Wildlife sanctuary and at 3.8 Km aerial distance from the boundary of notified ESZ of Kibber Wildlife sanctuary. Further, the said diversion area also forms part of Cold Desert Biosphere reserve.
- v. Proposed area for diversion is a linear project and it is falling within the habitat of Blue Sheep which is a Schedule-1 species. Comments of CWLW are as under:
 - a. Wildlife Management plan along with animal passage plan is required for this project. The area from which road has been cut is a habitat of Blue Sheep and Blue Sheep in large number have been found to utilize the nearby pastures of Dhar Gangchumi and Nipti Nalla and plain pastures of Baldang. Further, during the Site Inspection by Divisional Forest Officer, Spiti Wildlife Division, Blue Sheep herds were spotted near Nipti Nalla and Newpur Dogri on dated 20/12/2024. Hence, user agency shall create underpasses for the Blue Sheep herds to pass across the pastures (animal passage plan attached).
 - b. Further, the user agency shall also attach noise reduction barriers made of 2 mts high steel wall equipped with green sound barriers and headlight reducers installed on both sides (on the lines of noise reduction barriers put up on NH 44 in Pench Tiger Reserve and NH 72 passing through Rajaji National Park). The plan for noise and headlight reduction barriers should be duly vetted by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The cost for putting up these noise reduction barriers will be solely borne by HPPWD and these reduction barriers shall be attached throughout the road stretch.

- c. The total project cost at current price level as submitted by user agency in Part-I of the FCA case is ₹487.18 Lacs. Further, the cost of animal passage plan and noise reduction barriers will be over and above 2% of Project cost towards Wildlife Management Plan, which will be borne by the user agency.
- vi. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- vii. Proposed forest area falls under Not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 2. However, as per Decision Rule 1, the Eastern part of the proposed road is falling within 250 meters of Spiti river.
- viii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 28.8 ha degraded forest land in Survey No, 143X15, Morang UPF, Hull, Tehsil- Spiti, District- Lahaul & Spiti, Division- Spiti Wildlife Division, Kaza. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- ix. The proposal involves violation as mentioned in Part-II.DCF, Spiti Wildlife Division, Kaza has mentioned in his site inspection report that approval to 4 different stretches of road from Poh maidan to Dhankar helipad was given under Section 3 (2) of FRA, 2006 in piecemeal manner which is in contravention of FRA, 2006 as well as FCA, 1980. The Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 173/2022 vide order dated 18.04.2022, constituted a Joint Committee for submission of factual report. The Joint Committee's factual report also observed the same in its recommendation (Copy of report attached). Also, the names of responsible officials for such violation have been conveyed by DFO to the office of CF Wildlife (South) circle Shimla vide letter no. 3278 dated. 24.12.2024 (Copy attached). The fifth and last road stretch from Gecha to Helipad, for which the permission under section 3(2) of FRA 2006 was sought by the user agency on 22.06.2022, but same was not sanctioned as it was found to be part of the composite linear project from Poh Maidan to Dhankar helipad. Further, the damage report for construction of road from Gecha to helipad has been issued under Section 32 & 33 of IFA, 1927 & section 2 of FCA 1980 of penalty amount ₹1,49,10,000 on dated 02.11.2022 and the notice to pay the penalty amount within 28 days was issued to Executive Engineer, HPPWD Kaza by RFO Tabo vide his letter No. 75/T HPFD dated 16.11.2022.

However as the penalty amount was not paid by HPPWD, the matter was recorded in General Diary by Police on 16/12/2022 (Copy attached). The DFO has also written to SP Lahaul & Spiti for recording FIR in the matter vide letter no. 3281 dated 24/12/2024 (Copy attached). Moreover, the whole road's case, which has been built in violation of provisions of FCA, 1980, has been uploaded in PARIVESH portal on 11.12.2024 for ex-post facto sanction by Central government in compliance to NGT Principal Bench, New Delhi's order vide judgement dated 03.01.2023 in OA No. 173/2022. Further, 4 times the diverted area has been proposed for Compensatory afforestation on the User Agency.

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O GECHAS

- x. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Deputy Inspector General of Forest (C) of Regional Office, Chandigarh on 04.06.2025 along with the officials of the State Forest Department and representatives of User Agency. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh. Summary of the same are as under:

I. Recommendation of DDGF (C), Regional Office, Chandigarh:

The proposal is for diversion of 7.5479 hectare of Forest land in favour of HPPWD for construction of road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad km 0/00 to 12/460 and has been recommended by the State Government, accordingly same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and CCF, Government of Himachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:
- i. State Government shall complete the action taken against the User Agency under IFA, 1927 and submit an updated action taken report.
 - ii. State Government shall submit the action taken against the officials concerned for not being able to prevent the use of forest land for non-forestry purpose.
 - iii. State Government shall submit a Wildlife management plan duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh.

Agenda No. 13

Proposal No. FP/HP/REDIV/532704/2025

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in f/o Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVN Ltd.) for non-forestry use of 0.5 ha of Protected Forest for change in land use for placement of crusher unit for 0.50 ha. within already diverted land of Sunni Dam Hydroelectric Project (382 MW) in District Shimla in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/REDIV/532704/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 30.07.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and CCF, Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

- i. The proposal is for change in land use for placement of crusher unit for 0.50 ha. within already diverted land of Sunni Dam Hydroelectric Project (382 MW) in District Shimla in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
- ii. The Committee was informed that original proposal for diversion of 397.8863 ha forest land in favour of SJVN Ltd for the construction of Sunni Dam Hydroelectric Project (382 MW) within the jurisdiction of Shimla, Kotgarh and Karsog Forest Divisions, in District Shimla and Mandi, Himachal Pradesh was accorded Stage- I approval vide Ministry letter No. 8-07/2021-FC dated 22.12.2021 and Stage- II approval was accorded vide Ministry letter No. letter 8-07/2021-FC dated 23.08.2022.
- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0 of Eco class 6 with no tree felling during implementation of the project.
- iv. Comparative Statement of change in land use are as under:

Sl. No.	Component wise breakup as per already approved forest land	Forest Land (ha.)	Component wise breakup after change of land use proposal.
1	Reservoir	337.6145	No change
2	Dam, Power house, Road and bridge	39.1249 (39.1249 + 0.5 = 39.6249)	Khasra no. 247/1 is falling under this land wherein crusher unit is proposed to be shifted.
3	Dumping	4.5576	No change
4	Road to quarry	2.3884	No change
5	Quarry Site including Batching & Crushing Plants	10.3264 (10.3264-0.5 = 9.8264)	Earlier crusher unit was proposed at Khasra nos. 360/1, 536/363/1 under this land which is now proposed to be shifted to Khasra no. 247/1 of sr. no. 02 above after approval of Land use change. Remaining components are unchanged.
6	Colony Site & Road to Quarry	0	No change
7	Underground/Notional Area for Power House & D/Tunnel	3.8743	No change
Total		397.8861	No change

- v. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the

[Handwritten Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA


- area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- vi. Proposed forest area falls under Not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zones per Decision Rule 2. However, as per Decision Rule 1, the proposed area is falling within 250 meters of Satluj River.
 - vii. Since proposal is for change in land-use, Compensatory Afforestation has not been proposed. Compensatory levies for earlier proposal has already been deposited by the User Agency. It was further informed that DFO, Shimla has uploaded copy of letter of CEO, HP State Authority CAMPA letter dated 21.06.2025 wherein it is mentioned that total area diverted is 397.1737 ha for which 798.2642 ha CA was stipulated. Out of which 606.7642 ha land has been taken up for plantation in the current year i.e. 2025-26.
 - viii. No violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 have been reported by the DFO concerned.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and CCF, Government of Himachal Pradesh, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for non-forestry use of 0.5 ha of Protected Forest for change in land use for placement of crusher unit for 0.50 ha. within already diverted land of Sunni Dam Hydroelectric Project (382 MW) in District Shimla in the State of Himachal Pradesh subject to general and standard conditions.

Agenda No. 14

Proposal No. FP/HR/PetrolPump/482689/2023

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in favour of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited for non-forestry use of 0.022 ha of Protected Forest land for approach access to Retail Outlet on Gulha-Pehowa road at Village- Cheeka, near Km stone no. 134, bearing Khasra No.- 45/2/2, Tehsil- Gulha, District- Kaithal in the State of Haryana (Proposal No. FP/HR/PetrolPump/482689/2023)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 30.07.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

(PARIVESH 2.0)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on
26.09.2025

Agenda No. 2

Online Proposal No. FP/AP/HYD/IRRIG/423651/2023


Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 128.61 ha (originally proposed area 193.01 ha) of forest land for construction of Pumped Storage Project (9X150MW) at Upper Sileru Village in between existing Guntawada Reservoir (Upper reservoir) and existing Donkarayi Reservoir (lower reservoir) in favour of Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO) in Chintapalli Division of Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District of Andhra Pradesh.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The AIGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Chennai and Nodal Officer, Government of Andhra Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has submitted the proposal on the above mentioned subject through the PARIVESH 2.0 Portal on 23.12.2024 for construction of Pumped Storage Project (9X150MW) at Upper Sileru Village in between existing Guntawada Reservoir (Upper reservoir) and existing Donkarayi Reservoir (lower reservoir) in favour of Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO).
 - ii. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that the State Government vide G.O.MS No. 954, Forest & Rural Development (For-I) Department, Dt. 28.10.1976 have issued order for dis-reservation of 1635 acres of forest land for Upper Siler Hydro Electric Project. The State Government vide G.O.MS No. 366, Forest & Rural Development (For-I) Department, Dt. 20.05.1978 in partial modification of above orders dt.28.10.1976 issued dis-reservation of a total area of 2715 acres i.e., 1635 acres already ordered to be dis-reserved plus 154.9 acres of forest bay reservoir area plus 925 acres of Guntawada reservoir area.
 - iii. As per the proposal, from the above two government orders, it is stated that forest land was taken over by the then APSEB (now APGENCO) enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - iv. As reported by the State Govt. that in order to meet the COP targets of controlling the temperature rise to meet the INDC commitments, renewable energy options like Solar and Wind power generation are being developed in Andhra Pradesh. In line with the Government of India's (Gol's) ambitious target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- energy plants by the year 2030, Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) has targeted for development of 120 GW renewable energy projects. The targeted capacity of renewable projects for Andhra Pradesh is about 38 GW by the year 2029-30. Generation from renewable sources (like solar, wind and NCEs) will be available partially (i.e., seasonal, or intermittently in a day) and cannot be relied upon entirely to meet the power requirements throughout the day/year. Also, this will result in grid stability issues. Hence, large-scale addition of renewable energy necessitates implementation of a suitable system for storing surplus energy generated during off peak generation period and utilizing the same during peak period as per the demand scenario.
- v. To prevent impact on the Grid and to minimize the greenhouse gases emissions and toxic by-products into the Environment by burning fossil fuels in conventional Thermal Power Plants, pumped storage Projects and energy storage devices are required to be made available as reserve to ensure that demand at any time is fully met. Bulk Storage batteries are under R&D stage and technology has not been proven for wide commercial use. Pumped storage projects are proven viable current technology to use as balancing power to minimize impact on the grid. The pumped storage project absorbs the surplus power during additional solar/wind power generation and surplus energy in the grid during off-peak periods and stores it as potential energy, which will be used during peak demand hours, based on the grid requirement.
 - vi. The present installed capacity of solar and wind power generation is 8212.50 MW in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Proposals for Installation of 10,000 MW solar power plants are in process and another 10,000 MW in the planning stage. Pumped Storage Project requires an Upper reservoir, Lower Reservoir, availability of water and suitable head (natural gradient to convert it into Head for pump mode and Turbine mode operation). The GoAP has accorded 'in-principle' approval vide Lr.dt. 20.12.2022 for the project.
 - vii. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Gol has accorded Techno Economic Clearance (TEC) for the project vide File No.CEA-SY-25-24/1/2020-PAC Division- Part-I. Dt. 13.06.2023.
 - viii. The Upper Sileru Pumped Storage Project (USPSP) 1350 MW is proposed to be located in between two existing reservoirs i.e. Guntawada Reservoir (Upper Sileru Hydro Electric Scheme) and Donkarayi Reservoir (Lower Sileru Hydro Electric Scheme) of APGENCO which have been in operation since 1970's for power generation and will be more advantageous and require less land requirement for the scheme.
 - ix. The Upper Sileru Pumped Storage Project is proposed utilising 1.70 TMC of water of the existing Guntawada reservoir which acts as Upper Reservoir and Donkarayi reservoir located on the downstream side, which acts as lower reservoir. Preliminarily, four alternatives have been studied before finalising on the present alignment, with minimum length and maximum advantages. The advantages of locating the project in this area are:
 - a. The existence of upper and lower reservoirs.


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Annexure-A3

(PARIVESH 2.0)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on
26.09.2025

Agenda No. 2

Online Proposal No. FP/AP/HYD/IRRIG/423651/2023

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 128.61 ha (originally proposed area 193.01 ha) of forest land for construction of Pumped Storage Project (9X150MW) at Upper Sileru Village in between existing Guntawada Reservoir (Upper reservoir) and existing Donkarayi Reservoir (lower reservoir) in favour of Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO) in Chintapalli Division of Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District of Andhra Pradesh.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The AIGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Chennai and Nodal Officer, Government of Andhra Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has submitted the proposal on the above mentioned subject through the PARIVESH 2.0 Portal on 23.12.2024 for construction of Pumped Storage Project (9X150MW) at Upper Sileru Village in between existing Guntawada Reservoir (Upper reservoir) and existing Donkarayi Reservoir (lower reservoir) in favour of Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO).
 - ii. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that the State Government vide G.O.MS No. 954, Forest & Rural Development (For-I) Department, Dt. 28.10.1976 have issued order for dis-reservation of 1635 acres of forest land for Upper Siler Hydro Electric Project. The State Government vide G.O.MS No. 366, Forest & Rural Development (For-I) Department, Dt. 20.05.1978 in partial modification of above orders dt.28.10.1976 issued dis-reservation of a total area of 2715 acres i.e., 1635 acres already ordered to be dis-reserved plus 154.9 acres of forest bay reservoir area plus 925 acres of Guntawada reservoir area.
 - iii. As per the proposal, from the above two government orders, it is stated that forest land was taken over by the then APSEB (now APGENCO) enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - iv. As reported by the State Govt. that in order to meet the COP targets of controlling the temperature rise to meet the INDC commitments, renewable energy options like Solar and Wind power generation are being developed in Andhra Pradesh. In line with the Government of India's (Gol's) ambitious target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/G OF WL(S) SHIMLA

energy plants by the year 2030, Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) has targeted for development of 120 GW renewable energy projects. The targeted capacity of renewable projects for Andhra Pradesh is about 38 GW by the year 2029-30. Generation from renewable sources (like solar, wind and NCEs) will be available partially (i.e., seasonal, or intermittently in a day) and cannot be relied upon entirely to meet the power requirements throughout the day/year. Also, this will result in grid stability issues. Hence, large-scale addition of renewable energy necessitates implementation of a suitable system for storing surplus energy generated during off peak generation period and utilizing the same during peak period as per the demand scenario.

- v. To prevent impact on the Grid and to minimize the greenhouse gases emissions and toxic by-products into the Environment by burning fossil fuels in conventional Thermal Power Plants, pumped storage Projects and energy storage devices are required to be made available as reserve to ensure that demand at any time is fully met. Bulk Storage batteries are under R&D stage and technology has not been proven for wide commercial use. Pumped storage projects are proven viable current technology to use as balancing power to minimize impact on the grid. The pumped storage project absorbs the surplus power during additional solar/wind power generation and surplus energy in the grid during off-peak periods and stores it as potential energy, which will be used during peak demand hours, based on the grid requirement.
- vi. The present installed capacity of solar and wind power generation is 8212.50 MW in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Proposals for Installation of 10,000 MW solar power plants are in process and another 10,000 MW in the planning stage. Pumped Storage Project requires an Upper reservoir, Lower Reservoir, availability of water and suitable head (natural gradient to convert it into Head for pump mode and Turbine mode operation). The GoAP has accorded 'in-principle' approval vide Lr.dt. 20.12.2022 for the project.
- vii. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA), GoI has accorded Techno Economic Clearance (TEC) for the project vide File No.CEA-SY-25-24/1/2020-PAC Division- Part-I. Dt. 13.06.2023.
- viii. The Upper Sileru Pumped Storage Project (USPSP) 1350 MW is proposed to be located in between two existing reservoirs i.e. Guntawada Reservoir (Upper Sileru Hydro Electric Scheme) and Donkarayi Reservoir (Lower Sileru Hydro Electric Scheme) of APGENCO which have been in operation since 1970's for power generation and will be more advantageous and require less land requirement for the scheme.
- ix. The Upper Sileru Pumped Storage Project is proposed utilising 1.70 TMC of water of the existing Guntawada reservoir which acts as Upper Reservoir and Donkarayi reservoir located on the downstream side, which acts as lower reservoir. Preliminarily, four alternatives have been studied before finalising on the present alignment, with minimum length and maximum advantages. The advantages of locating the project in this area are:
 - a. The existence of upper and lower reservoirs.

Attached

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/S OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- b. This will enable to reduce the cost of the project substantially apart from saving in the construction time.
 - c. Further the utilisation of construction materials for these reservoirs is avoided thus indirectly contributing to social and environmental benefits.
 - d. The utilisation of existing reservoirs reduces the requirement of forest land substantially thus saving the environment and avoiding possible R&R.
 - e. APGENCO is already operating three power houses (Upper Sileru -
 - f. 240 MW, Donkarayi - 25 MW and Lower Sileru - 460 MW (230 MW under expansion)) in the vicinity, and hence the man power utilisation can be optimised.
 - g. The project will provide impetus to the social, economic and Infrastructural environment of this area during the construction period of 60 months and operation period of forty years.
 - h. This project will provide employment to 1000 personnel during construction and 500 personnel during operation stage.
 - i. It is estimated that coal reserves will be saved to an extent of 3.50 million tons per annum and 140 million tons during the 40 years life period of PSP. Emission of CO₂ into the atmosphere to an extent of 2853 million tons per annum and 1.15 lakh million tons during 40 years life period of PSP can be avoided compared to generation of power through conventional Thermal Power projects.
 - j. Can generate low-priced peak power @ ₹7.24 per unit during lifetime of PSP when compared with purchasing of varying unit cost of ₹8/- to 18/- from power exchange.
- x. In view of the existing upper & lower reservoirs, water and head the project site is found to be best suitable for locating utilising the forest area of 193.01 Ha. In this connection, it is submitted that non forest land is not available in and around this complex, up to minimum of 100 Km, to locate the project. The project is useful for improving the socio-economic conditions in the state and Country. Hence, the project location is site specific and Justified in the identified area involving an extent of 193.01 ha of forest land.
 - xi. Earlier the total area of the project is 326.47 ha including 193.01 ha of forest and 133.46 ha of non-forest land. This land falls in the Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District and Chintapalli forest division of the Andhra Pradesh State.
 - xii. The name of the user agency is Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO) which is a State PSU. The total period for which the forest land is proposed to be diverted is 100 years.
 - xiii. The legal status of the proposed forest land is RF and the reported density is 0.9 of Eco Class -I. However, the RO in his SIR has reported that The entire Forest land proposed for diversion falls under RF in four bits in Sileru Beat, Sileru Range, Chintapalli Division, ASR District. The Crown density is mentioned as 0.9 in Part II of the proposal but the crown density varies in all the four bits. 38.58 ha of forest land is earmarked for dumping of muck. In this site, Teak plantation was done

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

in 1978 and 1979. The teak plantation is prescribed a 50-year rotation and the plantations are due for harvest in the year 2028 and 2029 respectively. The muck dumping site has to be ameliorated with a proper reclamation plan with plantation over the years. In this regard the bit wise density may be provided by the State Govt. and necessary correction in the online form may be done.

- xiv. When the proposal was submitted for 193.01 ha the State Govt. has informed that a total no. of 90926 trees have been reported to be felled. However, during the discussion in the Meeting the Nodal Officer has reported that total no. of enumerated are 90926 and actual no. of trees to be felled are 24205. Further, the Nodal officer in the meeting has explained that most of the area will be under ground and no trees will be felled over the ground. Only trees are required to be felled at the starting and end point of the tunnel. However, as per the land use provided in the proposal there is no mention of which activity is going to be underground.
- xv. Now the area has been revised from 193.01 to 128.61 ha and the State Govt. has reported that the total no. of trees to be felled 41794.
- xvi. As per the original proposal the information provided in the online form following land use has been reported:

Particular	Forest	Non-forest
Dumping Area at Turbine Intake	38.58	0
Turbine Intake	5.8	0
HRT	80.88	30.18
Primary Surge Shaft	2.96	0
Pressure Shafts	19.68	0
Power House Including DT area	7.39	0
Secondary Surge Shaft	3.91	0
TRT Part-2	7.03	0
TRT Part-3	9.42	103.28
Pump Intake & TRC	17.36	0
Total	193.01	133.46
Grand Total		326.47

- xvii. As per the revised proposal the component wise break up of **modified land use plan** is as follows;

Bit No.	Component	Forest area in ha.
1	Intake (Turbine)	5.18
2	HRT Part-1	38.87
3	HRT Part-2	17.88
4	Primary Surge Shaft	3.12
5	Pressure Shaft	19.60
6	Power House including DT	6.35
7	Secondary Surge Shaft	4.29
8	TRT Part-1	9.71
9	TRT Part-2	7.24

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

10	Pump Intake & TRC	16.37
	Total:	128.61

- xviii. There is vulnerability of forest area to erosion, as the areas are having steep and gentle slopes in Bit-II & III. The area proposed for diversion is not forms part of national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc and the area is not part of any national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve buffer zone, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc., is located within 10 Km. from boundary of the forest land proposed to be utilized for prospecting or diversion. No rare/endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. No protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.
- xix. As reported by the State Govt. that no work in violation of the Adhinyam, 1980 has been carried out by the User Agency.
- xx. The user agency has identified the non-forest land of an extent of 291.84 ha (Ac.721.16 cts.) in Land Parcel Map No.333 of Donnikota village of Nallamanda Mandal of Kadirri Range in Satya Sai district for Compensatory Afforestation purpose. The proposed CA area is a hillock with existing vegetation and small rocky patches in Charupalli beat of Kadirri Range of Satya Sai district. Out of 291.84 ha of non-forest land identified for CA by the user agency, nearly 40 ha area is rocky, 40 ha area is saline and about 48 ha has steep slope which is not suitable for planting. The balance area of 163.84 ha is having vegetation suitable for Compensatory Afforestation through Aided Natural Regeneration method treating the natural vegetation, gap planting and for undertaking SMC works. As some portion of non-forest land i.e.. 30 ha identified by the user agency is not suitable for planting, an extent of 60.68 ha. of degraded forest land in Compt.No.433 & 434 of Badhrapuram RF in Badhrapuram Beat of Penukonda Range in Sri Satya Sai Division was identified towards CA duly following Rule 13 (1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
- xxi. The CA site suitability certificate has been provided by the concerned DFO.
- xxii. The user agency has furnished the muck restoration plan duly taking up engineering and biological measures by earmarking ₹710 lakh for this activity.
- xxiii. The User Agency has given an undertaking for covering conductors and transformers with anti electrocution material.
- xxiv. The User Agency has submitted Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan for the settlement of land falling in the proposed project area with an outlay of ₹3.60 crores.
- xxv. Regarding the requirement of Cumulative Impact Assessment and Carrying Capacity Study of the river basin the State Govt. has informed as per MOEF &CC in its OM dated 28.05.2013 stated that requirement of CIA & CCS shall be stipulated in the ToR stage itself. However, the TOR on 03.06.2019 does not stipulate these studies. As per the State Government, there is no change in reservoir capacity (FRL, Dam

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- Height), environmental flow and modification in key components like spillway, Intake Gates, the CIA & CCS study is unwarranted and hence not carried out.
- xxvi. The State Govt. has informed that the National Dam Safety Authority classified these dams as Category III, requiring only minor repairs that can be completed this year. The downstream dam at Donkarayi is 20 Km from the project exit structure. Hence, the impact of the project downstream is not to be considered. The preliminary designs at DPR stage were approved by CWC while according to the Techno Economic Concurrence for this project. The CWC did not make any suggestions on the alterations for the existing dams in view of the new project. As such, the existing dams are safe for operation of the newly proposed project in the existing condition. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA, GOI) vide email dt. 25.02.2025 also mentioned that no further approval is required from NDSA in respect of Upper Sileru Pumped Storage Project.
- xxvii. Regarding the requirement of the CAT Plan, the State Govt. has informed that there is no additional increase of reservoir capacities of the upstream and downstream reservoirs on account of the proposed project. The MFL and FRL of the upstream and downstream reservoirs are not being changed. Hence, a new catchment area will not be formed due to the proposed project. Therefore, Catchment Area Treatment for USPSP does not arise. However, the UA undertook to implement Catchment Area Treatment Plan (if any) proposed by the advisory committee, MOEF&CC, GOI to the extent required, at the cost of APGENCO for the subject proposal.
- xxviii. **Wildlife Mitigation Plan:** The Prl. CCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, A.P. Mangalagiri has approved the Wildlife Mitigation Plan proposed for an outlay of ₹498.50 lakhs for a period of 5 year's. The PCCF (WL) vide letter dated 25.07.2024 has approved the WLMP subject to the following conditions:
- a. The User Agency is requested to submit an undertaking that "if any Conductors, Transformers are proposed in and around the project area should have to be covered with anti-electrocution material to avoid Wildlife collisions".
 - b. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam and Divisional Forest Officer, Chintapalli are requested to ensure that the proposed measures works are sufficient to mitigate the impacts on Wildlife due to construction of the proposed Transmission line. Further, they shall submit a compliance report in this regard.
 - c. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam and Divisional Forest Officer, Chintapalli are requested to submit and take approval on the site and location details for the various habitat improvement and other works proposed to be taken up, before commencing the works.
- xxix. The User Agency has given an undertaking for covering conductors and transformers with anti electrocution material.
- xxx. The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, A.P., Mangalagiri in his letter dated 06.03.2025 has informed that on perusal of the request made by the

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(O) SHIMLA

Chief Engineer, APGENCO vide letter dated 03.03.2025 to offer remarks/comments of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, A.P, Mangalagiri on the point No. 8 as sought by the Government of India, MOEF & CC, it is informed that, the Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (CEIA) Study for the Upper Sileru Pumped Storage Project (9x150 MW) in Andhra Pradesh which covers aquatic ecology, fish fauna, socio-economic aspects and environmental impacts made by M/s. WAPCOS (a Gol undertaking) has been verified and found feasible for the aquatic fauna. However, as per the ground report received from DFO Chintapalli vide letter dated 05.03.2025, presence of crocodiles/muggers are recorded in the vicinity of the Upper Sileru Reservoir and suggested to take suitable measures by using caution boards and signages to avoid human animal conflict.

xxxii. The DDGF (Central), RO Chennai has recommended the proposal subject to the following observations:

- a. The Proposal for diversion of originally proposed of 193.01 Ha of Forest Land (in Sileru Range, Chintapalli Division, ASR District) in favour of M/s Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited, Vijayawada for Establishment of Pumped Storage Project (9X150MW) at Upper Sileru village, Gudem kotha Veedhi mandal, ASR District, Andhra Pradesh is examined and site inspection of the project site is carried out by the officials of the Regional Office and Sub Office Vijayawada. The Compensatory Afforestation proposed on NFL and DFL in lieu of the forest land diverted was also inspected by the AIGF, Sub Office Vijayawada and the NFL is found suitable.
- b. The Upper Sileru Pumped Storage Project (USPSP) 1350 MW(9X150MW) is proposed to be located in between two existing reservoirs i.e. Guntawada Reservoir (Upper Sileru Hydro Electric Scheme) and Donkarayi Reservoir (Lower Sileru Hydro Electric Scheme) of APGENCO which are in operation since 1970's for power generation and hence locating a PSP at this area will be more advantageous, economical and requires less land for the scheme as the project is mostly designed underground to save the adverse effects on the local environment.
- c. The entire Forest land proposed for diversion falls under RF in four bits in Sileru Beat, Sileru Range, Chintapalli Division, ASR District. The Crown density is mentioned as 0.9 in Part II of the proposal but the crown density varies in all the four bits. 38.58 ha of forest land is earmarked for dumping of muck. In this site, Teak plantation was done in 1978 and 1979. The teak plantation is prescribed a 50-year rotation and the plantations are due for harvest in the year 2028 and 2029 respectively. The muck dumping site has to be ameliorated with a proper reclamation plan with plantation over the years.
- d. The User Agency had identified the non-forest land over an extent of 291.84 Ha in land parcel Map No.333 of Donnikota Village, Nallamada Mandal of Charupalli Beat of Kadiri Range of

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Sri Sathya Sai District. AP Forest Department identified 60.68 ha of Degraded Forest land (DFL) in Compartment no. 433 & 434 of Bhadrapuram RF in Bhadrapuram beat the Penukonda Range in Sri Satya Sai Division for plantation as some portion of above CA land (30 ha) is not suitable for CA purpose. The Non-forest land can be accepted for Compensatory Afforestation and it can also add to the wildlife habitat in the landscape.

- xxxii. The above facts were considered in the The above facts were considered in the Advisory Committee on 26.05.2025. The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Chennai and Nodal Officer, Government of Andhra Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:
- The State Govt. shall provide the exact no. of trees to be felled in the proposed area.
 - The State Government shall provide a detailed layout plan indicating the extent of area sought for underground and above ground works.
 - The DFO has reported the density of vegetation is 0.9. However, the RO in his SIR has reported that the entire forest land proposed for diversion falls under RF in four bits with varying crown density. The State Government shall provide bits /patch wise density along with no. of trees proposed to be felled in each patch.
 - The State Government shall explore the possibility of carrying out muck dumping on non-forest land.
- xxxiii. The State Govt. has replied to all the above points raised by the Advisory Committee.
- xxxiv. The State has informed that the forest land underground portion- 117.01 ha. (60.60%), Forest Land above ground portion- 76.00 ha. (39.40%) **Total: 193.01 ha. (100%). The details are as below:**

Bit No.	Area (in ha)	Under Ground (in ha)	Area Above Ground (in ha)
1	5.8	0	5.8
2	38.58	0	38.58
3	121.85	107.59	14.26
4	26.78	9.42	17.36
Total	193.01	117.01	76.0

- xxxv. The revised requirement of forest land proposed for diversion is 128.61 ha as against the earlier requirement of 193.01 ha, thereby reflecting a reduction of 33.36%. The KML file and authenticated DGPS map of reduced forest land proposed for diversion have been uploaded in the designated columns.

xxxvi. The modified land use plan is as follows;

Earlier Land Use Plan (in ha)					Modified Land Use Plan (in ha)				Density (as per vegetation)	No. of trees proposed to be
Bit No.	Under ground	Above ground	Total area in ha	No. of trees proposed	Bit No.	Under ground	Above Ground	Total area in ha		

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

				d to be felled					above ground level)	felled as per modified
Bit-1	0	5.80	5.80	970	Bit-1	0	5.18	5.18	0.1	866
Bit-2	0	38.58	38.58	16734	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bit-3	107.59	14.26	121.85	23887	Bit-2	38.87	0	38.87	0.8	27209
					Bit-3	17.88	0	17.88	0.8	2100
					Bit-4	0	3.12	3.12	0.8	2042
					Bit-5	19.60	0	19.60	0.8	3312
					Bit-6	0	6.35	6.35	0.8	2223
					Bit-7	0	4.29	4.29	0.8	1369
					Bit-8	7.24	0	7.24	0.8	1080
Bit-4	9.42	17.36	26.78	1682	Bit-9	9.71	0	9.71	0.4	120
					Bit-10	0	16.37	16.37	0.4	1473
	117.01	76.00	193.01	43273		93.3	35.31	128.61		41794

- xxxvii. The State Govt. has informed that there is no scope to shift the OB dump on NFL in the 100 km radius.
- xxxviii. The user agency has furnished the muck restoration plan duly taking up engineering and biological measures by earmarking ₹710 lakh for this activity.
- xxxix. Regarding the requirement of Cumulative Impact Assessment and Carrying Capacity Study of the river basin the State Govt. has informed as per MOEF &CC in its OM dated 28.05.2013 stated that requirement of CIA & CCS shall be stipulated in the ToR stage itself. However, the TOR on 03.06.2019 does not stipulate these studies. As per the State Government, there is no change in reservoir capacity (FRL, Dam Height), environmental flow and modification in key components like spillway, Intake Gates, the CIA & CCS study is unwarranted and hence not carried out.
- xl. The State Govt. has informed that the National Dam Safety Authority classified these dams as Category III, requiring only minor repairs that can be completed this year. The downstream dam at Donkarayi is 20 Km from the project exit structure. Hence, the impact of the project downstream is not to be considered. The preliminary designs at DPR stage were approved by CWC while according to the Techno Economic Concurrence for this project. The CWC did not make any suggestions on the alterations for the existing dams in view of the new project. As such, the existing dams are safe for operation of the newly proposed project in the existing condition. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA, GOI) vide email dt. 25.02.2025 also mentioned that no further approval is required from NDSA in respect of Upper Sileru Pumped Storage Project.
- xli. Regarding the requirement of the CAT Plan, the State Govt. has informed that there is no additional increase of reservoir capacities of the upstream and downstream reservoirs on account of the proposed project. The MFL and FRL of the upstream and downstream reservoirs are not being changed. Hence, a new catchment area will not be formed due to the proposed project. Therefore, Catchment Area Treatment for USPSP does not arise. However, the UA undertook to implement Catchment Area Treatment Plan (if any) proposed by the


Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- FAC, MOEF&CC, GOI to the extent required, at the cost of APGENCO for the subject proposal.
- xlii. The User Agency has submitted Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan for the settlement of land & cultivation in Sandkori Area falling in the proposed project area with an outlay of ₹3.60 crores.
- xliii. **Wildlife Mitigation Plan:** The Prl. CCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, A.P. Mangalagiri has approved the Wildlife Mitigation Plan proposed for an outlay of ₹498.50 lakhs for a period of 5 years and uploaded the same in S.No. 1 of column 13 (Additional documents). The PCCF (WL) vide letter dated 25.07.2024 has approved the WLMP subject to the following conditions:
- The User Agency is requested to submit an undertaking that "if any Conductors, Transformers are proposed in and around the project area should have to be covered with anti-electrocution material to avoid Wildlife collisions".
 - The Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam and Divisional Forest Officer, Chintapalli are requested to ensure that the proposed measures works are sufficient to mitigate the impacts on Wildlife due to construction of the proposed Transmission line. Further, they shall submit a compliance report in this regard.
 - The Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam and Divisional Forest Officer, Chintapalli are requested to submit and take approval on the site and location details for the various habitat improvement and other works proposed to be taken up, before commencing the works.
- xliv. The User Agency has given an undertaking for covering conductors and transformers with anti electrocution material.
- xlv. The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, A.P., Mangalagiri in his letter dated 06.03.2025 has informed that on perusal of the request made by the Chief Engineer, APGENCO vide letter dated 03.03.2025 to offer remarks/comments of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests(Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, A.P, Mangalagiri on the point No. 8 as sought by the Government of India, MOEF & CC, it is informed that, the Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (CEIA) Study for the Upper Sileru Pumped Storage Project (9x150 MW) in Andhra Pradesh which covers aquatic ecology, fish fauna, socio-economic aspects and environmental impacts made by M/s. WAPCOS (a Govt undertaking) has been verified and found feasible for the aquatic fauna. However, as per the ground report received from DFO Chintapalli vide letter dated 05.03.2025, presence of crocodiles/muggers are recorded in the vicinity of the Upper Sileru Reservoir and suggested to take suitable measures by using caution boards and signages to avoid human animal conflict.
- xlvi. Regarding the area falling in the high conservation zone as per the DSS, the State Govt. has informed that M/s WAPCOS, a GOI undertaking and a consultant for APGENCO conducted required studies and surveys as a part of CEIA studies and prepared a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (CEIA) report for

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 W/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

the proposed project. The sociological and economic benefits of the project are given in the EDS reply of the State Government.

- xlvi. Further, during the discussion the committee sought details of the breadth of the forest area where the laying of tunnels are being proposed. In this regard the Nodal Officer intimated the details as per the approved DPR (which is sent by e-mail by the State Nodal Officer). The same are as as below:

- a. As per the approved DPR the width of the power house is 297 m which is maximum in the project layout. The same width has to be maintained for the entire length of the project water conductor system to accommodate all components.

The details of HRT are tabulated below:	
1.	Number of tunnels of HRT: 3 Nos
2.	Diameter of tunnel : 12 m
3.	C/C between tunnels : 63 m
4.	Distance between outer faces of tunnels : 162 m
5.	Distance on either side of outer tunnels : 45 m
6.	Total width required (162 + 45 + 45) : 252 m
7.	Width required for services on either side : 25 m
8.	Total width required (252 + 25 + 25) : 302 m

- xlvi. Further, the Committee observed that the proposed muck disposal area of 38.58 Ha appears to be a non-site specific activity and may not be permitted for muck disposal. The Nodal Officer stated that the 38.58 Ha forest land designated as muck dumping area can be excluded from the proposal. He further stated that the User Agency shall utilize other non-forest areas for muck dumping. By reducing this area the No. of trees to be felled would reduce to $(43273 - 16734) = 26539$ Nos. Moreover, the proposed area sought for diversion shall reduce to $(193.01 - 38.58) = 154.43$ Ha. The Committee noted the same.

- xlvii. Further, the committee sought the evacuation plan of the electricity generated from the newly proposed HEP. The nodal officer informed that the existing facility will be used for this purpose and no additional forest area shall be used.

- i. The committee further noted that even though the project involved underground and overground works, since underground work will require breaking of the earth, the entire project may be considered as a normal diversion case.

- ii. The above facts were considered in the last AC meeting held on 30.07.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:

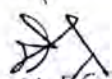
- a. The State Government shall submit the revised requirement of forest land and the modified land use plan excluding forest area of 38.58 Ha sought for Muck dumping. The State Government shall also ensure that the width of the area sought for the project water conductor system shall be limited to 300 meters or less in the Modified Land use plan.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- b. The State Government shall provide KML file and details for alternate non-forest land to be used for Muck dumping.
- iii. The above observations were communicated to the State Govt. through online and the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh vide online dated 13.09.2025.
- liii. In response to the directive to provide the KML file and details of alternate non-forest land identified for muck dumping, the State Government has submitted that no suitable non-forest land is available in close proximity to the forest area proposed for diversion. However, an area of 21.18 hectares of non-forest land under the possession of APGENCO has been identified, which can accommodate approximately 25,00,000 cubic meters of muck out of the total 93,66,837 cubic meters to be generated. For the balance quantity of 68,66,837 cubic meters, the following disposal strategy has been proposed:
- a. 24,00,000 cubic meters will be utilized for construction activities within the forest land proposed for diversion.
 - b. The remaining 44,66,837 cubic meters will be managed by stabilizing and maintaining the surface of the Overhead Race Tunnel (HRT-1) area, covering 38.87 hectares, through appropriate reclamation and rejuvenation works.
- liv. A detailed Muck Disposal Plan, covering both the 38.87 ha of forest land (above HRT area) and the 21.18 ha of non-forest land (APGENCO area), has been prepared with a financial outlay of ₹7.10 crore and has been uploaded on the PARIVESH portal under the designated sections.
- lv. Additionally, the KML file and authenticated map corresponding to the muck disposal sites have also been uploaded at the appropriate locations on the portal.
- lvi. In compliance with the directive to revise the forest land requirement by excluding the 38.58 ha of forest area earlier proposed for muck dumping, and to ensure that the width of the water conductor system is limited to 300 meters or less in the modified land use plan, the State Government has submitted a revised proposal accordingly.
- lvii. The User Agency has confirmed that the 38.58 ha forest land earlier proposed for muck dumping has now been deleted from the current proposal. Further, the width of the water conductor system has been restricted to 300 meters or less, except for the stretch from the Primary Surge Chamber to TRT Part-2, where an average width of 550 m × 650 m has been retained due to the excavation methodology required for constructing deep caverns (65–85 meters depth) and to ensure slope stability and safety.
- lviii. As a result of this revision, the total forest land now proposed for diversion has been reduced to 128.61 hectares, compared to the earlier requirement of 193.01 hectares, reflecting a 33.36% reduction in the forest land requirement. The revised KML file and authenticated DGPS map have been uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.
- lix. The modified land use plan now comprises:
- Underground components: 93.30 ha (72.55%)
 - Above ground components: 35.31 ha (27.45%)

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 D/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- ix. It is further noted that some above-ground portions of underground components (Bit-3, Bit-5, Bit-8, and Bit-9) require temporary land use for essential construction and operational activities such as Adits, Approach Roads, Fabrication Yards, Concrete Mixing Units, Stockyards, Office and Security Blocks, and Transportation of Heavy Equipment, which necessitate felling of trees. Additionally, 38.87 ha of forest land in Bit-2 is required for muck dumping, located above the HRT section.
- ixi. As per the modified land use plan, the number of trees proposed to be felled has also been reduced from 43,273 to 41,794, marking a reduction of 3.41%.
- ixii. The Committee further noted that since the proposal involves substantial surface rights for muck disposal, the complete proposal shall be treated as diversion with surface rights. The relaxations in CA/NPV given to underground portions shall not be considered in instant proposal.
- ixiii. The area proposed for diversion has been reduced; however, the CA area has not been reduced proportionally. The Committee noted the same.
- ixiv. The Committee noted that the area reduced from 193.01 to 128.61 however, the trees have not been reduced proportionally therefore the State shall carry out physical enumeration of the affected trees.
- ixv. The Committee noted that there is a distance of 10 km (approx) between the pump intake area and the Donkarayi (Lower) reservoir as per the Satellite imagery. With the permission of the Chair, the Committee sought the views of the Chief Engineer, APGENCO on the matter. The Chief Engineer accordingly apprised the Committee that the Donkarayi (Lower) Reservoir extends up to the Pump intake area all the way to the Upper Sileru Reservoir. The pumping system of the PSP lifts the water from the Lower Reservoir into the Upper Reservoir. Furthermore, he stated that the width and depth of the channel is sufficient to maintain water level throughout the year. The Committee noted the same.
- 4. Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the IGF (Central), RO, Hyderabad and Nodal Officer, Government of Andhra Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Committee recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for non-forestry use of 128.61 ha (originally proposed area 193.01 ha) of forest land for construction of Pumped Storage Project (9X150MW) at Upper Sileru Village in between existing Guntawada Reservoir (Upper reservoir) and existing Donkarayi Reservoir (lower reservoir) in favour of Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO) in Chintapalli Division of Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District of Andhra Pradesh subject to the following General, Standard and specific conditions:
- i. Since the proposal involves substantial surface rights for muck disposal, the complete proposal shall be treated as diversion with surface rights. The relaxations in CA/NPV given to underground portions shall not be considered in instant proposal.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
TWO GP WL(S) SHIMLA

- ii. The State Government shall carry out physical enumeration of all trees that will be affected by the diversion and submit a detailed report along with Stage-I compliance.
- iii. The State Government shall ensure that the Wildlife mitigation plan shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency.

Agenda No. 3

Proposal No. FP/AS/MIN/QRY/409653/2022

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of North Eastern Coalfields, Coal India Limited for non-forestry use of 40.28 ha of Reserved Forest for Tirap Opencast Project (0.6 MTY) in District Tinsukia in the State of Assam (Online Proposal No. Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MIN/QRY/409653/2022)- regarding.

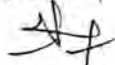
1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DIGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, note the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 40.28 ha of Reserved Forest for Tirap Opencast Project (0.6 MTY) in District Tinsukia in the State of Assam.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 2.33 ha is required for Mine Periphery including haul roads, power supply arrangement, garland drain, etc. in the south, 36.25 ha for land for Quarry (including Existing Pit) and 1.70 ha for Safety Zone for Forest Land.
 - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.5 of Eco class I with 1232 trees felling involved during implementation of the project.
 - iv. Proposed area is part of Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve. Faunal Species like leopards, birds and small mammals are present in the area. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
 - v. As per Decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area does not falls into in High Conservation value Zone. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 32 ha of land is classified as open forest and 8 ha of land as Non-Forest (land without tree cover).
 - vi. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 40.36 ha inside compensatory afforestation land bank of 830 ha. of evicted non forest land adjacent to Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary under Nagaon Wildlife Division, Nagaon. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(3) SHIMLA

- provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. No violation of the Adhinyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
 - viii. Period of validity of mines is from 28.11.2022 to 27.11.2039. Life of the mine as per approved mining plan is 17 years. Mining Plan has been approved by the Board of Directors of the North Eastern Coalfields Limited on 09.12.2022.
 - ix. Proposal involves Resettlement & Rehabilitation of 202 project affected families. Nodal Officer apprised the Committee that R&R will be undertaken in accordance with the State R&R policy. There is no habitation in the forest land of 40.28 ha.
 - x. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. comments of Chief Wild Life Warden regarding mitigation strategies for preventing Human Elephant Conflict, free movement of elephant, habitat restoration, effect of mining on adjacent area and water quality, action taken report for evacuation of encroachment from the forest land, approved soil moisture conservation plan, revised C:B analysis report, status of R&R plan, etc. Shortcomings were conveyed to the State Government on 06.10.2023.
 - xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 10.04.2024, 25.06.2024 and 15.09.2025 submitted its reply. The Committee, after examination of the same inter-alia noted the following:
 - xii. PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Assam has requested Coal India Ltd. to submit the revised Regional Wildlife Plan, Bio-Diversity Management Plan along with Carrying capacity study vide letter dated 05.04.2025. In response, the Coal India Ltd (CIL) has submitted an undertaking stating that the revised reports will be submitted to the Forest Department, Assam and they it will not commence mining operations in Tirap opencast project and requested PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Assam to consider the proposal for Stage- I Forest Clearance.
 - xiii. Various eviction operations have been conducted by DFO and about 185 ha has been evicted in last 2 years. The encroached tea gardens in the proposed area will be cleared subsequently.
 - xiv. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 40.36 ha NFL adjacent to Burahchapory Wildlife Sanctuary under Nagaon Wildlife Division, Nagaon.
 - xv. Out of total 1,21,567 number of trees reported to be felled tree includes 1232 only while more than one lakh bamboo culms have been enumerated which will be required to be felled in 36.25 while vegetation in 4 ha will be kept intact.
 - xvi. Forest roads are present in this area which are used by staff of forest department and forest villagers for conveyance.
 - xvii. An area of 3.5 hectare area out of proposed 40.28 hectare area has been encroached by tea gardens. After receipt of in-principle approval, a Gramsabha meeting will be held regarding Forest Rights Act and after this the area will be evicted. Also, during last 3 years, approximately 200 hectares of forest area has been evicted under this division.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xviii. Revised C:B analysis has been submitted and revised C:B ratio is approximately 1:136.
- xix. The Nodal Officer informed the Committee that revised Biodiversity Management Plan along with Regional Wildlife Plan and Carrying Capacity Study Plan is being prepared by the Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat, Assam.
- xx. The Regional Office also submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhiniyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with following condition:
- (i) Deployment of a trained and armed contingent of the Special Protection Force (SPF) for continuous vigilance and patrolling in vulnerable area to curb the persistent issue of illegal coal mining and to serve as deterrence and enhance enforcement towards the future possible unauthorized operation.
 - (ii) Implementation of targeted livelihood support programs viz., skill development, alternative employment opportunities, for local communities, particularly for individuals currently involved in illegal coal mining and related trade to reduce dependency on illegal activities.
 - (iii) Implementation of Biodiversity Management Plan and Regional Wildlife management plan approved by CWLW and necessary funds to be provided by the user agency for this project.
 - (iv) Regular monitoring by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) and the Conservator of Forests (CF) and to ensure strict adherence to all clearance conditions, timely implementation of the reclamation plan.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DIGF (Central), RO, Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:
- i. Since the proposal falls within Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, comments from Project Elephant Division on effect of project on wildlife movement may be obtained.
 - ii. The State Government may submit following information for the consideration of the Committee:
 - a) Detail of non-forest area mined out so far by the user agency and mineral reserve yet to be de-coaled from the non-forest land.
 - b) State Government may submit its considered view on why the mining operations can not be restricted to non-forest land. In case the use of forest land is unavoidable, a valid justification for the same may be furnished by the State Government.
 - c) The State Government shall furnish a detailed report on the mining operations carried out in the past and reasons for closing the mining operations after 2020.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Agenda No. 4

Proposal No. FP/DL/RAIL/417352/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Diversion of 6.202 ha deemed forest land in favour of Office of the Dy.Chief Engineer, Northern Railway, New Delhi for construction of Bijwasan-Coaching/ freight handling terminal by Northern Railways under West Forest Division, South West District of NCT of Delhi (online Proposal No FP/DL/RAIL/417352/2023)-regarding

1. The agenda for above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Nodal Officer, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh in charge of Regional Office, Lucknow attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after thorough deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi through their letter No FP/DL/RAIL/417352/2023/6199 dated 22.11.2023 has submitted the instant proposal to the Regional office (RO), Lucknow of the Ministry to obtain Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Diversion of 6.202 ha deemed forest land in favour of Office of the Dy.Chief Engineer, Northern Railway, New Delhi for construction of Bijwasan-Coaching/ freight handling terminal by Northern Railways under West Forest Division, South West District of NCT of Delhi.
 - ii. The total forest area under the proposal is 6.202 ha of deemed forest land which is located in under West Forest Division, South West District of NCT of Delhi
 - iii. The proposed forest area is deemed forest land with canopy density of 0.4 (Eco Class-3) and 516 number of trees have been proposed to be felled.
 - iv. The component wise land use details submitted with the proposal is as follows:

Sl.No.	Component/ Particular	Forest Land (Ha)	Non-Forest Area (Ha)
1	Bijwasan coaching terminal	6.202	0.29

- v. The justification of the locating the project in forest area is that the unprecedented increase in population and zeal for better living standards of the people have lead to extensive industrialization and growth of trade and commerce putting heavy pressure on the existing transport system of the National Capital and the adjoining suburbs. The

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Transport problem will further aggravate in future and needs immediate relief by way of augmentation of the transport facilities of the metropolis. There are five major railway passenger terminals located in Delhi area. All these passenger terminals are located in the heart of the city and have become fully saturated with a very little scope of further development. In view of these constraints, a separate Passengers and Goods handling facilities terminals at Bijwasan, in line with MPD 2021, has been envisaged to cope up future traffic needs and decongest existing ones for which DDA has earmarked approx. 110 Hectare land at Bijwasan.

- vi. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed on the Non-Forest Land comprising an area of 6.202 ha located in Village: ASAN KHURD, Plot No. /Kasra No.: 876, Panipat District of Haryana State.
- vii. As per DSS analysis, the proposed forest area for diversion falls under South West district of NCT of Delhi. The calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is found 6.209 ha. As depicted through satellite imagery the proposed forest land was broken after the date 09.09.2016. The Compensatory afforestation has been proposed in a single patch over the Non-forest land (NFL) located under Panipat District of Haryana State. The Calculated area of the KML file of proposed CA land is found 6.783 ha.
- viii. The proposal submitted by Govt. of NCT of Delhi to RO, Lucknow. On examination of the above said reply of the State Government, the RO, Lucknow observed the following:

"As per inspection report of DCF, West Forest Division, NCT of Delhi, breaking up of 4.2 acres (1.69 ha) out of 6.202 ha proposed project site damaging 91 trees has been observed without approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Therefore, the concerned DFO needs to fill the column no.8 with respect to details of violation in part-II of the proposal as "Yes" for violation of VSESA, 1980 in order to further processing of the instant proposal as per Scenario on PARIVESH portal."

RO, Lucknow on dated 06.05.2025 returned the proposal to the Government of NCT of Delhi for changing the scenario of the Proposal. The Government of NCT of Delhi on dated 22.05.2025 has submitted the proposal to the Ministry as the proposal involves the violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- ix. The proposal examined in the Ministry and the Ministry vide EDS dated 17.06.2025 has sought additional information which includes action taken by the Govt. under section 3A/3B of IFA 1927 on violators and along with the action taken report, the factual details regarding the examination of the KML file through Google imagery revealed that the proposed forest land was broken after the date 09.09.2016, whether the user agency has obtained prior approval under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 for felling of trees from the concerned

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
D/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

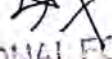
- authority or otherwise and the legal status of forest land from the Government of NCT of Delhi.
- x. The Government of NCT of Delhi has uploaded the reply of EDS sought by the Ministry on 7.8.2025 on PARIVESH. The Govt. informed that the violation involved breaking of land and damaging of trees. The area involved in the violation is 1.69 Ha. The person responsible for violation is Shri Sujit, Dy. Chief Engineer, Construction, Office of the Dy. Chief Engineer, Shiva Ji Bridge-I, Northern Railway, New Delhi. The information about the offence case had been forwarded to CCF/ Nodal Officer (FCA) vide letter dated 01.04.2025.
- xi. The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that the permission for tree felling under DPTA 1994 was issued to the Railway for felling of 10 trees in 2016 and another felling of 10 trees in 2017. As work has already been started after getting permission in the year 2016 and 2017 as submitted by Railway in the EDS reply. The User Agency in its reply has informed that Railway has applied and got permission from Delhi Forest Department for felling 10 Nos tree in the year 2016 under DPTA vide DCF letter No. F- 80/WFD/COI/17-18/3702-07 dated 29.08.2016 & and again another 10 Nos trees vide letter No. F- 59WFD/COI/17-18/4477-91 dated 20.11.2017 for execution of some engineering works in the subject area. Separately, Railway had applied permission for felling of 11 nos. tree under DPTA in the year 2016 for complete project length covering more than 4 km on both side of yard approaches (Total affected land area 6.202 Hectare), following this a communication was received on 10.08.2020 to re-submit the proposal as some documents were missing. Thereafter, a fresh proposal for felling of 311 no. of trees on 6.202 Hectare land parcel adjoining the railway line between Sahbad Mohammadpur and Bijawasan villages, was again submitted for development of Bijawasan passenger railway terminal.
- xii. Subsequently, Delhi Forest Department on 24.08.2021 directed Railway to submit fresh proposal on PARIVESH portal under FCA as proposed tree felling area adjoining existing railway track area was considered falling under deemed forest area as per affidavit filed in Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of TN Godavarman Thirualpad V Union of India (W.P. (C) 202/1995. Accordingly, fresh proposal on PRIVESH was initiated and by now tree count in the affected increased to 516 nos. as per tree definition under FCA.
- xiii. The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that the said land has been mentioned as Forest Area/Plantation Areas along Railway tracks Plantation done by Forest Department in the R.K. Goel Affidavit dated 15.09.1997 submitted in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in TN Godavarman Thirualpad V Union of India (W.P. (C) 202/1995 in compliance of direction passed by the Hon'ble Court for identification of forest by expert committee. Therefore, the said land after 1997 is considered as forest and provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 are applicable on the said area.
- xiv. The reply submitted by Govt. of NCT of Delhi examined and certain additional information which include supporting documents regarding applicable of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980,

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- on the proposed land, details regarding the action initiated/taken under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 on violators and along with the supporting documents sought from Govt. of NCT of Delhi through EDS dated 16.08.2025.
- xv. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has submitted the reply of EDS and uploaded the same on PARIVESH on 02.09.2025. The Government of NCT of Delhi informed that the said area is falling under the category of Deemed Forest (Forest area/Plantation area along railway track) under Annexure VI at Sr. No. 11 of Affidavit submitted by then CF Sh. R.K. Goyal in Hon'ble SC in connection with writ petition (civil) no. 202 of 1995.
- xvi. The Government of NCT of Delhi informed that a restraintment order had been issued vide dated 01.04.2025 for stopping of work at the site. It was also informed that the diversion proposal of subject forest land is required for development of Bijwasan Railway Terminal. Two agencies are involved in the construction activity i.e. RLDA and Northern Railway. RLDA is executing the work station building, circulating area, Concourse and Platforms, whereas NR is doing yard development i.e. laying of railway track and development of train maintenance facilities. In the past a fine of Rs. 5,93,70,967/- has been imposed on RLDA under Local Act i.e., Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 vide order dated 14.06.2022.
- xvii. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi proposes that the action may be taken under Rule 1.16 (ii) (a) Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 which states In cases where the proposal under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is under consideration and forest land is diverted before grant of FC that *"the penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.*
- xviii. As per restraintment order dated 01.04.2025 about 4.2 acres (1.69 ha) of forest land within the proposed diversion site has been broken up and around 91 trees have been damaged without obtaining the required approval under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xix. The Site inspection report on the instant proposal has been submitted by the RO, Lucknow wherein following observations have been made:-
- (a) The proposal was submitted on 8.2.2023 in PARIVESH Portal by the project proponent, and violation was done over 1.69 ha of forest land in 2025, it falls under the case, where the proposal is under consideration and forest land is diverted before grant of FC under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, as per the para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. Hence, out of proposed 6.202 ha proposed for seeking prior

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

approval, 1.69 ha of forest land falls under violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

- (b) The work on site was found stopped during site visit.
- (c) Since, the project is of larger public interest and aims to decongest the other existing railway stations in Delhi, viz. New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi Sarai Rohilla and Anand Vihar Terminal; it may be considered for granting ex-post facto/prior approval under the provisions of rules/guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
- (d) CA land as NFL may be accepted subject to its demarcation and chain link fencing by the Railway on ground before handing over land to the Panipat Forest Division and the cost of Chain link fencing included in CA scheme may be adjusted while depositing compensatory.

The proposal is for construction of Bijwasan -Coaching / Freight Handling Terminal at village Bijwasan, District South West Delhi and has been recommended by the State Government, accordingly same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of Advisory Committee:** The Committee after thorough deliberation and discussion with DDGF (Central), RO, Lucknow and Nodal Officer, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and after going through the facts of the proposal, recommended the proposal for granting 'in-principle' approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for Diversion of 6.202 ha deemed forest land in favour of Office of the Dy.Chief Engineer, Northern Railway, New Delhi for construction of Bijwasan-Coaching/freight handling terminal by Northern Railways under West Forest Division, South West District of NCT of Delhi subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- i. The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
- ii. The Regional Office, Chandigarh shall initiate action against violations in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3A and 3B of the Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 as applicable.
- iii. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.
- iv. The Non-Forest Land submitted for Compensatory Afforestation shall be demarcated and fenced by chain link by the User Agency before handing it over to the Panipat Forest Division, Haryana. The cost of

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Chain link fencing included in CA scheme may be adjusted while depositing compensatory levies.

Agenda No. 7

Proposal No. FP/HR/WATER/442901/2023

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o Sub Divisional Engineer, Public Health Engineering Sub Division No. 3, Rohtak for non-forestry use of 0.4136 ha of Protected Forest for Const. of RAW water Pumping Station near JLN at RD-179216-R and Laying of DI Rising Main Water Supply Pipe Line along Bhuttia Minor, Marudhi Minor and Masudpur Sundana road, for existing water works Garnauthi, Marudhi, Kakrana, Sundana and Masudpur water works in Tehsil- Kalanaur District- Rohtak in the State of Haryana (Online Proposal No. FP/HR/WATER/442901/2023)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Haryana attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The proposal is for diversion of 0.4136 ha of Protected Forest for Const. of RAW water Pumping Station near JLN at RD-179216-R and Laying of DI Rising Main Water Supply Pipe Line along Bhuttia Minor, Marudhi Minor and Masudpur Sundana road, for existing water works Garnauthi, Marudhi, Kakrana, Sundana and Masudpur water works in Tehsil- Kalanaur District- Rohtak in the State of Haryana.
 - ii. Component wise break up are as under:

Component wise breakup			
S.no	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
1	Construction of pumping chamber	0.0033	0
2	Laying of underground water pipeline	0.4103	0.4189
Total		0.4136	0.4189

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0 of Eco class III with no tree felling involved, however, 1020 small saplings will be destroyed during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
D/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.

- v. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area does not falls into in High Conservation value Zone.
- vi. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 2.868 ha out of 3.05 ha in Village- Garnauthi & Sunarikhurd, Range/Tehsil- Rohtak, Division- Rohtak, District- Rohtak. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. The Committee was informed that the proposal involves violation, DFO, Rohtak has mentioned in his violation report that violation over an area of 0.0253 ha has been done by Shri. Sumit, Contractor in the year 2024. Damage report has been issued under IFA, 1927. However, DIGF (C), Regional Office, Chandigarh in his inspection report has mentioned that 0.204840 ha of forest land has been broken by the User Agency.
- viii. The Committee was further informed that Ministry, after preliminary scrutiny of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. component wise break up needs to be submitted, clarification on number of trees to be felled, revised detailed violation report along with action taken against erring officers and correct KML file of CA land etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 24.06.2024.
- ix. The State Government submitted its reply online on 10.09.2025 and informed following:
 - a) User Agency has submitted Component wise break up as under:
For Pipeline (length x width)- 4103.10 Sq. mtr (0.4103 ha).
For pump chamber- 33.7788 Sq. mtr (0.0033 ha).
 $A + B = 0.4103 \text{ ha} + 0.0033 \text{ ha} = 0.4136 \text{ ha}.$
 - b) DFO has mentioned in his reply that there is no tree felling is involved in the proposal, however, 1020 small saplings will be destroyed.
 - c) DFO has mentioned that as per violation report, user agency has broken 0.204840 ha.
 - d) DFO has mentioned that KML file and DGPS map of CA land has been uploaded.
- x. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Chandigarh on 10.05.2024. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh. Summary of the same are as under:
 - I. **Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:** Protected Forest land.
 - II. **Item wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion: Item-wise break-up:**
Approach Road- 0.4136 ha
 - III. **Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:** NO, forest land is proposed for Const. of RAW water Pumping Station near JLN at RD-179216-R and Laying of DI Rising Main Water Supply Pipe Line only.
 - IV. **Wildlife:**

AHasted

[Handwritten signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not

As per the forest officials present during the inspection; the proposed area is not important from wildlife point of view.

V. Vegetation:

i. Details of total number of trees to be felled: NIL.

VI. Background on the proposal:

The proposal is for diversion of 0.4136 ha of forest land for construction of raw water pumping station near JLN at RD-179216-R and laying of DI rising main water supply pipe line along Bhuttia Minor, Marudhi Minor and Masudpur Sundana Road.

VII. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.

The proposal was applied in PARIVESH portal on 06.09.2023 by the user agency i.e. Shri Virender Jain, SDE, PHESD 3, Rohtak and tender has been awarded by the Engineer-in-Chief, Haryana, PHE Department to lower tender of Rajkumar, Contractor on 1.9.2023. The violation has been reported as per the FOR on 19.02.2024 (See annexure-I) and as per the details uploaded by the DFO in part II, the contractor Shri Sumit has been named as person responsible for violation of area involving 0.0253 ha of forest land. Further, on verification of violation on ground during site inspection, it was observed that more area than reported in PARIVESH portal, were broken. Hence, the FRO was directed to get all broken area verified along with representative of user agency. As per joint verification report, it was found that altogether 0.204840 ha of forest land has been broken by the user agency (See annexure-II), while the proposal is still under process of consideration for prior approval.

In view of the violation report and facts therein, the violation has been carried out while the FC proposal is under consideration, therefore, the activities carried out are violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and not the violation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Accordingly, the violation needs to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. The Para 1.16 (ii) as above read as follow:

(ii) In cases where the proposal under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 is under consideration and forest land is diverted before grant of FC

(a) The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.

(b) State Government will initiate disciplinary action against the official concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purpose without prior approval of Government of India.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

(c) Central Government will initiate suitable action against the concerned offender.

(d) User Agency responsible for violation shall be prosecuted under relevant local Act of the State and/or Central Act.

It was further observed during the site inspection that the use of forest land has been stopped by the State Forest Department.

No action has been taken against the User Agency or forest officials except the Forest Offence Report against the contractor Shri Sumit Kumar, S/o Shri Bijender Singh.

VIII. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by translocating outstees in and around the said forest:

No.

IX. Reclamation Plan: Not Applicable

1. Details and financial allocation: Not Applicable.

X. Details on catchment and command area under the project: Not Applicable.

XI. Cost benefit ratio: Not Applicable.

XII. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/ State Government: Submitted along with the proposal.

XIII. Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in areas proposed for diversion: The officials of the State Forest Department informed that the land being diverted has no socio-cultural / religious value.

XIV. Situation w.r.t any Protected Area: There are No Protected Areas or their Eco sensitive zone.

XV. Recommendations of DIGF (C), Regional Office, Chandigarh:

i. The violation under the instant case has been carried out while the FC proposal is under consideration; therefore, the activities carried out are violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and not the violation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Accordingly, the violation needs to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the The Name of user agency as per PARIVESH portal is Virender Jain, SDE, PHESD 3, Rohtak.

ii. Although, the FOR has been drawn against the contractor, but the Government department and official who awarded tender and the officials who were supposed to execute the works on ground, are responsible for violation of provisions of Adhinyam. They appear to guilty of offence and are liable to be proceeded against and punished as per provisions under Section 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

Hence, Divisional Forest Officer, Rohtak may be authorised to file complaints against the persons responsible for violation of the provisions of Adhinyam, in view of the provisions under Rule 15, subrule 1 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

Attest ed

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

XVI. Recommendations of the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central):


- i. The violation under the instant case has been carried out while the FC proposal is under consideration; therefore, the activities carried out are violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and not the violation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Accordingly, the violation needs to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Name of user agency as per PARIVESH portal is Virender Jain, SDE, PHESD 3, Rohtak.
- ii. Although, the FOR has been drawn against the contractor, but the Government department and official who awarded tender and the officials who were supposed to execute the works on ground, are responsible for violation of provisions of Adhiniyam. They appear to guilty of offence and are liable to be proceeded against and punished as per provisions under Section 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Hence, Divisional Forest Officer, Rohtak may be authorised to file complaints against the persons responsible for violation of the provisions of Adhiniyam, in view of the provisions under Rule 15, subrule 1 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

4. Decision of the Advisory Committee: The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials of the Government of Haryana recommended the proposal for grant of *'in-principle'* approval for diversion of 0.4136 ha Protected Forest in f/o Sub Divisional Engineer, Public Health Engineering Sub Division No. 3, Rohtak for Const. of RAW water Pumping Station near JLN at RD-179216-R and Laying of DI Rising Main Water Supply Pipe Line along Bhuttia Minor, Marudhi Minor and Masudpur Sundana road, for existing water works Garnauthi, Marudhi, Kakrana, Sundana and Masudpur water works in Tehsil- Kalanaur District- Rohtak in the State of Haryana subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:

- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- ii. State Government will initiate disciplinary action against the official concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purpose without prior approval of Government of India.
- iii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Chandigarh, as applicable.
- iv. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.

Agenda No. 8

Proposal. No. FP/HP/ROAD/436814/2023

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF V.L(S) SHIMLA

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department for non-forestry use of 2.5989 ha of forest land for Construction of link road from middle school Dawahan to Kot back Pansada Ropa Boaha Matyal road KM, O/O TO 5/110 in Mandi District in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Proposal No. FPI/HP/ROAD/436814/2023)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Officials from Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The proposal is for diversion of 2.5989 ha of forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department for Construction of link road from middle school Dawahan to Kot back Pansada Ropa Boaha Matyal road KM, O/O TO 5/110 in Mandi District in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
 - ii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.06 of Eco class V with 186 trees to be felled during implementation of the project.
 - iii. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
 - iv. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area does not fall into High Conservation Value Zone.
 - v. Committee was informed that Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 5.20 ha degraded forest land in Survey No. H43F2 (Old No. 53E/2) namely DPF Dandohidhar in Block Piun, Beat Shalla, Range Panarasa, Mandi Forest Division.
 - vi. DFO, Mandi has mentioned in Part- II that violation over an area of 1.0386 ha has been done by local people between 2004-2005. Further, DFO, Mandi has mentioned in his site inspection report that User Agency has violated provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and


Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- User Agency has already constructed 3.462 Km of road involving 1.0386 ha of forest land.
- vii. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. copy of order of Hon'ble High Court of HP along with list of 2183 proposals, detailed violation report clearly mentioning extent and nature of violation and action taken against the officers responsible for violation, legal status of forest land proposed for diversion, State Government to explore the possibility of shifting dumping site on non-forest land, detailed CA scheme with provisions for chain link fencing, revised KML file for exact area, justification for proposing new road and road alignment given in the KML file is different from the alignment given in the map; correct KML file needs to be submitted etc. Additional information was requested from the State on 08.08.2024. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
- viii. The State Government submitted its reply online on 18.02.2025 and informed following:
- a) List of 2183 cases highlighting the instant proposal has been submitted, however, copy of order of Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh was not submitted along with the reply.
 - b) It is mentioned that as per joint inspection report, 1.0386 ha violation has been reported but a part of road from which forest land has already been broken/ constructed was a inspection path of the Forest Department and the rest of the road was constructed by HPPWD in the year 2004-05. The same road was reported in violation by the HPPWD and appears at Sr. No.190 and S. No. 344 in the list of 2183 cases reported as violation to Hon'ble High Court.
 - c) Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is mentioned as Degraded Protected forest (DPF), Un-classed Protected Forest (UPF) and Un-classed forest.
 - d) It is mentioned that being Hilly area/region the land holding of the people residing in the area is low. Still they have donated 0.9888 ha land for the construction of the road. Now they are not ready to provide/donate more land for this purpose.
 - e) Detailed CA scheme with provisions for chain link fencing and maintenance for 10 years is uploaded on Parivesh portal.
 - f) Revised KML file has been submitted.
 - g) It is mentioned that this road is already jeepable and its width is less, it is being converted into a motorable/busable road. This road is already reported in violation list of 2183 cases. Not this road has to be made motorable for which it will be widened and additional forest land is required.
 - h) Revised KML file and digital map has been submitted/uploaded.
- ix. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Chandigarh on

A Hested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

10.12.2024. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh. Summary of the same are as under:

- I. **Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:**
Others
- II. **Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:** Item-wise break- up:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
1.	Road	2.0772	0.9888
2.	Dumping	0.5217	0
	Total	2.5989	0.9888

III. **Wildlife:**

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not

As per the details filled at para 9 in part II, the proposed area is not important from wildlife point of view.

IV. **Vegetation:**

- i. **Total number of trees to be affected:-** 186, however it is noticed that all the trees are not required to be felled and a separate list of trees that are actually required to be felled may be requested.

V. **Background on the proposal:**

The Government of Himachal Pradesh online submitted the fresh proposal on 13.05.2024 to Govt. of India to obtain prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 2.5989 ha. of forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of link road from middle school Dawahan to Kot within the jurisdiction of Mandi Forest Division, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/Road/436814/2023).

The proposal involves violation and as per the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, issued on 29.12.2023, under Rule, 10 (2) (V), this proposal shall be examined and disposed by the Central Govt.

Also, as per the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 under Rule 10 (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"

- VI. **Whether proposal involves violation of Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.**

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

The proposal involves violation as reported by DFC in para 9 of Part II. The area inspected by the undersigned along with officials of forest department and user agency. At the spot, it is noticed that a kachha path in complete length in forest area and in non forest area had already been constructed without any approval.

Based on the site visit and perusal of facts and documents, this is a case of violation of the IFA 1927 as the violation done before submission of proposal to Government of India.

- VII. **Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by trans-locating outstees in and around the said forest:**

As per record, no displacement of any person/Household was found.

- VIII. **Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in areas proposed for diversion:**

As per record, the land being diverted has no socio-cultural/religious value.

Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area:

As per record, the instant proposal is not falling in any protected area.

- IX. **Field observations/ Actionable Points/recommendations:-**

- a. 1.0386 ha area found constructed (kachha path) out of total 2.5989 ha area.
- b. The proposal involves 2.5989 ha forest land and 0.9888 ha non forest land.
- c. Out of 2.5989 ha forest land, 2.0772 ha proposed for road and 0.5217 ha for muck dumping.
- d. Kachha path having a length of approximately 3462 mtrs and width approximately 3 mtrs in forest area found constructed. It is informed by the officials that the same has been constructed a long time ago by villagers.
- e. The proposal is in the list of 2183 cases enlisted in Hon'ble High Court which is placed at Sr. No. 190 & 344.
- f. It is noticed and informed by the forest officials and user agency that all the trees are not required to be felled. A list of trees that are actually required to be felled may be sought from forest department.
- g. Since, the violation was committed before submission of proposal in year 2023, this appears to be a case of violation of the IFA 1927.

- X. DDGF (C), Regional Office, Chandigarh has mentioned that the proposal is for public utility and has been recommended

AHested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- by the State Government, accordingly same is recommended for consideration in Advisory Committee as per extant Rules and Guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
- x. The Committee was informed that proposal of similar kind for diversion of 1.9 ha. of Undemarcated Protected Forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department for Construction of road Bholi to Lower Bholi Gassour road km. 0/0 to 2/500 within jurisdiction of Bilaspur Forest Division, District Bilaspur in the State of Himachal Pradesh (FC/HPB/06/01/2024-N) which is part of 2183 cases was discussed in Advisory Committee meeting held on 23.09.2024. The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer, Government of Himachal Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Himachal Pradesh, the Committee decided to defer the proposal and observed the following (interalia)
- a. The State Government shall provide details of action taken against the violation as per provisions mentioned in consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
 - b. The State Government shall submit a detailed status report to the Regional Office in case of 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh including the detail of proposals already approved under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and the balance cases that are yet to be processed. The Regional Office shall examine the matter holistically and forward the same to the Ministry along with its comments/recommendations.
- xi. The Committee was further informed that after examination of information submitted by the State Government on 18.02.2025 and decision of Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 23.09.2024, the State Government was informed to submit information viz. copies of order of Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh, copy of joint inspection report and details of action taken against the violation and State Government shall submit a detailed status report to the Regional Office in case of 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh etc. Additional information was requested from the State on 23.03.2025.
- xii. The State Government submitted its reply online on 11.09.2025 and informed following:
- 1) Details of the case was submitted by the State Government.
 - 2) It is mentioned that DFO Mandi submitted that as per Joint inspection 3.462 Km. of road was shown. As violated, in which 1 km road was a inspection path/Jeepable road constructed by forest

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

department and rest was violated and reported in the list of 2183 roads.

- 3) It is mentioned that DFO Mandi submitted that the road is appearing in the list of 2183 roads under violation reported in Hon'ble High court at Sr. No. 190 & 344.
- xiii. The Committee was intimated that comments/recommendations from Regional Office regarding a detailed status report is not yet received in the Ministry.
- xiv. The committee was also informed that the State Government has not initiated action against persons responsible for the violatio or officers for not being able to prevent such violations on forest land. The State has informed that proposed road appears in the list of 2183 cases in which directions have been passed by the Hon'ble High Court of H.P. on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 wherein it is mentioned that

"we hope that the officials of MoEF or any other department of the Government of India shall not insist for compliance of furnishing the names, designations and complete addresses of the officers of the State Government responsible for past violations".

The Committee notes the same.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 2.5989 ha of forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department for Construction of link road from middle school Dawahan to Kot back Pansada Ropa Boaha Matyal road KM, O/O to 5/110 in Mandi District in the State of Himachal Pradesh subject to the general, standard and following specific condition:
- The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
 - The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.

Agenda No. 9

Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/514215/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980

Attested
✍

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

in f/o Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department for non-forestry use of 7.5479 ha of Protected Forest for widening of already constructed road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad km 0/00 to 12/460 in District Lahaul & Spiti in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/514215/2024)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 30.07.2025, wherein the Committee noted the following:
 - I. State Government shall complete the action taken against the User Agency under IFA, 1927 and submit an updated action taken report.
 - II. State Government shall submit the action taken against the officials concerned for not being able to prevent the use of forest land for non-forestry purpose.
 - III. State Government shall submit an approved wildlife management plan.
4. The decision of the Committee was communicated to the State Government on 11.08.2025. The State Government submitted its reply online on 15.09.2025 and informed following:
 - i. DFO concerned has submitted that the user agency has been asked to deposit the penalty amounting to ₹1,49,10,000/- for unauthorized construction of said road vide letter dated 11.08.2025. The request has been submitted to superintendent of Police Lahaul and Spiti to submit the status of FIR along with action taken report regarding illegal road construction from Gecha to Dhankar Helipad vide letter dated 24.12.2024. The reply of superintendent of Police was received in the office of DCF Wildlife Spiti vide letter dated 09.01.2025. Executive Engineer HPPWD submitted the request vide letter No. dated 23.08.2025 to waive off the penalty amount to a tune of ₹1,49,10,000/-. The DFO concerned has intimated to Exn. HPPWD vide his letter dated 25.08.2025, that there is no provision under IFA, 1927 for the waiving off a penalty once imposed for such violation.
 - ii. DFO concerned has submitted that the Departmental disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against the officer/ official responsible for the violation. The show cause notice has been issued and framed the responsible officer/official and the inquiry process has been initiated.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
C/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

-68-

- iii. DFO concerned has submitted that the Wildlife Management Plan is under preparation, will be submitted shortly for the approval of CWLW. The abstract of Wildlife Management Plan has been submitted.
5. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '*defer*' the proposal with the following observations:
- i. The State Government shall look into the action taken against officers responsible for the violation and submit a comprehensive report on the matter to the Ministry.
 - ii. The State Government shall submit a copy of Wildlife Management Plan approved by Chief Wildlife Warden with specific comments.
 - iii. The State Government shall submit an updated Action Taken Report against the User Agency.

Agenda No. 11

File No. FP/KAWATER/449988/2023

Sub: Proposal for ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under section of 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Koteppa Udagatti for diversion of 1.8264 Ha of forest land in Masuru and other 16 villages for construction of Multi Village Drinking Water Supply Scheme to 109 Rural Habitations in Hirekerur (64 villages of 69 Habitations), Rattihalli (22 villages of 24 Habitations) and Hanagal (14 village of 16 habitations) Taluk of Haveri district under Jal Jeevan Mission- regarding.

1. The above agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer from the Government of Karnataka attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The proposal is for diversion of 1.8264 Ha of forest land in Masuru and other 16 villages for construction of Multi Village Drinking Water Supply Scheme to 109 Rural Habitations in Hirekerur (64 villages of 69 Habitations), Rattihalli (22 villages of 24 Habitations) and Hanagal (14 village of 16 habitations) Taluk of Haveri district under Jal Jeevan Mission.
 - ii. Component wise break up are as under:

Attested

DIN
O/K
 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Sl. No.	Purpose of Utilization	Area required (in ha)		Total land (in ha)
		Forest land	Non-forest land	
1.	Approach Road (Carriageway)	0.5043	0.107	0.6113
2.	Approach Road (Drainage Left)	0.0629	0.0133	0.0762
3.	Approach Road(Drainage Right)	0.0631	0.0134	0.0765
4.	Approach Road (Shoulder left)	0.0629	0.0133	0.0762
5.	Approach Road (Shoulder Right)	0.0631	0.0134	0.0765
6.	Gravity Main	0.3977	11.0932	11.4909
7.	Intermediate pump Station	0	0.0324	0.0324
8.	Jack Well and Pump House	0	0.0985	0.0985
9.	Master Balancing Tank	0.04	0	0.04
10.	Pure Water Gravity Main	0.3718	1.5109	1.8827
11.	Pure water Raising Main	0.131	1.7302	1.8612
12.	Raw Water raising Main	0	1.5025	1.5025
13.	Water Treatment Plant	0	1.5637	1.5637
14.	Zonal Balancing Tank	0.1296	0.1067	0.2363
Grand total (in ha)		1.8264	17.7985	19.6249

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.2 of Eco class III with 128 number of trees proposed to be felled during implementation of the project. The legal Status of the Forest land are as follows:

Legal status of Forest land	Area(ha)
District Level Committee (D.L.C.) Forest	0.3586
Reserved Forest	1.2987
Others	0.0539
Unclassed Forests	0.1152

- iv. The proposal does not fall within a 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by the DFO concerned.
- v. There are no National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor/ Wildlife Migration Corridor within 10 kilometers from the boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion.
- vi. There are no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna reported in the forest area proposed for diversion.
- vii. The forest land proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor/Wildlife Migration Corridor.


Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
G/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- viii. As per Decision Rule- 1, proposed forest area falls in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone and as per Decision Rule- 2, the area does not fall into High Conservation value Zone.
- ix. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 1.83 ha non-forest land in Sy No 33*/* of Haveri District in one patch. The identified area for CA is adjacent to the Ranebennur Black Buck Sanctuary and is suitable for taking up plantation. A CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- x. The Committee was informed that the proposal involves violation, a water tank has been constructed on 0.01 ha of forest land (Veerapur RF, Sy. No. 13) without prior approval. The Committee was further informed that a Report was submitted by the user agency on 23.10.2023. However, the case was registered by the Deputy Range Forest Officer on 29.09.2023 in Forest survey number 13 of Veerapura village for illegal construction of an overhead water tank. Direction has been issued to the Range Forest Officer Hirekerur to conduct a detailed enquiry and submit enquiry report. Based on the enquiry report, suitable action will be proposed against the officials concerned.
- xi. The Committee was further informed that the Ministry, after scrutiny of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. submit a report on disciplinary action against the official concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land, correct legal status of forest land, clarification on legal status of land proposed for CA and detailed CA scheme etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 02.05.2025. The Regional Office, Bengaluru was also requested to carry out site inspection and submit a report to the Ministry. The State Government submitted its reply online on 04.09.2025.
- xii. The State Government was asked to submit a report on disciplinary action against officials responsible for allowing the use of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval from the Government of India. In response, the State informed that a case was registered by the Deputy Range Forest Officer on 29.09.2023 in Forest Survey No.13 of Veerapura village for the illegal construction of an overhead water tank. Directions have been issued to the Range Forest Officer, Hirekerur, to conduct a detailed enquiry, and suitable action will be taken against the officials concerned based on the findings.
- xiii. The User Agency (UA) submitted a report on 23.10.2023, admitting the violation was committed unknowingly and without intent, in a location adjacent to a road in a settlement area with no flora or fauna present. The 10,000-litre water tank was constructed in good faith to serve the basic drinking water needs of 50-60 families.
- xiv. While the violation pertains to a different project, the UA has submitted a separate proposal through Parivesh Portal 2.0 for a Multi-Village Drinking Water Supply Scheme covering 109 rural habitations. Being the common agency for both projects, the UA has accepted responsibility for the violation and requested regularisation with penalties, citing public interest and the non-commercial nature of the

Attested

DI
OI

 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

project. Given the site-specific and essential public service nature of the project, the State has recommended that diversion may be permitted with appropriate penalties under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as amended in 1988 and 2023.

- xv. The State Government was asked to clarify the status of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site, as the area proposed over non-forest land (NFL) appears to fall within Alalgeri Reserve Forest according to the RFA (RF/PF) boundary available on the DSS.
- xvi. In response, the State clarified that, as per Government Notification No. 6479 dated 31.08.1883, 14 survey numbers in Kakol village were initially notified as forest land. However, 13 of these, including Survey No. 33 — the proposed CA site — were subsequently de-notified as Protected Forest vide Notification No. 4340B dated 13.06.1895. Office records confirm that Survey No. 33 is not a notified forest and does not form part of Alalgeri Reserve Forest. Relevant notifications have been enclosed for verification.
- xvii. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Bengaluru on 11.06.2025. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh. Summary of the same are as under:
- Proposal (FP/KAWATER/449988/2023) is for diversion of 1.8264 ha of forest land in Haveri District (Haveri Forest Division) for construction of zonal balancing tank, pure water raising main, pure water gravity main & approach road for multi village drinking water supply scheme to 109 rural habitations in Hirekerur, Rattihalli & Hanagal Taluks of Haveri District under Jal Jeevan Mission.
 - During the Site inspection of the area, it was observed that one overhead tank has already been constructed by the User Agency in the year 2022-2023 in Sy. No. 13 of Veerapur Reserve Forest, Hirekerur Range without approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The Executive Engineer had issued the work order vide letter no. RDW&S D/HVR/TADAS MVS DBOT TND/2022-23/2072 dt 27.12.22. Consequently, the forest department has registered a FOC No: 07/2023-24 dated: 29-09-2023 under Karnataka Forest Act, 1963.
 - Further it was observed that the DSS of the CA site using KML files available with FSI shows that the area falls inside the RF. However, the forest department has identified land as a non-forest land and the documents submitted by the State Forest department also reveals it's a non-forest land. The State Forest Department may be asked to reconcile the KML boundaries with FSI. The identified area for CA is adjacent to the Ranebennur Black Buck Sanctuary and is suitable for taking up plantation.
 - It may be noted that the State Government had earlier submitted one another proposal along with the instant proposal to this office i.e. Diversion of 0.8804 ha of forest land in multiple

Attested

[Handwritten Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

villages in Haveri, Byadagi & Ranebennur Taluk of Haveri District (Haveri Forest Division) for construction of raising main, gravity main, zonal balancing tank and overhead tank for multi village drinking water supply facilities to 51 rural habitations of Haveri District from Tunga Bhadra river under Jal Jeevan Mission in favour of RDW&SD, Haveri (Online proposal no. FP/KA/WATER/458059/2024). The proposal was returned to the State Government with EDS since it involved violation and required work flow change. The EDS has not been replied and the current status is delisted since 18.02.2025. During the site inspection, it was noticed that the same user agency had gone ahead and had commissioned the works in violation of VSESA 1980.

- e. The undersigned is in agreement with detailed comments made by the inspecting officer in the Site inspection report. It is recommended to consider the proposal and approval may be granted. The State government may also be asked to reconcile the RF boundaries of CA land with FSI.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bengaluru and officials from the Government of Karnataka, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 1.8264 Ha of forest land in Masuru and other 16 villages for construction of Multi Village Drinking Water Supply Scheme to 109 Rural Habitations in Hirekerur (64 villages of 69 Habitations), Rattihalli (22 villages of 24 Habitations) and Hanagal (14 village of 16 habitations) Taluk of Haveri district under Jal Jeevan Mission subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:


- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- ii. The State Government will initiate disciplinary action against the officials concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of the Government of India.
- iii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Bengaluru, as applicable.
- iv. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.

Agenda No. 12

Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/QRY/430246/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking renewal of diversion of 0.7552 (originally proposed are 0.443 ha) of forest land under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van

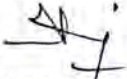
Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for quarry lease for removal of boulders in favour of M/s Ramshree Construction Company Karwar, in F. Sy. No. 52A of Agra Village, Baada Hobli Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada, Forest Division and District Karwar Karnataka

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. This is a case of renewal of old stone quarry for open cast mining of building stones by semi mechanical and control blasting means. The quarry had been in operation since 1968.
 - ii. The Government of India, vide letter No.4-KRB754/2010-BAN/1531 dated 13.07.2012 had accorded the final approval for diversion of 0.494 ha of forest land in F.Sy. No.52A of Agra Village, Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Karwar Forest Division) for quarry lease in favour of M/s Ramshree Construction Company. Accordingly, the Government of Karnataka accorded sanction for the forest lease for the above project for removal of boulders and size stone for a period of 10 years. Further, the Government of India vide letter No.4-KRA973/2013-BAN/698 dated 07.10.2020 had accorded the approval for re-diversion of 0.051 ha to NHAI out of 0.494 ha diverted to M/s Ramshree Construction Company, Karwar.
 - iii. Now the User Agency has submitted the present proposal through PARIVESH 2.0 on 12.11.2024 seeking approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Renewal of 0.7552 ha (**revised from 0.443 ha**) of forest land for quarry lease for removal of boulders in favour of M/s Ramshree Construction Company Karwar, in F. Sy. No. 52A of Agra Village, Baada Hobli Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada, Forest Division and District Karwar Karnataka.
 - iv. The legal status of the forest land involved in the proposal is Reserved Forest with vegetation density 0.4 of eco class I. The no. of trees to be felled is Nil.
 - v. The wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion are Leopard both spotted and black, pangolion, Sloth bear, Sambar, Spotted deer, Jackal, Cobra, Russel viper, Saw scaled viper, Monitor lizard, Reticulatedpython, King Cobra.
 - vi. The utility of the proposal is in the building material is being supplied to the government and private buyers. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd, Indian Navy, NHAI, Konkan railway Corporation, State Government departments are some of the agencies to whom material is supplied in the near past.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- vii. The State Government further informed that there are no Protected/ Archaeological/ Heritage Sites/ Defence establishments located in the proposed area. The Naval base (Sea bird) is located nearby, and they had issued a security clearance dated 22.3.2012 in compliance with the Stage I approval of earlier FC Clearance.
- viii. With regard to compliance of the provisions of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act 2006 and Rules 2008, the User Agency has not furnished the requisite Certificate in FORM-II (for Non-linear/Hybrid projects) issued by the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner as per Annexure II of the FC Guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019. The User Agency is being informed to obtain the said certificate in prescribed format and submit a copy.
- ix. The lease is demarcated with cement concrete pillars. The approach road is exclusively for the quarry. Further, it was verified and found that the village in which this quarry is located does not fall in the draft notification of the Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive areas notified by the MoEFCC on 31st July 2024. Adjacent to the forest area there is private land in which quarrying was done earlier. There is also a stone crusher nearby in private area with a license valid upto 18.12.2040.
- x. The User Agency has submitted the Compliance Report in respect of conditions of previous FC approval in Additional Information details in Part-1 of Form-B.
- xi. The component wise utilization of the forest land is as under:

District, Taluk [Forest Division]	Village & Sy No.	Component	Forest extent proposed for diversion (ha)	Legal status of land
Uttara Kannada District, Karwar Taluk, [Karwar Forest Division]	Arga Village, Sy. No. 52A1	Quarry Area	0.35	Reserve Forest
		Dump Yard	0.042	
		Approach Road	0.051	
		Safety zone for Dump yard	0.0592	
		Safety zone for Quarry	0.253	
Total			0.7552	

- xii. Earlier the proposal was submitted over 0.443 ha of forest land leaving the safety zone area. After the observation of the Ministry the State Govt. has submitted the revised proposal for renewal of 0.7552 ha instead of 0.443 (adding safety Zone to the area sought for diversion).
- xiii. The RO at Bengaluru vide letter No.4-KRB754/2010-BAN/1531 dated 13.07.2012 had accorded the final approval for diversion of 0.494 ha of forest land for 10 years which was valid up to 2022.

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF VIL(S) SHIMLA

- xiv. The RO vide letter No.4-KRA973/2013-BAN/698 dated 07.10.2020 had also accorded the approval for re-diversion of 0.051 ha to NHAI out of 0.494 ha diverted to M/s Ramshree Construction Company, Karwar.
- xv. The area for proposed for renewal and the area is less than 1.0, accordingly, the CA is not applicable. NPV has already been paid for original diverted area i.e. 0.494 ha. The area of safety zone was not included in the proposal therefore, the user agency has furnished an undertaking regarding payment of safety zone, NPV and penal NPV with 12% simple interest after stage-I approval. The User Agency has paid an amount of ₹1,52,000/- towards cost of raising compensatory afforestation in double the extent of degraded forest land @ ₹1.52 lakh per hectare for one ha
- xvi. The proposed forest land for renewal of lease was granted as per Govt. of India's Order No:4-KRB 754/2010BAN/1531 dated: 13th July 2012 and Govt. of Karnataka's Order No: FEE-160-FFM 2010 Bangalore dated:13th August 2012 for removal of boulders and size stone for a period of 10 years. The lease period expired on 13.08.2022. The User Agency has requested for renewal of 0.7552 ha. forest land for above purpose for further period of 20 years. As per Karnataka Minor Mineral concession Rule 1994 amendment 2023 the mining lease is now valid up to 2042.
- xvii. The State Government requested the Senior Geologist, Department of Mines and Geology vide letter dated 08.08.2023 for the clarifications from Department of Mines and Geology with respect to the latest amendment of Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1994 dated 17.03.2023. The English version of the information provided by the Senior Geologist vide letter dated 01.09.2023 is hereby reproduced:
"With reference to above, the quarry lease No.551 was sanctioned in F. Sy No. 52A to an extent of 0-35-9 acres in Arga Village, Karwar, Taluk, Utara Kannada District on 10.06.2013 for a period of 10 years. As per letter dated 13.08.2012 the quarry leased area is forest land hence Forest Diversion clearance was obtained from MoEF and diversion time is expired.
 As per Karnataka Minor Mineral concession Rule 1994 amendment 2023, stated that **"All the quarrying lease or licenses granted before the commencement of the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules 2016, shall be deemed to have been granted for a period of fifty years in respect of specified minor minerals and for a period of thirty years in respect of non-specified minor minerals from the date of its original grant, subject to establishment of mineral availability and workability of the quarry and also subject to the condition that all the terms and conditions of the lease or licenses have been complied by the lease or license", you had requested for opinion as per letter dated 25.05.2023.**
 It was examined, the owner of the quarry lease holder has submitted the Geological Feasibility report from Recognized Qualified Person (RQP) and accordingly the mining lease of the land can be considered as deemed extension as per the rules. Forest Department can accordingly take action as per Rules."

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xviii. Under the above circumstances and agreeing with recommendations of the field officers, it has been requested by the State Govt. for according 'in-principle' approval Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for renewal of diversion of 0.0.7552 ha of forest land in F. Sy. no. 52 A of Arga Village, BaadaHobli, Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Karwar Forest Division) for quarry lease for removal of boulders in favour of M/s Ramshree Construction Company, Karwar for a period co-terminus with the quarry lease granted under MMDR Act, 1957 (as amended) and subject to production of RoFR Certificate in FORM-II (for Non-linear / Hybrid projects).
- xix. The RO in the SIR has reported that adjacent to the forest area there is private land in which quarrying was done earlier. There is also a stone crusher nearby in private area with a license valid upto 18.12.2040.
- xx. The RO has submitted the compliance report of the conditions stipulated in the previous approval. As noted by the RO in the monitoring report that all around the quarry safety zone is maintained and planted. The village in which this quarry is located does not fall in the draft notification of the Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive areas notified by the MoEFCC on 31st July 2024.
- xxi. The State Govt. has informed that the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar Division vide letter dated has submitted the reply and stated that the user agency has furnished the undertaking regarding payment of ₹16,12,443/- for safety zone NPV, one-time penal NPV with 12% simple interest after receipt of the Stage-I approval. The State Govt. has not provided the status of the safety zone as per the norms.
- xxii. The Govt. of Karnataka vide letter No. FEE 30 FFM 2023 (e) dated 26.08.2025. The Nodal Officer vide letter No. KFD/HOFF/A52K(GFL)/5/2023-FC dated 28.05.2025 has informed that the Government of India dated 28.03.2025 has raised an EDS query and directed to submit the proposal after including the safety zone area in the diversion sought, KML file & action taken report with regard to non-forestry activity. The Government of Karnataka vide letter dated 04.04.2025 had communicated the same to the PCCF Office.
- xxiii. The State Government further informed that a revised proposal including the safety zone area 0.7552 ha. (0.443 ha. + 0.3122 ha. safety zone area) along with all documents has now submitted by the UA in response to the observations made by the Ministry. The adjoining area of proposed forest land is Malki land and water body falls in said land.
- xxiv. The User Agency has paid an amount of ₹4,63,866/- towards Net Present Value @ ₹9.39 lakh per hectare for 0.494 ha of forest land diverted earlier. The user agency has furnished an undertaking regarding payment of safety zone, NPV and penal NPV with 12% simple interest after stage-I approval.
- xxv. Under the above circumstances and agreeing with recommendations of the DCF Karwar, it is requested to move the proposal with the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Regional Office (Southern Zone), Bengaluru for according in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for renewal of diversion of 0.7552 ha (0.443+0.3122 ha) of forest land in

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF V/L(S) SHIMLA


F.Sy. no. 52A1 of Arga Village, Baada Hobli, Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Karwar Forest Division) for quarry lease for removal of boulders in favour of M/s Ramshree Construction Company, Karwar for a period co-terminus with the quarry lease granted under MMDR Act, 1957 (as amended).

- xxvi. The RO in the SIR has also reported that adjacent to the forest area there is private land in which quarrying was done earlier. There is also a stone crusher nearby in private area with a license valid upto 18.12.2040.
- xxvii. The RO has submitted the compliance report of the conditions stipulated in the previous approval. As noted by the RO in the monitoring report that all around the quarry safety zone is maintained and planted. The village in which this quarry is located does not fall in the draft notification of the Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive areas notified by the MoEFCC on 31st July 2024.
- xxviii. The RO stated in the SIR that during the site inspection it was noted that the quarry is not operational now and as informed by the field officers, operations have been stopped at the end of the FC approval the mining operation is closed.
- xxix. As per the KML files for the concerned RF area it is noted that the adjoining area where water body and mined out area is showing is falling under RF boundary. However, the proposal and SIR of RO does not mention any violation carried out.
- xxx. The Regional Office Bengaluru in its Site Inspection Report recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- The Case is for renewal of stone quarry and hence recommended for approval for renewal with usual conditions, and co-terminus with the Quarry lease.
 - The UA shall comply with safety mechanisms as per the conditions of the Directorate of Mines safety.
 - All other approvals required to be taken for the operation of the quarry should be taken before operating the quarry.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for quarry lease for removal of boulders in favour of M/s Ramshree Construction Company Karwar, in F. Sy. No. 52A of Agra Village, Baada Hobli Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada, Forest Division and District Karwar Karnataka for the want of the following information:

- The State Government should submit correct kml files of the earlier operated mining lease area that was approved in 2012.
- The State Government shall submit the correct kml file for the proposed area sought for diversion.
- The State Government shall clearly bring out the legal status of the broken up land surrounding the forest area sought for diversion with support of Government notifications and joint-surveys, if any. The same shall also be submitted in KML file clearly depicting the extent of forest land and non-forest land in the landscape.

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- iv. The State Government shall submit a detailed report on the action taken against illegal mining in the area surrounding the proposed area sought for diversion.
- v. The Regional Office MOEF&CC Bengaluru shall submit an updated SIR clearly highlighting the legal status of the mining voids and mined out area surrounding the proposed area sought for diversion. Furthermore, action taken on illegal mining, if any, may be brought out in the report.

Agenda No. 13

Proposal No. FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/471582/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 740.1592 ha Reserve Forest land for the construction of Dam and Micro Irrigation System Under Munjari Major Irrigation Project in favour of Water Resource Department under Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh State – regarding.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter No. PCCF/6/0005/2024-LM-PCCF dated 15.10.2024 (uploaded on PARIVESH on 28.10.2024) forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 740.1592 ha Reserve Forest land in favour of Water Resource Department for the construction of Dam and Micro Irrigation System Under Munjari Major Irrigation Project under Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh State.
 - ii. Legal Status of the forest land involved in the proposal is Reserve Forest having Eco-Class 3 & Canopy Density ranges from 0 to 0.3.
 - iii. The proposed area for diversion is almost a flat ground with very thin layer of soil on the surface. At most of the places, rocky outcrops can be noticed. The vegetation in the area is found to be very sparse with about 0

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

to 0.2 canopy density with Eco-class III vegetation cover. The area is very dry due to very low rainfall (750 mm). Due to this, flora and fauna including human population and local cattle are facing water scarcity. Thus, approx. 19000 population of 34 villages will be benefited due to instant project. The number of trees affected by the project is 20,761, as per the total enumeration conducted during Jan.-Feb., 2024. But, only 20,105 trees are proposed to be felled.

- iv. The proposed diversion area is more than 10 km from Kuno National Park and more than 20 km from Chambal Gharial Sanctuary. It also does not fall in any notified wildlife corridor and for the execution total requirement of land is 1013.476 ha. Out of which 740.1592 ha is Reserved Forest land and remaining 273.3168 ha is Revenue/ Govt./ Private land etc.

Sl.No.	Component	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
1	Construction of Dam Area	22.255	0
2	Construction of Maintenance Area	0.454	0
3	Construction of Approach Road	4.3335	1.2525
4	Construction of Transmission Line	8.6715	2.649
5	Construction of Switch Yard	0.18	0
6	Construction of Pump House	0.2	0
7	Construction of Control Room	0.1	0
8	Construction of Distribution Chamber	0.0697	0
9	Construction of Booster Pump	0	0.3
10	Laying of Pipe Lines	8.811	155.7216
11	Construction of Submergence Area	695.0845	143.0067
	Total	740.1592	302.9298

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- v. The State Govt. has informed that no family is being affected by the construction of this project. Since rehabilitation of people is not involved in this project.
- vi. The Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh informed the committee that the Munjari Major Irrigation Project is proposed to be constructed on the river Aheli (near village Munjari Tehsil- Baroda, District Sheopur of Madhya Pradesh) which is a seasonal river, flowing mainly during rainy season and remains dry for rest of the year. Therefore, the project would help in impounding water for larger period of time, which would be useful for local flora, fauna, cattle and about 40,000 families. The Aheli river drains into Parvati river which ultimately drains into river Chambal. The catchment area at site location is 300.70 Sq.Km. Since this area is dependent on rain, scarcity, conditions exist all the time. Crop yield is very low. The project area needs water for domestic and agriculture purpose.
- vii. The committee raised their concern regarding a large quantity of muck is expected to be generated as a result of construction of dam. Muck generated from excavation of any project component is required to be disposed in a planned manner so that it takes a least possible space and is not hazardous to the environment. It is of prime importance that muck disposal sites will have to be rehabilitated as soon as the disposal sites are full. In this regard, the Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh apprised the committee that in Munjari Irrigation Project the Excavated material will be fully utilised during construction of dam and small remaining will be utilised in levelling of land during construction of switch yard, Pumping Station, Power Station so there will be no muck remaining for disposal at other site.
- viii. The committee also noticed that the CA is proposed in both forest land (330.392 ha) and non-forest Revenue land (743.343 ha.). CA area are of non-forest land are nearby or adjacent to forest areas and CA in forest area are in degraded RDF working circle under Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh State. However, as depicted through DSS analysis some of the proposed CA patches in Revenue land are found overlapping with the forest compartment boundaries on the DSS. In this reference, the Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh apprised that the District Collector, Sheopur vide their different orders has allotted the 743.343 ha Revenue land in favour of State Forest Department against diversion of 740.1592 ha forest land in 13 patches in 5 villages in the instant proposal. The details of land allotted are as under:

Sl. No	District Collector, Sheopur order No and date.	Village	Land Transferred to Forest Department (in Ha)

Attested



 D
O
O
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

1	प्र.क्र./0031/अ-20(3)/23-24/7015 दिनांक 03.08.2023 एवं 20(3)/23-24/7561, दिनांक 21.06.2024	RanipuraMafi	401.01
2	प्र.क्र./0031/अ-20(3)/23-24/7013, दिनांक 03.08.2023	Gadala	57.296
3	प्र.क्र./0031/अ-20(3)/23-24/7007, दिनांक 03.08.2023	Karrai	179.307
4	प्र.क्र./0031/अ-20(3)/23-24/7005, दिनांक 03.08.2023	Kadawal	80.848
5	प्र.क्र./0031/अ-20(3)/23-24/7009, दिनांक 03.08.2023	Baragawa	24.882
		Total Area	743.343

- ix. The overlapping area falls within the forest compartment of Gothra, encompassing the villages of Karrai and Kadwal. However, the specific Khasra numbers of non-forest land received in these villages are not included within the Gothra forest compartment. Only two Khasra numbers in Kadwal and one in Karrai partially overlap with the Gothra forest compartment. These non-forest land parcels are additional to the forest land notified under the Madhya Pradesh Government's notification No. 5/117/84/x/3 dated 04.08.1984, published on 12.07.1986. The topographic map used for the ongoing project indicates partial overlap in this area. However, based on official records, the received non-forest land is not included within the forest compartment. Further informed that in the areas of Ranipur (Parts A, B, C, D, E, F), Kadwal, and certain sections of Karrai, the Non-forest revenue land proposed for CA, the forest density exceeds 0.4. Consequently, the remaining saplings will be planted in degraded forest areas. The State has proposed the following forest improvement programs:

- Fencing with Boulder Wall: To protect the area from encroachment and grazing
- Soil Moisture Conservation (SMC) Work: To improve the forest crop by conserving soil moisture.
- Seed Dibbling in Small Gaps: To ensure proper germination and growth of new plants in the gaps.

- x. It was informed to the Committee that the proposal was considered in Advisory Committee meeting held on 26.5.2025 wherein the Committee 'deferred' the proposal for want of following information:

- The State shall submit the duly filled Part-IV of the application form on PARIVESH 2.0.

Attested

[Handwritten Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- b) The copy of approved CAT plan by the Principal CCF & HoFF or any other officer authorized by him for the purpose as per para 9.2 (vii), Chapter-9 of the Handbook of guidelines and clarification issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be submitted.
- c) The approval from the State Dam Safety Organization under the Dam Safety Act, 2021 has been obtained, however the recommendation of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has not yet been submitted. The state shall provide the same.
- d) The State Government shall clarify whether it is a single standalone project on the Aheli river or other projects in near future have been planned.
- e) The details about the command area, irrigation potential, present cropping pattern, total population of the villages to be benefitted and the likely impact of the project on cropping pattern in future is essential for evaluating the socio-economic benefits of the project. The State shall submit a detailed report on these aspects.
- xi. The State Government has uploaded the point-wise information on PARIVESH portal on 21.7.2025. The State Govt. forwarded the recommendation of State Government in PART-IV, however, the same can not be uploaded on PARIVESH due to some technical reasons. The State Government has also forwarded a copy of technically approved Catchment Area Treatment Plan.
- xii. The State Government informed that as per letter dated 18.7.2025 of National Dam Safety Authority (NSDA)-Western Region, Pune, it is clarified that no specific concurrence or approval is required either prior to or during the construction stage of the dam under the Dam Safety Act, 2021. However, dam owners are mandated to undertake various statutory obligations as stipulated under the Act during and after the construction of specific dams.
- xiii. The State Government has also submitted a certificate by Executive Engineer, Water Resources Division, Sheopur certifying that Munjari Major Irrigation Project is a single standalone project on the Aheli river and currently there is no other ongoing/upcoming project proposed on upstream or downstream of proposed munjhari dam.
- xiv. The State Government submitted the detailed report about the command area, irrigation potential, present cropping pattern, total population of the villages to be benefitted and the likely impact of the project on cropping pattern in future is essential for evaluating the socio-economic benefits of the project.
- xv. It was informed to the Committee that the proposal was considered in Advisory Committee meeting held on 30.07.2025 wherein the Committee 'deferred' the proposal for want of following information:
- a) The State shall explore the possibility of providing bigger NFL patches for CA and accordingly submit the revised CA scheme and related KML files/documents.

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- b) The State ensure that the non-forest land proposed for the compensatory afforestation is free from all encumbrances and suitable for management.
- xvi. The State Government has submitted the point wise information on PARIVESH portal vide letter dated 10.09.2025. It is submitted by the State Government that there is no availability of the bigger patches at the same place. The certificate dated 28.08.2025 from the District Collector regarding the non-availability of the bigger patches is also submitted along with the State Govt. letter dated 10.09.2025.
- xvii. Further, it is informed by the State Government that the CA land proposed for the proposal is free from all encumbrances and suitable for the management. In this regard, the suitability certificate from the DFO Sheopur is also provided.
- xviii. The Advisory Committee noted that the proposed diversion area is located in Sheopur district, in the landscape of Kuno National Park—where the Government of India has initiated the Cheetah reintroduction project. Therefore, the State Government should be advised to obtain comments or a No Objection Certificate (NoC) from Project Cheetah under the NTCA, MoEF&CC. The Committee also emphasized that, given the large area proposed for submergence, it is essential to conduct a comprehensive study on the river's water volume across seasons, the affected population and villages, the potential benefits of the project, and its downstream impact.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for want of following information:
- i. The proposed diversion area is located in Sheopur district, in the landscape of Kuno National Park—where the Cheetah reintroduction project has been started. Therefore, the State Government shall obtain comments/(NoC) from Project Cheetah under the NTCA, MoEF&CC.
 - ii. Given the large area proposed for submergence, it is essential to conduct a comprehensive study on the water flow in the river across seasons, the affected population and villages, the potential benefits of the project, and its downstream impact. The state shall submit a study report in this regard.
 - iii. With regard to Compensatory Afforestation areas the state has informed that the bigger patches are not available in the concerned district. In this regard the state shall explore the availability of bigger CA patches in the adjoining districts.

Attested

Agenda No. 14

Online Proposal No. FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/516717/2024


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 9.08 ha Forest land (3.339 ha Protected Forest and 5.741 ha Reserved Forest) for the construction of Marshall Small Hydrel Power Project (24.75 MW) under Rewa Forest Division, Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State in favour of M/s Marshall Small Hydrel Power Pvt. Ltd. (Online No. FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/516717/2024) – regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their File No F-4/64/2024/10-11 dated 13.02.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 9.08 ha Forest land (3.339 ha Protected Forest and 5.741 ha Reserved Forest) in favour of M/s Marshall Small Hydrel Power Pvt Ltd, A-148, Emerald Park City, Near AIIMS, Bagsewania Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh for the construction of Marshall Small Hydrel Power Project (24.75 MW) under Rewa Forest Division, Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State.
 - ii. Prevailing Rules & Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023 issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023 regarding the instant proposal is as under:
 - (a) Rule 10 (2) (iii) issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023 issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023 says that 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, shall be examined and disposed of by the Central Government in the manner specified under these rules.
 - (b) Para 9.3 (i) of the Chapter-9 issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023 issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023 says that Cumulative Impact study of a basin would reflect the cumulative impact of commissioned/up-coming hydro-

Attested,



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

power projects in the basin on environmental flow, bio-diversity, muck disposal sites, traffic flow in the region, R&R issues, etc. While, the first project in a basin could come up without insisting on cumulative study for all subsequent hydro-power projects in the basin, it should be incumbent on the developer of the second/other project(s) to incorporate all possible and potential impact of other project(s) in the basin to get a cumulative impact assessment done. This condition shall be stipulated at the ToRs stage itself during the EC process. Once such a cumulative impact study has been done, the same could be shared by the Expert Appraisal Committee with AC. The Cumulative impact study in respect of bio-diversity component may be separately got done by one of the specialized institutes. While making recommendations on EC/FC for such projects, the EAC/FAC will take into account the results of such cumulative studies.

- iii. It has been submitted by the State Government that the total area involved in the proposal is 33.871 Ha. Out of this, 24.791 ha is Non-Forest Land (NFL) and the balance 9.08 ha is Forest Land. Out of the 9.08 Ha forest land involved in the proposal, 3.339 Ha is protected forest and 5.741 Ha is Reserved Forest with vegetation density 0.4 of eco class 3. The no. of trees to be felled is 1120.
- iv. The necessary details of land requirements have been submitted in part I of the PARIVESH portal. The KML files of land requirements (forest and non forest land) details were also submitted with the proposal. The State Government has submitted the following component wise breakup of the land use plan of the proposal:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)
1.	Approach Road to Camp Complex	0.5660	0
2.	Working area & Camp area	2.106	0
3.	Transmission line	0.37	17.80
4.	Power House, Switchyard, Penstock, TRC, Road and Connected Civil Structures Area	2.335	0
5.	Road to Power House	2.316	0
6.	Store Area	1.29	0
7.	Weir (Diversion Structure) Area	0.093	1.1905
8.	Intake structure area	0	0.324
9.	Road to Intake and Weir	0	0.2023
10.	Head Race Tunnel Area	0	0.7018
11.	Muck Disposal Area	0	4.5724
	Total	9.076	24.791

- v. The Cumulative assessment for impact study of river basin-carrying capacity and cumulative impact assessment study of river basin of Tohs river is not necessary for the proposed Marshall Small Hydro

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- Power Project since this project is the first project on the Tons river. This has been confirmed vide letter of the office of the Commissioner New & Renewal Energy indicating the Marshall Hydro Power Project is the first Hydro Power Project proposed in the Tones/Tamas river.
- vi. It has been submitted by the State Government that as per EIA notification, 2006, the project involving hydro electric power generation below 25 MW capacity do not require Environmental Clearance. The Capacity of the instant Project is 24.75 MW and does not fall under ESZ, Wildlife and protected area.
 - vii. The State Government reported that the project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation and therefore a resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required.
 - viii. The proposed project requires electricity for construction and operations. A 33KV line will be provided from Umari Substation to the project site switchyard, which will also export the generated power to the substation after completion of construction and commissioning. A new 11 kV / 33 kV transmission line will be laid from the nearest substation located at Umiri village approximately 12.14 km from the project site. Total area of the Transmission line is 18.1909 Ha, out of this, the UA will utilise only 0.37 hectares of forest land. A new DG set for backup of power will be installed.
 - ix. The State Govt. has already included this 0.37 ha of forest land in the proposal, which will be used for laying of 11 kV / 33 kV Tr. Line.
 - x. The State Government has submitted the copy of Muck disposal plan along with the proposal. Also, the CAT plan has been approved by the APCCF & Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh with a financial outlay of ₹4360635/-.
 - xi. It has been submitted by the State Government that the proposed forest land is not prone for soil erosion because the User Agency will not disturb natural streams and drains passing through the project site. If any soil erosion takes place the user agency will take mitigation measures.
 - xii. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 9.194 Ha of Non Forest land in a single patch in Village Kaadi, tehsil Mauganj, Khasra No. 11, 12, 14, 17, 18/1, 18/2, 19/1, 19/2, 20/1, 20/2, 21/1, 21/2, 22/1, 22/2, रकबा क्रमशः 1.473, 0.827, 0.550, 0.145, 0.521, 0.547, 0.291, 0.292, 1.064, 1.064, 1.097, 1.100, 0.112, 0.111, for which the technical approval has been granted by the CCF, Rewa vide order no. 304 dated 16.10.2024. The CA scheme has also been prepared for ₹0.7672 crores.
 - xiii. The Site Suitability certificate has been given by the DFO, Rewa for the proposed CA land. It has been further submitted by the State Government that the proposed CA land is adjacent to the forest land. As per DSS Analysis, the area proposed for CA land is found to be 9.172 Ha (as per GIS software) and 2 ha is characterized a MDF, 4 Ha as OF and 4 Ha as Non Forest (non- wooded) in terms of forest classes (as per ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2018-19.
 - xiv. The site inspection of the proposed CA site was done by the Regional Office Bhopal on 04.04.2025. As per SIR done by RO Bhopal, the area

Attested

[Signature]
 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF V/L(S) SHIMLA

- has a crown density of about 0.1 to 0.2 and no encroachment was found anywhere in the CA area. A scheme for plantation of 9200 trees was already prepared. The area is adjacent to Aadsarai PF 338, which is under the working control of the Madhya Pradesh Forest Development Corporation. The nearest wildlife sanctuary is Sone Gharial Sanctuary, located at about 9.00 km, which is beneficial to the sanctuary.
- xv. Further, the Regional Office Bhopal submitted that the area is suitable for raising plantation with a mixture of native species after taking up chain link fencing all around. The soil and moisture conservation works like staggered contour trenching is suggested for better results. Since the area is located at higher altitude, a watcher's hut cum watch tower is suggested to be constructed at a suitable location for better monitoring and shelter for the watcher.
- xvi. The Regional Office in its SIR also submitted that the User Agency has already taken up, the hydro-geological studies before submitting the proposal and also it is observed that there is a Purva fall in the river which creates a head of about 100 meter, sufficient for production of 24.75 MW power under the given situation. In addition, it is observed that all the areas in the river bed downstream of Purva falls are falling in RF/PF. So, any change in location of the project downstream of Purva falls to take advantage of the head, would require diversion of forest land. Therefore, the project is observed to be site specific in nature with no any other alternatives.
- xvii. The Regional Office recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:
- While constructing the structures as mentioned in the layout plan, the User Agency is suggested to fell only those trees which are required to be felled. Further, the vegetation near to the river bed shall be protected by a strong RCC wall. Also, the areas where no construction is required, the existing trees should be protected and also planted in gaps. The proposed road should have plantations on either side of the road.
 - The area is suitable for raising plantations with a mixture of native species after taking up chain link fencing all around. The soil and moisture conservation works like staggered contour trenching is suggested for better results. Since the area is located at higher altitude, a watcher's hut cum watch tower is suggested to be constructed at a suitable location for better monitoring and shelter for the watcher.
- xviii. It has been clarified by the User Agency that the pathway is integral to the Surge Shaft component and is required only for safe access of men and material. No additional forest land is involved; the total requirement remains 2.110 ha as proposed earlier. This ensures both technical feasibility and worker safety without any increase in land diversion. The detailed component wise breakup has been provided for the 2.11 ha forest land.

Attested



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
STATE OF MADHIA

- xix. The KML files of land requirement details were also submitted with the proposal. The necessary details of land requirements have been submitted in part I of the PARIVESH portal. As per the DSS analysis, out of 9.172 ha (KML file) area of CA land, 0.27 ha is falling in the Forest land based on the forest compartment boundary available on the DSS.
- xx. The State Government has forwarded the KML files in the polygon form and as per DSS Analysis, the total forest area and non forest area involved in the proposal is 9.054 Ha and 24.719 Ha respectively.
- xxi. The Advisory Committee observed that as per forest compartment boundary available on the DSS, out of 9.172 Ha (KML file) area of CA land, 0.27 Ha is falling in the forest boundary.
- xxii. The committee also observed that the User Agency in the past submitted the proposal for diversion of 12.8042 Ha (previous proposed area 13.1959 Ha) of Protected Forest land in survey No. PF-112 of forest range, Sirmour in Rewa division for construction of Hydro Power Project in favour of Manager, Marshal Small Hydro Power Private Limited, in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh (Online No. FP/ MP/ HYD/42686/2019). That proposal was discussed in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 25.04.2023 and it was decided that the proposal cannot be accepted in its present proposition due to following reasons:
- a. A patch of thick forest is existing between the water body and area proposed for diversion. The measures to safeguard the said forest patch while construction have not been submitted.
- xxiii. Thereafter, the State Government in reply to the observations made by Advisory Committee dated 25.04.2023 for the past proposal submitted that the construction of concrete wall and fencing shall be done for the around the said forest area and there will be a limited movement of labour/staff during the construction and operational phase.
- xxiv. The proposal was again considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 20.10.2023. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Dy. DGF, RO Bhopal and keeping in view the location of the proposed area the committee observed that mere construction of fencing may not be sufficient to safeguard the said forest area and state should have submitted a detailed plan for the same keeping in view the ground situation as well as presence of labour/staff during the construction and operation phases. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the proposal cannot be considered in its present proposition.
- xxv. The Committee observed that the User Agency in para 1.6 of Part I of the online application form of the instant proposal submitted that no proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for this project has been submitted in the past. In addition, the State Government in its submission has also not referred to this proposal submitted in the past.
- xxvi. The committee further observed that as per DSS Analysis, it has been found that the KML file of the alternatives has been uploaded in Part-I of the online application. However, both the alternative site and the

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

proposed forest land for diversion are falling at the same location and only the Road and Road along Power canal has been found changed from the alternative KML file to proposed layout under diversion. DSS report enclosed. Also, the State Government has not submitted the maps and details of forest land affected under different alternatives examined. However, the component wise KML files have been provided by the State Government.

xxvii. The ADG(WL) mentioned that this agenda has been brought de-novo by the State/UA without mentioning that the same proposal has been rejected by the FAC previously after in-length deliberation and said acts in the matter have been apparently concealed while submitting the extant proposal, denovo, therefore a clarification in this regard from Nodal Officer and Regional Office should be sought before taking the decision in the matter. The Committee noted the same.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '*deferred*' the proposal for prior approval under section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 9.08 ha Forest land (3.339 ha Protected Forest and 5.741 ha Reserved Forest) for the construction of Marshall Small Hydel Power Project (24.75 MW) under Rewa Forest Division, Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State in favour of M/s Marshall Small Hydel Power Pvt. Ltd. for want of following information:

- i. The User Agency in para 1.6 of Part I of the online application form submitted that no 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. In addition, the State Government in its submission has also not referred to any proposal submitted in the past. Whereas a proposal no. FP/ MP/ HYD/42686/2019 for the same project was submitted by the State Government and it was not approved by the Ministry. The user agency and the State shall submit a clarification for not submitting the correct information in the proposal. The Regional Office Bhopal shall also provide its comments in the matter.
- ii. The State Government shall furnish a detailed account of the modifications done in the present proposal, accompanied by a comparative analysis of the components contained in the earlier proposal.
- iii. The State in the past had submitted the proposal no. FP/ MP/ HYD/42686/2019 for diversion of 13.1959 ha and thereafter revised the area in this proposal to 12.8042 Ha, whereas in the proposal now under consideration the area sought for diversion is 9.076 ha only. The detailed justification in this regard shall be submitted.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA


- iv. As per forest compartment boundary available on the DSS, out of 9.172 Ha (KML file) area of CA land, 0.27 Ha is falling in the forest boundary. The State Government shall ensure to provide non forest land for raising compensatory afforestation.
- v. As per the KML files uploaded, the other alternative sites and the proposed site are at the same location. The only variation among the alternatives pertain to the alignment of the road and the road along the power canal. Furthermore, the State Government has not submitted the requisite maps and detailed information regarding the forest land affected under the various alternatives considered and the reasons for their rejection.

Agenda No. 16

Online Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/437171/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 28.079 ha forest land of Compartment No RF-23, Range Rewa under Rewa Forest Division for Tikar Bauxite Phase-I mining project of M/s Katni Minerals Private Ltd. in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/437171/2023) - regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF. (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their note No R-2142750/2024/10-3 dated 05.07.2024 forwarded a fresh diversion proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 28.079 ha forest land of Compartment No RF-23, Range Rewa under Rewa Forest Division for Tikar Bauxite Phase-I mining project of M/s Katni Minerals Private Ltd. in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State.
 - ii. The legal status of the proposed area is Reserve Forest.

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- iii. The State Govt. has informed that the affected trees in the proposed area were counted by the Range Officer Rewa. According to the report of the Range Officer Rewa, 6456 trees were counted through sampling methods. Later, on counting the standing trees again on actual basis, the number was found to be 16660. The proposed 28.079 ha Reserved forest land has mixed vegetation cover of Eco-class-III with canopy density of 0.4.
- iv. The LOI has been issued for the entire forest block of 95.26 ht. but since the entire forest block is not a mineralized zone and only 28.079-ha. forest area is available for the mining and allied activities in the mineralized zone therefore a proposal has been made only for the mineralized zone available within the block.
- v. The validity of the LOI dated 15.03.2022 issued by the Mineral Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh was for 03 years i.e. up to 14.03.2025. As per the provision of Rule 10(6) of Mineral Auction Rule 2015, the State Government may extend the time period of the LOI for another 02 years. The preferential bidder has applied for LOI extension on 23.09.2024 and accordingly, the Mineral Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide letter dated 13.03.2025 extended the validity of the LOI for another two years.
- vi. The committee noted that the State is submitting the forest diversion proposal in piecemeal manner and it is also reflecting in the title of the proposal like Tikar Bauxite Phase-I and in future the Phase-II may be come up. In this reference, the Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh informed that after prospecting the entire block and calculating the reserve of the entire forest block, it is found that the entire forest block is not mineral bearing area and only part of the forest area is mineralized area. That is why the area within the mining lease is marked in pieces to carry out non-forestry activity. The Mining proposals as per the approved Mining Plan is confined within the area proposed and applied for forest clearance and Mining operations in the auctioned block will be carried out by the bidder on the basis of the mining plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines, Govt. of India.
- vii. As per the details mentioned in the online proposal, the proposed forest land is having the presence of Schedule-I species and also the project site is home to many other important species like Leopard, hyena, jungle Cat, jackal, Blue cow, Wild boar, Black francolin, sambar deer, Grouse, Peacock, Quail, Parrot etc.
- viii. The State Govt. informed that the proposed forest land is part of the working plan prescription and the working plan of Forest Division Rewa is proposed for the year 2013-14 to 2022-23 in which the proposed forest land RDF is being developed. In working plan of division the details of any rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area has been reported nil but during site inspection some

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

flora and fauna has been reported accordingly by including the details of flora and fauna found in the landscape along with mitigation measure in order to conserve/ protect the same, wildlife conservation and management plan was prepared and submitted by user agency on 14.06.2024 to PCCF (wildlife) Madhya Pradesh, which is approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wild Life) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh by his official letter dated 03.02.2025. Since the proposed area does not come under any eco sensitive zone, hence the instant proposal does not require Wildlife Clearance under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The copy of approved wildlife conservation and management plan with financial outlay of ₹416.10 Lakh for 10 year approved PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW on dated 03.02.2025 has also been submitted with the proposal.

- ix. The DDGF(C), RO, Bhopal apprised the committee that the proposed diversion area is located inside a reserve forest on slope of a hillock. The slope is varying from steep to moderate. The floor of the proposed diversion area is covered with small boulders of mostly bauxite or lateritic soil. The vegetation in the area is dense with medium height trees. The regeneration is also excellent. The presence of excellent vegetation in the area may be due to the fact that there are no habitations in the nearby areas causing very little human/cattle pressure on the forest. The proposed area is on the north-western aspect of the hillock; therefore, the growth of vegetation is excellent. Since, the area has excellent vegetation; there is very little surface erosion. There are about 5 to 6 seasonal nalas existing in the area proposed for diversion. The proposed diversion area is approachable by a 90 meter new road connecting to an existing forest track. Though the area is situated far away from Sanjay Tiger Reserve or Son Gharial WLS, there is a good presence of wildlife in and around the proposed diversion area.
- x. DDGF(C), RO, Bhopal, also informed that the overburden produced will be much smaller in quantity as the deposit is mostly exposed to the surface. The total deposit comprises Bauxite and Laterite. The extraction of minerals will be done by Drilling and Blasting with Shovel and Dumper combination. The extracted mineral will be supplied to the cement plants as raw material. The transport of minerals to cement plants is proposed by road.
- xi. It is mentioned by the DDGF (C), RO Bhopal that the proposed diversion area is a virgin area and there was no non forestry activity. Hence, there is no violation in the proposed diversion area. As there is excellent vegetation and good presence of wildlife in and around the area, it is imperative to have the least adverse impact on the surrounding vegetation and wildlife due to mining.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xii. The DDGF(C), RO, Bhopal further informed that, in order to mitigate the adverse impact of mining in the surrounding area, it is suggested to have about 20 meter un-disturbed buffer area around the proposed diversion area and approach road. This may be done by erecting chain link fences all around at a distance of 20 meters from the proposed diversion area and also on either side of the proposed approach road. However, a wildlife mitigation plan and soil conservation plan shall also be prepared by the concerned DFO at the cost of the User Agency to reduce the impact of mining in the surrounding area.
- xiii. The Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh informed the committee that there were two mines sanctioned in the past around the proposed area in which mineral activities have been closed for the last 10 years.
- xiv. The State Govt. has informed that reclamation plan as provided in the approved mining plan, suggests that the overburden and the mining waste will be used in backfilling the void created by extraction of minerals. As the quantity of mineral extracted would be much larger than the overburden and mining wastes, the void would not be able to be filled up to the current level. Therefore, a depression with surface terrain similar to the current terrain would be left after mining and the same is proposed to be afforested at the cost of the User Agency.
- xv. The committee found that as per the DSS analysis the area proposed for diversion is having high biological richness. The Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the Director of Geology & mining Madhya Pradesh Bhopal vide letter no. 11812 dated 29.10.2024 has mentioned that "*This area has been auctioned as per the prospecting work carried out by the department during 1987-1989 field season. On the basis of providing mineral deposit and resources, the block was prepared and auctioned. Bauxite is a metallic mineral and main source for production of aluminum. Apart from the aluminum industry, it is also used in steel making, refractory, abrasive, cement and chemical industry. As on date no mineral resources are proven in the vicinity of the unbroken area.*"
- xvi. It was informed to the committee that the proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 16.04.2025, wherein the committee *deferred* the proposal for the want of the following:
- The evacuation of the mineral has been proposed through a road in the forest area which is just 3.5 meters wide. The efficacy, suitability and the carrying capacity of a 3.5 meter wide road for plying of trucks to transport minerals needs to be examined. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted.
 - The State shall provide the details of the existing 3.5 meters wide road passing through the forest land along with the copies of approval obtained under the Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Attested

Sty

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
G/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- c. The copy of NoC from the competent authority of the State Government regarding the impact on the Nalla(s) due to mining activity in the proposed forest land shall be submitted.
- d. The land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) in the proposal is found to be almost a linear patch on the ridge of a hillock beside Juhila river and the average width of the CA patch is around 100 meters. The area does not appear to be suitable from management point of view. Further, a black top road is also observed to be passing across the CA area indicating that the area is not free from encumbrances. Therefore, the CA area needs to be revised and relevant attributes like Map, KML file, Site suitability, CA scheme etc. shall be submitted accordingly.
- e. The State Govt. shall submit the copy of valid Lol.
- xvii. The State Government has uploaded the point wise information on the observations made by the Advisory Committee on 16.04.2025 on the PARIVESH portal vide letter dated 02.09.2025. The State Government has informed that the road has not been diverted under the VSESA, 1980 till date. The additional forest land would be required for the expansion of the road. It has also been submitted by the State Govt. that 3.688 Ha Non Forest land has been identified as CA land for the use and widening of the road to 6 m and at some places, it will be around 10 m wide. The State Government has also submitted the CA scheme for 3.688 Ha. non forest land identified against the use of the existing forest road for the use of the User Agency for the mineral evacuation.
- xviii. The State Government further submitted that there is no presence of the Nalla in the land proposed to be diverted. However, in the SIR report submitted by the Regional Office Bhopal, it is mentioned about the 5-6 seasonal Nalla(s) in the area.
- xix. The State Government also submitted that as per the report submitted by the DFO Anuppur vide letter dated 14.05.2025, the proposed CA site is found suitable for the plantation and management point of view. It is also submitted that the temporary road is being passed through the NFL provided for the CA land, which is being used by the locals. Before planting trees in the said area, the UA will, at its own expense, shift the road towards the south of the river for movement of villagers. There is no encroachment in the said proposed plantation area.
- xx. The State Government has informed that the Lol is valid till 12.03.2027.
- xxi. The State Government has informed that the additional forest land would be required for the widening of the proposed forest road for mineral evacuation. Accordingly, a comprehensive proposal needs to be submitted by the State Government by including the road which will be used for mineral evacuation.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA


- xxii. The Committee also observed that the Regional Office Bhopal in its Site Inspection report submitted about the presence of the 5-6 seasonal Nallas in the area proposed for diversion. However, the State Government submitted that there is no presence of Nalla in the area. The State Government may provide the ground position on the presence of the Nalla(s) in the area proposed for diversion.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '*deferred*' the proposal for diversion of 28.079 ha forest land of Compartment No RF-23, Range Rewa under Rewa Forest Division for Tikar Bauxite Phase-I mining project of M/s Katni Minerals Private Ltd. in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State for want of following information:
- i. The State Government has informed that additional forest land would be required for the widening of the existing road to 6 m and at some places, around 10 m, which will be used for the mineral evacuation purpose. Accordingly, the state shall include the entire area involved in the road to be used for mineral evacuation and submit a comprehensive proposal for diversion of forest land.
 - ii. The state shall verify the legal status of existing road, and submit a detailed report in this regard.
 - iii. The State Government vide letter dated 02.09.2025 had informed that there is no Nalla(stream) in the area proposed for diversion. However, the Regional Office, Bhopal during Site Inspection has observed the presence of 5-6 seasonal Nallas in the area proposed for diversion. The State Government shall examine the matter and take necessary measures accordingly.

Agenda No. 19

Online Proposal No. FP/OR/SCH/472483/2024


Sub: Proposal for seeking *ex-post facto* approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 2.803 ha of Revenue Forest (Sabik Forest) Land for construction of Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) at Erendei village of Patna Tahasil in Keonjhar District under Keonjhar Forest Division by ST &

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

SC Development Department/ District Welfare Officer, Keonjhar. (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/SCH/472483/2024)-reg.

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha and DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The Government of Odisha as per the provisions of the Rules 10 (2) (iv) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 has submitted the instant proposal vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0088-2024-25594/FE&CC dated 20.12.2024 on the above subject through PARIVESH portal on 31.12.2024.
 - ii. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India have envisaged to establish new EMRS in every block having 20,000 tribal persons and 50% ST population by the year 2022. Accordingly, Govt. of Odisha in ST & SC Development Department had submitted proposal to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India for establishment of such schools in different tribal populated blocks in the State of Odisha and about 100 such EMRS units in accordance with the said new scheme of Govt. of India are to be enrolled.
 - iii. Govt. of Odisha, ST & SC Development Department had proposed for establishment of 92 new EMRS in the sub-districts of the State having more than 20,000 tribal persons and 50% ST population. Respective Collectors have been requested to identify minimum 15 Acres of land against the proposed new EMRS locations for setting up of dedicated infrastructure for each new EMRS vide letter No. 1089 dated 17.01.2019. Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide their letter dated 12.11.2020 have sanctioned 87 Nos. (30+57) of EMRS. The instant project is at Sl. 12 of the "list of locations to be sanctioned by the year 2022."
 - iv. The aim and objective of the project is to facilitate education and residential facilities for the students for their overall empowerment and different activities. The Management i.e. Govt. of Odisha under ST & SC Development Department will take all efforts to achieve the mission and vision of the project by way of ensuring quality education among the tribal students with special reference to remote tribal areas. The governing body is a high level body constituted for the purpose under the chairmanship of the Secretary, ST & SC Development Deptt. for providing guidance and for smooth functioning of the units. At the district level, the management is headed by the Collector of the concerned district with 8 members from different background.
 - v. After thorough field verification at District level, Block level and Tehsil level, an area of 3.259 ha (2.803 ha of Sabik KISSAM Forest Land and 0.456 ha


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA


- non-forest land) at village Erendei under Patna Tehsil of Keonihar District has been finalised for the project.
- vi. The proposed location is found to be the most suitable site keeping in view the population, nos. of young boys and girls awaiting such opportunity to be enrolled in such mainstream of facilities for their education & future to strengthen their socio-economic condition in the greater interest of the State and the country as well. Subsequently, the land was surveyed by forest, revenue staff in presence of ORSAC staff and finally authenticated by ORSAC and the application hence is being filed for approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
- vii. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India intended to establish a new EMRS in every block having 20,000 tribal persons and 50% ST population by the year 2022. Accordingly, Govt. of Odisha, ST & SC Development Department requested concerned Collectors to identify such locations in different blocks of their jurisdiction with area of minimum 15 Acres for each new EMRS to set up the dedicated infrastructure for imparting quality education to the beneficiaries. Keeping in view the criteria of MoTA, efforts were made at district level to identify such locations primarily in Govt. non-forest land. In course of identification of suitable sites at par with guidelines, it was not feasible to find out suitable non-forest Govt. land.
- viii. Besides, the cost factor, number of tribal students assessed to be enrolled, communication facility, economic standard of the tribal people was also taken into consideration to meet the main objective of establishing of EMRS to educate maximum number of ST students. Considering all the above aspects, 3.259 ha land at village Erendei under Patna Tehsil of Keonjhar District has been finalised for the project which includes 2.803 ha of Sabik Kissam Forest Land and 0.456 ha non-forest land. 2.803 ha is the barest minimum of forest land.
- ix. As reported, construction of Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) at Erendei Village of Patna Tahasil in Keonjhar District under Keonjhar Forest Division involves 2.803 ha Sabik Kissam Forest Land and 0.456 ha Non Forest Land. The details of forest land involved in the project is furnished below:

SI No.	Name of the Tahasil	Name of the Village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Forest land in Ac.	Forest land in Ha.	Kisam
1	Patna	Erendei	353	1043	6.741	2.728	Sabik
2			353	1041	0.184	0.075	Forest
		Total			6.925	2.803	

The details of non-forest land involved in the project is furnished below:

SI No.	Name of the Tahasil	Name of the Village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Forest land in Ac.	Forest land in Ha.	Kisam
1	Patna	Erendei	354	935	0.996	0.403	Govt.
2			354	1069	0.131	0.053	Non-Forest

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

		Total		1.127	0.456	
--	--	--------------	--	--------------	--------------	--

Purpose-wise breakup of the total forest land required for the project:

Purpose of Utilization.	Revenue Forest Land (Ha.)	Non-Forest Land (Ha)	Total (Ha)
Construction of Ekalavya Model Residential School	2.803	0.456	3.259

- x. The land schedules of the forest land and non-forest land involved in the project including status of the land as on 25.10.1980 duly authenticated by Tahasildar, Patna Tahasil and countersigned by DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, are enclosed. The DGPS map of the proposed diversion of forest land of the project duly authenticated by the ORSAC is enclosed.
- xi. As per Part-II and Site Inspection Report of DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, there are 25 Nos. of trees standing over the applied area. The average density is 0.1 with Eco Value Class-I. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division in the Site Inspection Report, there is apparent absence of wildlife in the applied area as the site is almost in the town area.
- xii. In the Part-II and Site Inspection Report, the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division has reported that there are 25 Nos. of trees standing in project area. As per the detailed tree enumeration list, 12 numbers of trees are standing in forest area proposed for diversion (Khata No.353, Plot No.1041 and 1043) and 13 numbers of trees standing in non-forest area (Khata No.354, Plot No.935). The abstract of tree enumeration duly signed by the user agency and countersigned by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division have been provided.
- xiii. Environmental Clearance (EC) under Environment (Protection) Act, 2006 is not applicable for the proposed construction of school as per provision of the Act. The certificate submitted by the UA and duly signed by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division.
- xiv. As the proposed diversion of forest land is less than 20 ha, Cost-Benefit Analysis is not applicable for this project. The statement submitted by the UA and duly signed by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division is enclosed.
- xv. In lieu of construction of 11 Nos. of EMRS in 6 Nos. of districts i.e. Malkangiri (1No.), Sambalpur (1 No.), Jajpur (1 No.), Keonjhar (4 Nos.), Kandhamal (3 Nos.) and Rayagada (1 No.), 88.157 ha degraded revenue forest land has been identified in village Karadangi under Telkoi Tahasil of Keonjhar district in Keonjhar Forest Division. AS reported by the Additional PCC (FD &NO, FC Act), O/o the PCCF & HOFF, Odisha, the project wise CA land detail as per identification is given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of the EMRS	Forest area proposed for diversion in Ha	DRFL identified for CA in Ha
1	Malkangiri	Motu	4.050	8.100

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

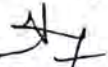
2	Sambalpur	Tulub	5.067	10.134
3	Jajpur	Kakudia	3.857	7.713
4	Keonjhar	Badahundula	3.689	9.712
5	Keonjhar	Arsala	3.238	6.474
6	Keonjhar	Udayapur	4.067	8.134
7	Keonjhar	Erendei	2.803	8.093
8	Kandhamal	Daberi	4.000	8.000
9	Kandhamal	Gundurugaon	1.882	3.764
10	Kandhamal	Kotagarh	4.000	8.400
11	Rayagada	Sarikima	4.816	9.632
		Total	42.720	88.157

- xvi. For the instant proposal, in lieu of diversion of 2.803 ha forest land, degraded revenue forest land over an area 8.093 ha. has been identified in Karadangi Village of Telkoi Range under Telkoi Tahasil in Keonjhar District. The land schedule of the CA land is enclosed. The details of CA land is given below:

Name of the Tahasil	Name of the village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Area in Ac.	Kissam
Telkoi	Karadangi	397	2585(P)	20.000	Patra Jungle
			Total in Ac.	20.000	
			Total in Ha	8.093	

- xvii. The above degraded revenue forest land has been allotted by the Collector & Dist. Magistrate, Keonjhar vide his letter No. 1757/Rev dated 31.08.2024. The joint verification report of the degraded revenue forest land duly signed by the Forest and Revenue officials is enclosed. The land suitability certificate duly signed by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division have been provided.
- xviii. Site Specific Compensatory Afforestation Scheme over 8.093 ha degraded revenue forest land has been prepared by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division and approved by the Nodal Officer for ₹20,79,500/- (Rupees twenty lakh seventy nine thousand five hundred only). The scheme includes ANR plantation @ 200 plants per ha over 8.093 ha, SMC activities over 8.093 ha and provision of fencing and watering.
- xix. The species proposed for plantation under Compensatory Afforestation Scheme are Sisso (Dalbergia sissoo), Neem (Azadiracta indica), Gambhari (Gmelina arborea), Bahada (Terminalia belerica), Harida (Terminalia chebula), Karanja (Pongamia pinnata), Amla (Embllica officinalis), Asan (Terminalia tomentosa), Rose wood (Dalbergia latifolia), Bija (Pterocarpus marsupium), Arjun (Terminalia arjuna), Jamun (Syzygium cumini), Mahul (Madhuca latifolia), Simaruba (Simaruba glauca), Panas (Artocarpus heterophyllus), Tentuli (Tamarindus indica), Kusum (Schleichera oleasa), Kasi (Bridelia retusa) and Kurum (Adina cordifolia) etc. 1619 (8.093 ha x

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- 200) Nos. of seedlings can be accommodated in the identified CA land. To accommodate balance 1184 (2803-1619) Nos. of seedlings, 5.536 ha degraded forest land has been identified in Poipani RF under Ghatgaon Range of Keonjhar Forest Division. 60.00 ha degraded forest land has been identified in Poipani RF for the Additional Compensatory Afforestation for the 11 EMRS as mentioned above, out of which, 5.536 ha degraded forest land is for Additional Compensatory Afforestation against Erendei EMRS.
- xx. Site Specific Additional Compensatory Afforestation scheme over 5.536 ha degraded forest land has been prepared by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division and approved by the Nodal Officer for ₹19,44,300/- (Rupees nineteen lakh forty four thousand three hundred only). The scheme includes ANR plantation @500 plants per ha over 5.536 ha, SMC activities over 5.536 ha and provision of fencing and watering. Copy of the approved Compensatory Afforestation Scheme and Additional Compensatory Afforestation Scheme have been provided. The user agency has furnished an undertaking countersigned by DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division to bear the cost of Compensatory Afforestation.
- xxi. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly counter signed by DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division to furnish Forest Right Act Certificate before the final approval.
- xxii. As per Form-I and the certificate given by the User Agency, there will be no displacement of any human habitation so the rehabilitation and resettlement plan is not required for this project. The certificate submitted by the user agency duly countersigned by the DFO, Keonjhar division in this regard.
- xxiii. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in their letter F.No.11-9/98-FC dated 08.07.2011 have issued guidelines that all applications seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose must be accompanied by Geo-referenced boundary in shape file pertaining to forest land proposed for diversion. These documents/ Maps are required to ensure accurate delineation of the forest area to be diverted. The User Agency in compliance to this order, has submitted the required DGPS map of 2.803 ha of forest land proposed for diversion duly authenticated by ORSAC and duly signed by revenue and forest officials.
- xxiv. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division to pay the NPV of the forest land proposed to be diverted. Further, the User Agency has also furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division to pay the additional amount of NPV if so, determined as per the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- xxv. As reported by the DO Keonjhar in the Site Inspection Report, the proposed site is almost in the town area with apparent absence of any wildlife. However, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking to pay the cost of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan, if required in lieu of diversion of forest land.
- xxvi. As reported by the DFO Keonjhar Forest Division in Part-II and the Site Inspection Report, the EMRS building has been constructed over 1.80 ha on the forest land proposed for diversion without obtaining prior approval of the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan)

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Adhinyam, 1980. As the aforesaid land is Sabik Kissam Forest land, the DFO, Keonjhar Division has requested the Collector, Keonjhar vide letter No. 9375 dated 18.11.2024 to take legal action under OPLE Act for the above violation and intimate DFO, Keonjhar Division.

xxvii. As per the analysis of the Decision Support System (DSS), it has been observed that the construction of a building has already been completed at the identified site. In light of this, the State Government was requested to provide an Action Taken Report under Sections 3A/3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

xxviii. In response, the State Government has submitted that, based on the DSS findings, the construction has already occurred. Accordingly, the District Collector, Keonjhar, has submitted the required report to the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Keonjhar Division. Further, in response to the DFO's letter dated 22.01.2025, the District Collector has provided a detailed clarification:

- a. The construction pertains to an Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS), a flagship initiative jointly undertaken by the Government of India and the Government of Odisha to enhance educational outcomes among Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) students. The EMRS project at Patna Block was sanctioned by the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) during the financial year 2021-22, with Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) entrusted as the implementing agency.
- b. Following NESTS' approval, the Collector, Keonjhar, through letter No. 313/welfare dated 28.01.2019, directed the Tahasildar, Patna, to identify suitable government land. In response, the Tahasildar submitted a land plan and schedule (letter No. 333 dated 11.02.2019), identifying land classified as non-forest in current revenue records. The site was barren, devoid of tree cover, and the proposal was strongly supported by elected local representatives and tribal community members.
- c. Based on this, and after obtaining approval from the District-Level Site Selection Committee chaired by the Collector, HSCL commenced construction. Time-series imagery from Google Earth confirms that no tree felling occurred during the construction period.
- d. However, during the process of land mutation and verification of Sabik (old) records, it was discovered that the land had been previously recorded under *Jungle Kissam*. Upon this revelation, the Tahasildar transparently reported the matter to the District Welfare Officer and the Collector. Though construction was already underway, the matter was promptly reported to the Forest Department, and a forest diversion proposal was initiated to regularize the inadvertent violation.
- e. Subsequent inspections by the DFO, Keonjhar, and the DIGF, IRO Bhubaneswar, confirmed that the construction had taken place in good faith, without any malafide intent, based on the available land classification records at the time.
- f. Additionally, the DFO, through letter dated 20.06.2025, informed the Range Officer that a request had been sent to the Collector, Keonjhar (vide letter No. 1552 dated 13.02.2025), to report on the action taken against officials responsible for the violation of the Forest

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

(Conservation) Act, 1980, specifically for construction over 1.80 hectares of forest land without prior approval under Section 2(ii) of the Act.

- g. In compliance, the Collector, Keonjhar, submitted the Action Taken Report vide letter No. 2088 dated 13.06.2025. The DC has reported that With reference to the letter of DFO dated 13.06.2025, that, the Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) is a flagship initiative of the Government of India and the Government of Odisha which is aimed at enhancing educational outcomes among tribal students and bridging the educational gap between tribal and non-tribal communities. In alignment with the National Education Policy and directives from the Government in ST&SC Development & MBCW Department, Odisha, the EMRS projects have been prioritized across various districts.
- h. In this context, the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) sanctioned an EMRS for Patna Block for the benefit of ST & SC students vide letter No. F.No.18015/11/2019-EMRS during the financial year 2021-22. The construction work was allotted to Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) vide order No. F. No. 18015/09/2020-NESTS.
- i. Subsequently, the Collector, Keonjhar, vide his letter No. 313/welfare dated 28.01.2019, requested the Tahasildar, Patna to identify suitable Government land for establishment of EMRS in Patna Block. In response, Tahasildar, Patna submitted the land plan and schedule to the Collector, Keonjhar vide letter No. 333/dated 11.02.2019. The land was verified and recorded as non-forest in the current revenue records. The site was barren, devoid of any trees, and was strongly supported by local tribal communities and elected representatives.
- j. Following site approval by the District-level Site Selection Committee chaired by the Collector, HSCL commenced construction. Google Earth time-series imagery confirms that no tree felling occurred on the site during the construction of EMRS.
- k. However, during the process of mutation and verification of the Sabik (old) records, it was revealed that the land was previously classified as Jungle Kissam. The Tahasildar, acting responsibly and transparently, reported this to the District Welfare Officer and Collector. Although the construction had already commenced, the matter was duly reported to the Forest Department, and it was resolved to regularize the inadvertent violation by submitting a formal forest diversion proposal. Subsequent site inspections by the DFO, Keonjhar, and DIGF. IRO, Bhubaneswar, have corroborated that the action was taken in good faith based on available records, with no malicious intent or wilful violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- l. The concerned officer acted in good faith, relying on the revenue records available at the time, with no intent to violate the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The primary objective was to serve the tribal population comprising approximately 45% of Keonjhar district's population by facilitating the establishment of much-needed educational infrastructure in a region critically underserved in this regard.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- m. In support of this position, the following legal precedents and constitutional provisions are cited, which collectively underscore the need to balance procedural compliance with larger public interest, particularly in matters concerning tribal welfare and access to education.
- a) **T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union of India (1997) 2 SCC 267:** The Hon'ble Supreme Court recognized that bona fide use of forest land for public interest, particularly in tribal and backward regions, may be regularized subject to compensatory measures and adherence to environmental safeguards.
 - b) **Lafarge Umiam Mining vs. Union of India (2011):** The Court emphasized the need to balance tribal development with ecological concerns, permitting essential projects where due diligence and good faith are evident.
 - c) **State of Rajasthan vs. Shamsheer Singh (1985):** It was held that actions taken in good faith for public benefit, even if procedurally flawed, deserve a liberal interpretation under law.
 - d) **Zudpi Jungle Case (Maharashtra, 2025)** The Apex Court allowed regularization of forest land use for public benefit if done prior to December 12, 1996, or inadvertently, provided it serves the larger public interest.
 - e) **The Doctrine of Bona Fide Mistake and "Actus non facit reum nisi mens sit rea"** protect government officers acting without criminal intent and in good faith under the colour of office.
 - f) **Article 21A** of the Constitution of India guarantees the fundamental right to education, particularly for marginalized communities, and **Article 46** mandates the promotion of educational and economic interests of SC/ST populations.
- n. The actions of the Tahsildar and the District Welfare Officer (DWO) may be rightly viewed as acts carried out in good faith and with bona fide intent, thereby warranting legal protection. Their conduct was aligned with the larger public interest, specifically aimed at advancing the welfare of marginalized tribal communities, in accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution of India, which mandates the promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.
- o. There was no criminal intent or wilful violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; rather, the lapse was purely procedural in nature, committed without mens rea-as encapsulated in the legal maxim "Actus non facit reum nisi mens sit rea" (an act does not make a person guilty unless there is a guilty mind). Therefore, the error may be viewed as condonable.
- p. In view of the aforesaid circumstances, I would request you to consider the condonation of the inadvertent procedural lapse and facilitate regularization of the EMRS project at Patna under applicable legal and environmental provisions. Disruption of this project would adversely affect the educational prospects of marginalized tribal children and go against the principles of social equity and inclusive development.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xxix. The State Government has informed that, based on the DSS analysis, the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar has submitted a detailed report to the Collector, Keonjhar, which has been forwarded to the IRO Office addressed to the Deputy Director General of Forests, detailing the action initiated against the officials responsible for the violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and both reports have been provided.
- xxx. The Committee noted that the instant proposal involved violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. EMRS building has been constructed over 1.80 ha on the forest land proposed for diversion without obtaining prior approval from the MoEF&CC, which is a violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xxxi. The Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions that "Since, the instant proposal is public utility project, diversion of 2.803 Ha of forest land is recommended with the condition that 5 times Penal NPV, Penal CA may be imposed and action against erring officials may be initiated besides the general standard conditions".
4. **Decision of Advisory Committee:** After thorough deliberation and discussion with DDGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Govt. of Odisha and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee recommended the proposal for granting 'in-principle' approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 2.803 ha of Revenue Forest (Sabik Forest) Land for construction of Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) at Erendei village of Patna Tahasil in Keonjhar District under Keonjhar Forest Division by ST & SC Development Department/ District Welfare Officer, Keonjhar subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:
- The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forestland per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
 - The Action under 3A/3B shall be initiated by the State Government as applicable.
 - The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.
 - The State Government shall examine the matter and initiate disciplinary action (if applicable) against the officials concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of Government of India.

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Agenda No. 20

Online Proposal No. FP/OR/SCH/472579/2024

Sub: Proposal for seeking ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.05 ha of Revenue Forest (Sabik Forest) Land for construction of Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) at Udayapur village of Saharpada Tahasil in Keonjhar District under Keonjhar Forest Division by ST & SC Development Department/ District Welfare Officer, Keonjhar (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/SCH/472579/2024) reg.

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha and DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The Government of Odisha as per the provisions of the Rules 10 (2) (iv) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 has submitted the instant proposal vide their letter No. No. FE-DIV-FLD-0087-2024-25603/FE&CC dated 20.12.2024 on the above subject through PARIVESH portal on 31.12.2024.
 - ii. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India have envisaged to establish new EMRS in every block having 20,000 tribal persons and 50% ST population by the year 2022. Accordingly, Govt. of Odisha in ST & SC Development Department had submitted proposal to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India for establishment of such schools in different tribal populated blocks in the State of Odisha and about 100 such EMRS units in accordance with the said new scheme of Govt. of India are to be enrolled.
 - iii. Govt. of Odisha, ST & SC Development Department had proposed for establishment of 92 new EMRS in the sub-districts of the State having more than 20,000 tribal persons and 50% ST population. Respective Collectors have been requested to identify a minimum 15 Acres of land against the proposed new EMRS locations for Setting up of dedicated infrastructure for each new EMRS vide letter No. 1089 dated 17.01.2019. EMRS was proposed in Turumunga Block of Keonjhar District. Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide their letter F. No. 11015/05(18)/2019-EMRS dated 12.11.2020 while sanctioning 87 Nos (30+57) of EMRS, have approved the change of location of the EMRS from Turumunga Block to Saharpada Block of Keonjhar District. The instant project is at Sl. 11 of the "list of locations to be sanctioned by the year 2022".
 - iv. The aim and objective of the project is to facilitate education and residential facilities for the students for their overall empowerment and different activities. The Management i.e. Govt. of Odisha under ST & SC Development Department will take all efforts to achieve the mission and vision of the project by way of ensuring quality education among the tribal students with special reference to remote tribal areas. The governing body is a high level body constituted for the purpose under the chairmanship of the Secretary, ST & SC Development Deptt. for providing guidance and for smooth functioning of the

Attested,



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- units. At the district level, the management is headed by the Collector of the concerned districts with 8 members from different backgrounds.
- v. After thorough field verification at District level, Block level and Tahasil level, 4.05 ha of Sabik Kissam Forest Land at village Udayapur under Saharpada Tahasil of Keonjhar District has been finalised for the project.
 - vi. The proposed location is found to be the most suitable site keeping in view the population, nos. of young boys and girls awaiting such opportunity to be enrolled in such mainstream facilities for their education & future to strengthen their socio-economic condition in the greater interest of the State and the country as well.
 - vii. Subsequently, the land was surveyed by Forest Revenue staff in presence of ORSAC staff and finally authenticated by ORSAC and the application hence is being filed for approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - viii. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India intended to establish a new EMRS in every block having 20,000 tribal persons and 50% ST population by the year 2022. Accordingly, Govt. of Odisha, ST & SC Development Department requested concerned Collectors to identify such locations in different blocks of their jurisdiction with area of minimum 15 Acres for each new EMRS to set up the dedicated infrastructure for imparting quality education to the beneficiaries. Keeping in view the criteria of MoTA, efforts were made at district level to identify such locations primarily in Govt. non-forest land. In course of identification of suitable sites at par with guidelines, it was not feasible to find out suitable non-forest Govt. land.
 - ix. Besides, the cost factor, number of tribal students assessed to be enrolled, communication facility, economic standard of the tribal people were also taken into consideration to meet the main objective of establishing of EMRS to educate maximum number of ST students. Considering all the above aspects, 4.05 ha of Sabik Kissam Forest Land at village Udayapur under Saharpada Tahasil of Keonjhar District has been finalised for the project, which is the barest minimum of forest land.
 - x. As per the application, construction of Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) at Udayapur village of Saharpada Tahasil in Keonjhar District under Keonjhar Forest Division involves 4.05 ha Sabik Kissam Forest Land and no Non Forest Land is involved in the project.

The detail of forest land involved in the project is furnished below:

S No.	Name of the Tahasil	Name of the Village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Forest land in Ac.	Forest land in Ha.	Kisam
1	Saharpada	Udayapur	693	1631	9.240	3.739	3.739
2			695	1634	0.278	0.113	0.113
3			695	1635	0.032	0.013	0.013
4			693	2281	0.457	0.185	0.185
Total					10.007	4.050	4.050

Purpose-wise breakup of the total forest land required for the project.

Purpose of Utilization.	Revenue Forest
-------------------------	----------------

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

	Land (Ha.)
Construction of Ekalavya Model Residential School	4.05

- xi. The land schedule of the total land involved in the project including status of the land as on 25.10.1980 duly authenticated by Tahasildar, Saharpada Tahasil and countersigned by DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, is enclosed. The DGPS map of the proposed diversion of forest land of the project duly authenticated by the ORSAC is enclosed.
- xii. As per Part-II and Site Inspection Report of DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, there are no trees standing in the proposed forest area of 4.05 ha., only lantana shrubs present in the applied area. The average density is taken into consideration is 0.1 with Eco Value Class-I. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division in the Site Inspection Report, there is apparent absence of wildlife in the applied area as the site is almost in the town area and there is no vegetation in the area.
- xiii. In the Part-II and Site Inspection Report, the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division reported that there is no tree standing in the forest area involved in the project. The statement regarding tree enumeration duly signed by the user agency and countersigned by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division is enclosed.
- xiv. Environmental Clearance (EC) under Environment (Protection) Act, 2006 is not applicable for the proposed construction of school as per provision of the Act. The certificate submitted by the UA and duly signed by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest.
- xv. As the proposed diversion of forest land is less than 20 ha, Cost-Benefit Analysis is not applicable for this project. The statement submitted by the UA and duly signed by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division is enclosed.
- xvi. In lieu of construction of 11 Nos. of EMRS in 6 Nos. of districts i.e Malkangiri (1 No.), Sambalpur (1 No.), Jajpur (1 No.), Keonjhar (4 Nos.), Kandhamal (3 Nos.) and Rayagada (1 No.), 88.157 ha degraded revenue forest land has been identified in village Karadangi under Telkoi Tahasil of Keonjhar District in Keonjhar Forest Division.

As intimated by the Additional PCCF(FD &NO, FC Act), O/o the PCC & HOFF, Odisha, the project wise CA land detail is given below.

S. No.	Name of the District	Name of the EMRS	Forest area proposed for diversion in Ha	DRFL identified for CA in Ha
1	Malkangiri	Motu	4.050	8.100
2	Sambalpur	Tulub	5.067	10.134
3	Jajpur	Kakudia	3.857	7.713
4	Keonjhar	Badahundula	3.698	9.712
5	Keonjhar	Arsala	3.238	6.474
6	Keonjhar	Udayapur	4.067	8.134
7	Keonjhar	Erendei	4.046	8.093
8	Kandhamal	Daberi	4.000	8.000

Attested

[Signature]
 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

9	Kandhamal	Gundurugaon	1.882	3.764
10	Kandhamal	Kotagarh	4.000	8.400
11	Rayagada	Sarikima	4.816	9.632
		Total	42.720	88.157

For the instant proposal, in lieu of diversion of 4.05 ha forest land, degraded revenue forest land over an area 8.134 ha has been identified in Karadangi Village of Telkoi Range under Telkoi Tahasil in Keonjhar District. The land schedule of the CA land is enclosed. The detail of CA land is given below:

Name of the Tahasil	Name of the village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Area in Ac.	Kissam
Telkoi	Karadangi	397	2478 (P)	21.100	Patra Jungle
			Total in Ac.	20.100	
			Total in Ha	8.134	

The above degraded revenue forest land has been allotted by the Collector & Dist. Magistrate, Keonjhar vide his letter No. 1757/Rev dated 31.08.2024.

The joint verification report of the degraded revenue forest land duly signed by the forest and revenue officials is enclosed. The land suitability certificate duly signed by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division is enclosed.

Site Specific Compensatory Afforestation scheme over 8.134 ha degraded revenue forest land has been prepared by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division and approved by the Nodal Officer for ₹20,87,600/- (Rupees twenty lakh eighty seven thousand six hundred only). The scheme includes ANR plantation @ 200 plants per ha over 8.134 ha, SMC activities over 8.134 ha and provision of fencing and watering.

The species proposed for plantation under Compensatory Afforestation Scheme are Sisso (Dalbergia sissoo), Neem (Azadiracta indica), Gambhari (Gmelina arborea), Bahada (Terminalia belerica), Harida (Terminalia chebula), Karanja (Pongamia pinnata), Amla (Emblica officinalis), Asan (Terminalia tomentosa), Rose wood (Dalbergia latifolia), Bija (Pterocapus marsupium), Arjun (Terminalia arjuna), Jamun (Syzygium cumini), Mahul (Madhuca latifolia), Simaruba (Simaruba glauca, Panas (Artocarpus heterophyllus), Tentuli (Tamarindus indica), Kusum (Schleichera oleasa), Kasi (Bridelia retusa) and Kurum (Adina cordifolia) etc. 1627 (8.134 ha x 200) Nos. of seedlings can be accommodated in the identified CA land. To accommodate balance 2423 (4050-1627) Nos. of seedlings, 5.562 ha degraded forest land has been identified in Poipani RF under Ghatgaon Range of Keonjhar Forest Division. 60.00 ha degraded forest land has been identified in Poipani RF for the Additional Compensatory Afforestation for the

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

11 EMRS as mentioned above, out of which 5.562 ha degraded forest land is for additional Compensatory Afforestation against Udayapur EMRS.

Site Specific Additional Compensatory Afforestation scheme over 5.562 ha degraded forest land has been prepared by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division and approved by the Nodal Officer for Rs.20,89,100/- (Rupees twenty lakh eight nine thousand one hundred only). The scheme includes ANR plantation @500 plants per ha over 5.562 ha, SMC activities over 5.562 ha and provision of fencing and watering.


Copy of the approved Compensatory Afforestation Scheme and Additional Compensatory Afforestation Scheme are enclosed. The user agency has furnished an undertaking countersigned by DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division to bear the cost of Compensatory Afforestation and to bear the cost of Addl. Compensatory Afforestation.

- xvii. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly counter signed by DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division to furnish Forest Right Act Certificate before the final approval.
- xviii. As per Form-I and the certificate given by the User Agency, there will be no displacement of any human habitation so the rehabilitation and resettlement plan is not required for this project. The certificate submitted by the user agency duly countersigned by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division in this regard.
- xix. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in their letter F.No. 11-9/98-FC dated 08.07.2011 have issued guidelines that all applications seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose must be accompanied by Geo-referenced boundary in shape file pertaining to forest land proposed for diversion. These documents/ Maps are required to ensure accurate delineation of the forest area to be diverted. The User Agency in compliance to this order, has submitted the required DGPS map of 4.05 ha of forest land proposed for diversion duly authenticated by ORSAC and duly signed by revenue and forest officials.
- xx. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division to pay the NPV of the forest land proposed to be diverted which is enclosed. Further, the User Agency has also furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division to pay the additional amount of NPV if so, determined as per the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- xxi. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division in the Site Inspection Report, the proposed site is almost in the town area with apparent absence of any wildlife as there is no vegetation. However, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking to pay the cost of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan, if required in lieu of diversion of forest land.
- xxii. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division in Part-II and the Site Inspection Report, the EMRS building has been constructed over 2.55 ha on the forest land proposed for diversion without obtaining prior approval of the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. As the aforesaid land is Sabik Kisam Forest land, the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division has requested the Collector, Keonjhar vide letter No.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- 9378 dated 18.11.2024 to take legal action under OPLE Act for the above violation and intimate DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division.
- xxiii. As per the analysis conducted through the Decision Support System (DSS), it has been observed that the construction of the Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) building has already taken place over an area of 2.55 hectares of forest land at Udayapur, Keonjhar, without obtaining prior approval under Section 2(1)(ii) of the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980*. Accordingly, the State Government was requested to provide an Action Taken Report under Sections 3A/3B of the said Act, wherever applicable.
- xxiv. In response, the State Government has reported that the Collector, Keonjhar was requested vide letter No. 3757 dated 03.04.2025 to furnish details of the action taken against the erring officials responsible for the said violation.
- xxv. Subsequently, the Collector, Keonjhar submitted the compliance report on the matter vide letter No. 2087 dated 13.06.2025. This report has been forwarded to the Deputy Director General of Forests, Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Bhubaneswar, vide letter No. 6380 dated 20.06.2025, with copies marked to all concerned authorities.
- xxvi. The DC has informed that that, the Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) is a flagship initiative of the Government of India and the Government of Odisha which is aimed at enhancing educational outcomes among tribal students and bridging the educational gap between tribal and non-tribal communities. In alignment with the National Education Policy and directives from the Government in ST&SC Development & MBCW Department, Odisha, the EMRS projects have been prioritized across various districts.
- xxvii. In this context, the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) sanctioned an EMRS for Saharpada Block for the benefit of ST & SC students vide letter No. F. No. 11015/05(18)/2019, EMRS during the financial year 2021-22. The construction work was allotted to Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) vide order No. F. No. 18015/09/2020-NESTS.
- xxviii. Subsequently, the District Welfare Officer, Keonjhar, vide his letter No. 66/welfare dated 08.01.2021, requested the Tahasildar, Saharpada to identify suitable Government land for establishment of EMRS in Saharpada Block. In response, Tahasildar, Saharpada submitted the land plan and schedule to the Sub-Collector, Keonjhar vide letter No. 1495/Rev dated 27.05.2022. The land was verified and recorded as non-forest in the current revenue records. The site was barren, devoid of any trees, and was strongly supported by local tribal communities and elected representatives.
- xxix. Following site approval by the District-level Site Selection Committee chaired by the Collector, HSCL commenced construction. Google Earth time-series imagery confirms that no tree felling occurred on the site during the construction of EMRS.
- xxx. However, during the process of mutation and verification of the Sabik (old) records, it was revealed that the land was previously classified as Jungle KISSAM. The Tahasildar, acting responsibly and transparently, reported this to the District Welfare Officer and Collector. Although the construction had already commenced, the matter was duly reported to the Forest Department, and it was resolved to regularize the inadvertent violation by submitting a formal forest diversion proposal. Subsequent site inspections by the DFO,

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 D/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Keonjhar, and DIGF, IRO, Bhubaneswar, have corroborated that the action was taken in good faith based on available records, with no malicious intent or wilful violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

- xxxi. The concerned officer acted in good faith, relying on the revenue records available at the time, with no intent to violate the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The primary objective was to serve the tribal population comprising approximately 45% of Keonjhar district's population by facilitating the establishment of much-needed educational infrastructure in a region critically underserved in this regard.
- xxxii. In support of this position, the following legal precedents and constitutional provisions are cited, which collectively underscore the need to balance procedural compliance with larger public interest, particularly in matters concerning tribal welfare and access to education.
- a. **T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union of India (1997) 2 SCC 267:** The Hon'ble Supreme Court recognized that bona fide use of forest land for public interest, particularly in tribal and backward regions, may be regularized subject to compensatory measures and adherence to environmental safeguards.
 - b. **Lafarge Umiam Mining vs. Union of India (2011):** The Court emphasized the need to balance tribal development with ecological concerns, permitting essential projects where due diligence and good faith are evident.
 - c. **State of Rajasthan vs. Shamsheer Singh (1985):** It was held that actions taken in good faith for public benefit, even if procedurally flawed, deserve a liberal interpretation under law.
 - d. **Zudpi Jungle Case (Maharashtra, 2025)** The Apex Court allowed regularization of forest land use for public benefit if done prior to December 12, 1996, or inadvertently, provided it serves the larger public interest.
 - e. **The Doctrine of Bona Fide Mistake and "Actus non facit reum nisi mens sit rea"** protect government officers acting without criminal intent and in good faith under the colour of office.
 - f. **Article 21A** of the Constitution of India guarantees the fundamental right to education, particularly for marginalized communities, and Article 46 mandates the promotion of educational and economic interests of SC/ST populations.
- xxxiii. The actions of the Tahsildar and the District Welfare Officer (DWO) may be rightly viewed as acts carried out in good faith and with bona fide intent, thereby warranting legal protection. Their conduct was aligned with the larger public interest, specifically aimed at advancing the welfare of marginalized tribal communities, in accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution of India, which mandates the promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.
- xxxiv. There was no criminal intent or wilful violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; rather, the lapse was purely procedural in nature, committed without mens rea-as encapsulated in the legal maxim "Actus non facit reum nisi mens sit rea" (an act does not make a person guilty unless there is a guilty mind). Therefore, the error may be viewed as condonable.
- xxxv. In view of the aforesaid circumstances, I would request you to consider the condonation of the inadvertent procedural lapse and facilitate regularization of

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- the EMRS project at Patna under applicable legal and environmental provisions. Disruption of this project would adversely affect the educational prospects of marginalized tribal children and go against the principles of social equity and inclusive development
- xxxvi. This submission serves as the formal compliance of the directive seeking an Action Taken Report under the provisions of the *Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980*, in relation to the unauthorized construction on forest land.
- xxxvii. In response to the observation based on satellite imagery indicating the presence of an old plantation (2010–2012) within the area proposed for raising Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA), the State Government has submitted the following clarification:
- The Assistant Conservator of Forests, In-charge of Ghatgaon Range, has reported (vide Memo No. 28 dated 09.01.2025) that a teak plantation was indeed raised in the identified area of Poipani Reserved Forest approximately 10 to 12 years ago. However, due to significant biotic pressure and the presence of poor-quality soil (murum and rocky terrain with interspersed ravines), the plantation has become partially damaged and degraded over time, beyond the period of maintenance. As such, the area has been identified as requiring restocking through Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR).
 - Accordingly, 60.019 ha of degraded forest land has been earmarked in Poipani RF for raising the balance 26,500 seedlings under the ACA plan.
 - Further, the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar, has confirmed that there is no issue in planting 2,781 seedlings over 5.562 ha of the proposed ACA site under the EMRS project, and the site is suitable for plantation, despite the fact that a portion of it was previously planted.
 - This justification has been provided to support the selection of the proposed site for Additional Compensatory Afforestation.
- xxxviii. Land use wise KML file has been analysed by the DSS Cell of FC Division. Observations are as under:

Component Name	Area (ha)
ENTRY GATE / SECURITY	0.004
ROAD	0.1575
BADMINTON COURT	0.0573
FOOTBALL PLAYGROUND	0.1086
BOYS HOSTEL (G+1)	0.1299
WARDEN RESIDENCE	0.0157
PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE	0.0141
KITCHEN & DINING	0.0795
SCHOOL	0.1923
U.G SUMP PHASE -I	0.0028
GIRLS HOSTEL (G+1)	0.128
BORE WELL PHASE -II	0.0008
SEPTIC TANK	0.0192
U.G SUMP PHASE -II	0.0032
ARCHERY	0.157

Attested



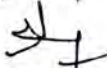
3
2
1
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

HERBAL GARDEN	0.1437
GREEN VEGETATION	0.0878
PLAY GROUND	0.4388
SUB STATION	0.0101
BORE WELL PHASE -I	0.0007
PATHWAY	0.0586
TYPE II QUARTERS	0.1059
VACANT LAND	2.1355
Total	4.051

xxxix. In compliance with the request to submit a detailed justification for selection of the project site and to clarify why the proposed Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) cannot be established on non-forest land, the State Government has submitted the following information:

- a. The **Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Keonjhar** has furnished a justification based on inputs received from the **user agency**, stating that the primary objective of the EMRS project is to provide **quality education to students from the tribal community**. In line with this goal, a thorough assessment was undertaken to identify suitable land for the project.
- b. As reported, **no suitable non-forest Government land** was available in the area that could meet the specific requirements of the EMRS, including accessibility, connectivity, and proximity to tribal habitations. During the site selection process, the following key factors were considered:
 - Estimated number of tribal student enrolments.
 - Accessibility and communication facilities.
 - Socio-economic condition of the local tribal population.
- c. The user agency initially identified **three potential sites**, and upon detailed evaluation, the site at **Udayapur** was finalized as the most suitable, based on the following merits:
 - A larger number of villages and tribal students would benefit from the project at this location compared to the other two sites.
 - No tree felling is required for construction at the selected site.
 - No rehabilitation or displacement of local communities is involved.
 - The site is well-connected in terms of transportation and lies in proximity to essential services such as hospitals, grocery stores, and security facilities.
- d. Although the proposed land is classified as **forest land**, the selection of this site has been made **in the greater interest of the tribal community**, based on logistical, social, and environmental considerations. The **detailed justification**, along with relevant enclosures, has been furnished by the **District Welfare Officer, Keonjhar**, through letter No. 2432/welfare dated 15.07.2025, addressed to the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, and the same has

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
G/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA


been PROVIDED with the submission for record and further necessary action.

- xi. The Committee noted that with regard to the action taken against the erring officials responsible for violation, the State Government has reported that the Collector Keonjhar was requested to intimate the action taken against the erring officials responsible for violation in construction of Ekalavya Model Residential School (CMRS), building over 2.55 ha in forest land. Accordingly, the Collector, Keonjhar has submitted the compliance report on the above matter and the same has been sent to the Deputy Director General of Forests, Regional Office, Ministry of Forest Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of India, Bhubaneswar with copy to all concerned.
- xli. State Government has reported that the area involved in violation is over 2.55 ha and period of violation is from 2023 to 2024.
- xlii. The financial outlay of CA Scheme over 8.134 ha of Degraded Revenue Forest Land identified in village-Karadangi under Telkoi Tahasil in Keonjhar Forest Division against diversion has been approved by the Addl. PCCF (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act) for ₹20,87,600/- (Rupees twenty lakhs eighty seven thousand and six hundred) only as per matrix 2024-25 of approved One-time cost norm.
- xliii. The Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions that "Since, the instant proposal is public utility project, diversion of 4.05 Ha of forest land is recommended with the condition that 5 times Penal NPV, Penal CA may be imposed and action against erring officials may be initiated besides the general standard conditions".

4. **Decision of Advisory Committee: Decision of Advisory Committee:** After thorough deliberation and discussion with DDGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Govt. of Odisha and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee recommended the proposal for granting 'in-principle' approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.05 ha of Revenue Forest (Sabik Forest) Land for construction of Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) at Udayapur village of Saharpada Tahasil in Keonjhar District under Keonjhar Forest Division by ST & SC Development Department/ District Welfare Officer, Keonjhar subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:

- i. The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forestland per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
- ii. The Action under 3A/3B shall be initiated by the State Govt. as applicable.
- iii. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- iv. The State Government shall initiate disciplinary action(if applicable) against the officials concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of Government of India.

Agenda No. 21

Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/MIN/449153/2023

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU), Directorate of Mines & Geology, (Forest Diversion Cell) for non-forestry use of 55.44 ha of forest land existing within total mining lease area of 67.177 ha of Kalimati Manganese Block under Barbil Tahasil in village Badakalimati & Balda of Keonjhar District under Keonjhar Forest Division, Odisha (pre embedded clearance) (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/MIN/449153/2023)-reg.

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha and DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The Government of Odisha under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 of clause 10 (5) (i) has submitted the above-mentioned proposal on PARIVESH portal on 13.06.2024.
 - ii. Legal status of the proposed forest land is District Level Committee (D.L.C.) Forest – 53.828 and Revenue Forest – 1.612.
 - iii. As the DFO Part-II the area applied for diversion is hilly with cliff on one side. The area with slope is prone to soil erosion. Therefore, there should be a proper plan/design to arrest soil particles the project area. The User Agency may be insisted upon to plan and implement this activity at project cost.
 - iv. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division in Part-II and Site Inspection Report, the proposed project area the forest land (Revenue & DLC Forest), involved in the mining lease, is


Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

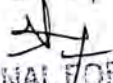
- predominantly characterized with distribution of Sal and Sal associates.
- v. Total 6155 no. of trees of different girth and species has been proposed to be felled.
 - vi. The proposed project area not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor etc. the proposed project area is not part of any protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument There is no rare /Endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the proposed project area.
 - vii. The distance of the project area from the Karampada Elephant Corridor is 18.92 Km.
 - viii. The DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division has reported in his Site Inspection Report that the Kalimati Manganese Block has been carry out of erstwhile S.G.B.K Iron & Manganese Block in Keonjhar District. Originally, the SGBK (Siljora Guruda-Balda-Kalimati) Iron & Manganese Block, over an area of 1011.50 ha was granted in favour of M/s Serajuddin & Co. in the year 1947.
 - ix. A number of quarries had been opened covering almost every deposit of the block & mining continued till 1982.
 - x. Subsequently, Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. (OMC) was appointed as an agent of the State Govt. vide Letter No.6849/SM dt.05.06.1982 for operationalization of the mines. After taking over the SGBK Block, the OMC had undertaken detailed exploration for mine planning and development in the mineralized zone and carried out mining in different quarries already broken up by ex-lessee M/s Serajuddin & Co. in phased manner up to 23.11.2006.
 - xi. During site inspection by the DFO, Keonjhar the pits, road and dumps have been noticed in the aforesaid applied land, without obtaining the forest clearance under FC Act, 1980 which are depicted below:
 - a. There is a road over 1.1 KM in length and 0.39 ha in forest area, passing though the mining lease area.
 - b. One dump is established over 2.15 ha in the mining lease area.
 - c. There are 5 quarries over 4.67 ha in the mining lease area.
 - d. Total DLC area where violation is noticed is 7.21 ha.
 - e. Mining lease pillars & Safety Zone pillars are found in the field except two to three pillars in damaged condition.
 - xii. The OMC Ltd. has undertaken the mining activities in the applied land until 23.11.2006. However, the user agency has not obtained the forest clearance under FC Act, 1980, although the diversion proposal submitted by the user agency over 305.282 ha was processed and transmitted onwards. Further, the Collector, Keonjhar has been requested vide office letter No.1787 dt.26.02.2024 of the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division to take necessary action in this regard as per extant rule.
 - xiii. The DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division has reported that an extent of 55.44 ha non-forest Govt. land is required for Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of 55.44 ha of Forest Land proposed for

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- diversion which will be met from the identified and allotted non-forest Govt. land over 55.44 ha in village Sudanga under Banspal Tahasil of Keonjhar District in favour of Kalimati Manganese Block under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District, Odisha, allotted to Directorate of Mines & Geology, Odisha vide Letter No.70/Rev dt.08.01.2024 of Collector, Keonjhar and the letter of the Collector, Keonjhar.
- xiv. The Scheme for Compensatory Afforestation over 34.44 ha of Open Forest category thereby accommodating 34,440 nos. of seedlings and Soil Moisture Conservation activities will be done over the entire Non-forest land of 55.44 ha.
- xv. Additional Compensatory Afforestation over 42.00 ha has been identified in Baunsuli RF under Patna Range to accommodate the balance seedlings of 21,000 nos. and the Additional Compensatory Afforestation scheme has been prepared as per onetime cost norm on Base Norm for the year 2024-25 with a maintenance period of 10 years in ANR model @500 seedlings/ha.
- xvi. The land suitability certificate for raising CA and additional CA furnished by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division.
- xvii. The project does not involve displacement of any human habitation and therefore the Re-settlement and Rehabilitation plan is not warranted.
- xviii. The DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division has reported that, the project proponent has requested the Collector, Keonjhar to provide the certificate under FRA, 2006 over an area 55.44 ha forest land within Kalimati Manganese Block under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District, Odisha. However, as per new FCA Rules, 2023 under clause 11 (7) compliance of the FRA certificate has to be ensured by the State Government after final approval of the Central Government.
- xix. The State authorities have recommended the proposal.
- xx. The proposal involved diversion of 55.44 ha of forest land within the total area of 67.177 ha land of Kalimati Manganese Block in Keonjhar District of Odisha for mining and allied activities. The Kalimati Manganese Block has been carved out of erstwhile S.G.B.K. Iron & Manganese Block in Keonjhar District. Originally, the SGBK (Siljora-Guruda-Balda-Kalimati) Iron & Manganese Block, over an area of 1011.50 ha (2499.4 Ac) was granted in favour of M/s Serajuddin & Co. in the year 1947. A number of quarries had been opened covering almost every deposit of the block & mining continued till 1982. Subsequently, Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. (OMC) was appointed as an agent of the State Govt. vide Letter No.6849/MG dt.05/06/1982 for operationalization of the mines. After taking over the SGBK Block, the OMC had undertaken detailed exploration for mine planning and development in the mineralized zone and carried out mining in different quarries already broken up by excesses M/s Serajuddin & Co. in phased manner up to 23.11.2006. Govt. of Odisha in Steel & Mines Department had reorganized the SGBK block and carved out Kalimati Manganese Block, over 67.177 ha vide Letter No.8221/SM dated 06.10.2017

Attested,


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- and reserved the said Block for auction with pre-embedded clearance vide their Letter No.10134/S&M dated 24.11.2020.
- xxi. Kalimati Manganese Mines is located in village-Badakalimati and Balada under Barbil Tahasil in Keonjhar district of Odisha.
- xxii. The State Government has informed that to increased revenue for the State Government in a sustainable development framework, the procedural formalities required for obtaining statutory clearances of various authorities of the Central and State Governments by the successful bidder which often lead to delay in commencement of production of mines. In fitness, Central Govt. has amended the MMDR Act, 1957 through Mineral Laws Amendment Act, 2020 & 2021 with a view to ease and expedite the processes for brown field projects.
- xxiii. As a result of this, MoEF&CC issued guidelines in this regard vide Letter F.No.22- 2/2020-IA.III dated 29.04.2020 and clarified that the State Government/ Union Territory administration might apply as Project Proponent seeking prior approval for use of forest land for non-forestry purpose under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and after obtaining such approvals the State Government/Union Territory Administration might transfer the said approval (under relevant provisions of FCA, 1980 and rules & guidelines made thereunder) to a new user agency i.e. Successful bidder with Letter of Intent and the guideline issued by Govt. of India, MoEF&CC on dated 29.04.2020. Pursuant to the above clarifications of MoEF&CC, the Govt. of India, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section 2(i) of Section 20A of the MMDR Act, 1957, issued detailed guidelines of pre-embedded clearances vide their Order No.16/4/2020-M. VI, dated 03.06.2020 and directed the State Governments to set up a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) with a view to get pre-embedded clearances for the mines which are ready for auction. Accordingly, Govt. of Odisha in Steel & Mines Department vide their Notification No.9978/SM dated 20.11.2020, notified that the Forest Diversion Cell in the Directorate of Mines would act as Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) to carry forward the implementation of guidelines issued by Central Govt. for auction of mineral blocks with pre-embedded clearances. Further, Govt. of Odisha in Steel & Mines Department vide their letter No.10134/S&M dated 24.11.2020 informed that State Govt. had decided to go for auction of the two blocks with pre-embedded clearances on pilot basis, namely Kalimati Manganese Block and Unchabali Iron & Manganese Block, both in Keonjhar District.
- xxiv. Dr. Amarpalli Roy, Deputy Conservator of Forests & Head/ Team Leader, PMU, Director of Mines & Geology has been authorized to sign, submit, file an application for seeking permission/ approval of the project.
- xxv. The total Mining Lease area of Kalimati Manganese Block is over 67.177 ha, out of which 55.440 ha is in the records of DLC & Revenue Department. The mining proposals are site-specific and the minerals are confined to a particular area irrespective of the

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

classification of the land. As per approved Mining Plan, all the potential grades of manganese are confined to forest areas only. There is no alternative other than exploiting the ore deposit in the forest area to cater to the requirement of the manganese. As the maximum area (82%) of the Mining Lease is forest area, diversion of the same for non-forestry use is inevitable under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

xxvi. The purpose wise breakup of the existing land use pattern of the project is furnished below:-

Sl. No	Description	Forest Land (ha)		Total (ha) (A)	Non-Forest Land (ha)		Total (ha) (B)	Grand Total (ha) (A+B)
		Rev. Forest (ha)	DLC (ha)		Govt. Land	Pvt. Land		
1	Area under excavation	0.000	2.671	2.971	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.671
2	Overburden/ Waste dump	0.000	0.707	0.707	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.707
3	Plant, Sheds & Building	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
4	Road	0.000	0.725	0.725	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.725
5	Infrastructure (Weigh Bridge, Workshop, Office Labour Colony, HEMM Parking)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
6	Safety Zone 7.5 mts	0.316	2.096	2.412	0.604	0.000	0.604	3.016
7	Area under exploration and subsequently converted to mining and allied activities	1.290	41.920	40.920	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.671
	Total	1.612	53.828	55.440	11.737	0.000	11.737	67.177

xxvii. The purpose wise breakup of the proposed land use pattern of the project is furnished below:-

Sl. No	Description	Forest Land (ha)		Total (ha) (A)	Non-Forest Land (ha)		Total (ha) (B)	Grand Total (ha) (A+B)
		Rev. Forest (ha)	DLC (ha)		Govt. Land	Pvt. Land		
1	Area under excavation	0.000	11.84	11.84	0.000	0.000	0.000	11.84
2	Overburden/ Waste dump	0.000	10.039	10.039	3.076	0.000	3.076	13.115
3	Mineral Processing Plant	0.000	1.787	1.787	1.013	0.000	1.013	2.8

Attested

[Signature]
 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

4	Road (Minerall Hault Approach)	0.211	0.873	1.084	0.457	0.000	0.457	1.541
5	Infrastructure (Weigh Bridge, Workshop, Office Labour Colony, HEMM Parking)	1.085	2.409	3.494	1.339	0.000	1.339	4.833
6	Storage	0.000	2.311	2.311	0.689	-	0.689	3.000
7	Magazine	0.000	0.16	0.16	0.000	-	0.000	0.16
8	Safety Zone 7.5 mts	0.316	2.096	2.412	0.604	0.000	0.604	3.016
9	Water Body, Ground water recharge pond	0.000	1.063	1.063	0.000		0.000	1.063
10	Area under exploration and subsequently converted to mining and allied activities	0.000	21.25	21.25	4.559	0.000	4.559	25.809
Total		1.612	53.828	55.440	11.737	0.000	11.737	67.177


xxviii. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, with reference to the Term of Reference (ToR) from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Impact Assessment Division, Govt. of India, the project proponent has to prepare and submit the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan in respect of the instant diversion Proposal. In this regard, the project proponent has submitted an undertaking.

xxix. The DFO, Keonjhar Division has reported that a Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan covering the entire forest area for Wildlife Management of Bonai & Keonjhar Division has already been prepared. Accordingly, the User Agency has to pay @ ₹1,03,100/- per hectare for the entire ML area of 67.177 ha, as per revised norm approved by Govt. of Odisha communicated vide Memo No.1183/FE&CC dt.19.01.2024. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to bear the cost of Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan.

xxx. the safety zone is 2.412 ha forest land (Revenue Forest land-0.316 ha + DLC forest land- 2.096 ha). The details of forest land located in the safety zone involved in the mining lease is furnished hereunder:

Details of Safety Zone Area			
Item	Revenue Forest Land (in ha)	DLC Forest Land (in ha)	Grand Total (in ha)

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

7.5 mtrs width all along the Mining lease Boundary in respect of Kalimati Manganese Block	0.316	2.096	2.412
---	-------	-------	-------

- xxxix. The DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division has reported that project proponent has submitted the phased reclamation plan over 61.763 ha at the wage rate of @₹3521- per man days with 10 years maintenance amounting to ₹1,81,40,101.915 for approval.
- xxxix. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, the Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has been approved by IBM vide File No.MCDRM/FL0Mn/8/2023-BBS-IBM_RO_BBS dated 18.07.2023 with validity of excavation proposal which will expire within 5 (five) financial year from execution of the mining lease.
- xxxix. As per DSS, the proposed forest land for diversion is not located within 10 Km distance to any Wildlife sanctuary, National Park, Tiger Reserve and Tiger Corridor.
- xxxix. The instant proposal falls under Not In High Conservation Zone (NHCV) category as per the DSS Rule-1 & 2.
- xxxix. After the examination of the proposal, the Ministry vide letter 16.07.2024, through online, requested the State Government to submit additional information on certain points. The State government vide letter dated 3418/9F (mg)-19/2024 dated 13.02.2025 through online, submitted the required information.
- xxxix. The State Govt. has informed that the Collector, Keonjhar has issued the revised allotment vide his letter No 1615/Rev dated 17.08 2024. In this letter, it is clarified that due to typographical error, it was mentioned in the 2nd para of letter No 70 dated 08.01.2024 as degraded forest land instead of non-forest land allotted for raising Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of aforesaid diversion of forest land.
- xxxix. The State Government has reported that the Kalimati Manganese Block has been carved out of the erstwhile S.G.B.K Iron & Manganese block which was in continuous operation from 1946 till 2006. In the meanwhile, the State Govt. have reorganized the SGBK Block and separated out an area measuring 67.177 ha in village Bada-Kalimati and Balda out of total 1011.50 ha, exclusively for exploitation of manganese mineral and reserved the said block for auction with pre-embedded clearances. The Kalimati Manganese Block will be put to auction only after obtaining statute clearances. As the said Manganese Block is located within an active mining zone and has but carved out of previously working SGBK mine, the existing mineral extraction pathways will be used for transportation of minerals. No new extraction path outside the mining area shall be proposed in the next five years. The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Odisha has given an undertaking to this effect.
- xxxix. As regards the installation of mobile crusher, the conditions as stipulated in para 7.8(1)(d) will be abided by the new lessee in letter

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- & spirit The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Odisha has given an undertaking to this effect.
- xxxix. The State Government has reported that as per the available record, the total area of the erstwhile SGBK Iron & Manganese Block was 1011.50 ha out of which Forest land – 181.060 ha (Revenue Forest) and Non-forest land – 830.440 ha (Non-forest Govt. land-685.36 ha + 145.080 ha Non-forest private land).
- xl. As per DLC report dated 12.12.1996 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, out of total 685.36 ha Non-forest Govt. land, 380.918 ha is DLC forest land. Therefore, the revised land schedule of the erstwhile SGBK Mines which is furnished below:
- a. Forest land – 561.978 ha (Revenue forest-181.060 ha +380.918 ha DLC Forest)
 - b. Non-forest – 449.522 ha.
- xli. As reported a total area of 372.514 ha (24.812 ha Village forest + 155.301 ha DLC forest + 192.401 ha Non-forest land) was found to have been broken up prior to 1997 for mining operation within the SGBK Mining Block. Accordingly, the breaking of 155.301 ha of DLC land, had happened prior to 12.12.1996 when it was non-forest in revenue records Mining has been stopped since 23.11.2006. Based on the availability of minerals, the Government had decided to reorganize the block in the year 2017. Out of a total of 1011.5 ha, an area measuring 63.227 ha was deleted from the limits of the SGBK Block, being considered a non-mineralized zone, and Kalimati Manganese Block, comprising 67.177 ha (55.44 ha of forest land and 11.737 ha of non-forest land), was carved out exclusively for the exploitation of Manganese ore and treated as a new block.
- xlii. No forest area has been diverted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for mining and allied activities so far. However, the forest area over 12.27 ha of new SGBK Block has been diverted for Prospecting of Minerals vide MOEF & CC File No 5-ORC384/2019-BHU dated 12.12.2022.
- xliii. The present proposal is for diversion of 55.44 ha of forest land in respect of Kalimati Manganese Block for mining and other allied activities under Section 2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xliv. The State Government has reported that the proposal for the diversion of 305.282 ha of forest land submitted by M/s OMC Ltd has been closed by the Ministry due to non-receipt of information sought by them even after the lapse of a period of more than 5 years as intimated by MoEF & CC vide their letter F. No. 8-24/2007-FC dtd. 29.01.2018.
- xlv. Further, as per the decision of the state Government an area of 67.177 ha having only manganese deposits in the villages of Bada-Kalimati & Balda has been separated out from the SGBK Iron & Manganese Block and treated as a new mineral block rich in Manganese. It comprises 55.44 ha of forest land (Revenue forest 1.612 ha and DLC forest 53.828 ha), and the remaining 11.737 ha is non-forest land. Hence the present user agency i.e. the Director

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- of Mines & Geology, Odisha has applied for diversion over aforesaid 55.44 ha forest land.
- xlvi. Regarding violation, the State Government has reported that the mining lease had been granted years before the enactment & coming into force of the FC Act, 1980. The Lessee Company continued mining under an interim order of status quo of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta, till 1982. On disposal of the writ, the state Government took over the possession.
- xlvii. Looking at the unfolding field situation in the form of law & order and the restiveness of the workers demanding continuity in employment, OMC was permitted to operate the mine immediately. The mining activity continued in view of the volatile field situation. Therefore, permission was accorded to OMC to operate the mine as an agent of the government simultaneously with the initiation of the diversion proposal under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, which was situationally compelling. Moreover, implicitly the permission was to carry on mining on broken up land.
- xlviii. The DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division has clarified vide his office letter no 228 dated 07.01.2025 addressed to the DDGF, MoEF&CC, RO, Bhubaneswar, that as per the joint verification report submitted by the Tahasildar, Barbil, vide his memo no 3951 dated 19.09.2024, the non-forestry work over 7.21 ha has been carried out by M/s OMC Ltd before 1996, i.e. before the concept of DLC came into existence. Hence, as per point No. 1.1(A)(b) of the consolidated guideline and clarification on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 with amendment made in 1988 and 2023 issued by MoEF&CC, Gol, New Delhi on dated 29.12.2023, the above non-forestry activity of M/s OMC Ltd over 7.21 ha was done before 12.12.1996 & hence, it may not be treated as a violation.
- xlix. Regarding non-site specific activities proposed over forest land the State Government has reported that the total Mining lease area is 67.177 ha out of which 11.737 ha is Non-forest land. The non-forest land constitutes only 17.7%. Further, as per the approved mining plan, the proposed mining will be carried out in the existing pit and existing dump will be used for dumping. An area of 25.809 ha comprising 21.25 ha of DLC Forest & 4.559 ha of non-forest land has been proposed for further detailed exploration and subsequent conversion to mining & allied activities. Therefore, use of 3.494 ha of forest land for construction of infrastructure (part) and 1.787 ha of forest land for Mineral processing plant (part) through non-site specific activities is inevitable from location & mineral development point of view.
- i. Regarding the mineral evacuation plan and the details as to how the requirement of water and electricity will be met, the State Government has reported that the mineral block was in continuous operation from 1946 to 2006 and located in an active mining zone. The existing infrastructure will be used for the purpose. The mineral evacuation will be done through the existing extraction path outside the mines Both Topo Map & Google map showing the existing path are enclosed. Electricity is available in the village of Bada Kalimati.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Similarly, ground water can be made available from the bore well put in the Block for drinking & domestic purposes. Surface water is available from the perennial Jalpa Nala & Baitarani River which is located at a distance of 0.55 & 5.00 Km from the Block respectively for non-domestic/industrial purposes like water sprinkling for wet drilling, dust suppression, watering the plantation site etc.

- ii. Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has carried out site inspection of the area and uploaded Site Inspection Report on the Parivesh portal. The Site has been inspected by Dr. Padma Mahanti, DIGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar on 24.08.2024. The DDGF (Central) has recommended the proposal with following observations:
 - a. Total land involved in this mining project is 67.177 Ha consisting of 55.440 ha of forest land (Revenue Forest: 1.612 Ha + DLC Forest: 53.828 Ha) and 11.737 Ha of non-forest land.
 - b. The user agency has identified 55.44 ha of non-forest land for C.A. Further, the State Govt. has identified 42 ha of degraded forest land in Baunsuli RF under Keonjhar Forest Division for planting balance seedlings.
 - c. Total 3986 nos. of trees have been enumerated over proposed forest land and 2197 nos. trees standing over non-forest land of the project. Felling of trees will affect the general ecosystem of the area. Trees should be felled in a phased manner and when it is absolutely necessary to remove, to minimize the adverse impact on the eco-system.
 - d. As reported the applied area does not form part of any National Park Wildlife Sanctuary/Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor. It was also reported that the proposed site for the project does not come under the eco-sensitive zone of any protected area. The project area is 18.92 Km distance from the Karo-Karampada Elephant Corridor. As there is occasional movement of elephants in this area, Wildlife Conservation Plan with special emphasis to mitigate the adverse impact on elephant movement as well as conservation and protection of rare/endangered and other wildlife found in and around the proposed area is required. Besides, the user agency shall pay towards the cost of the Regional Wildlife Management Plan as per approved norm of State Govt.
 - e. Soil and moisture conservation plans may be implemented in the forest area around the mining lease area.
 - f. The project does not involve any displacement of people.
 - g. The Mining lease has the Mining Plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines vide letter No. MCDR-MiFLoMn/8/2023-BBS-IBM RO BBS dated 18.07.2023.
 - h. Out of 13.115 ha of area identified for OB dump, 10.039 ha is forest land. The user agency should explore possibilities to identify non-forest land for OB dump.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- i. It is reported that violation has been noticed over 7.21 ha of DLC forest land. Regional Office vide letter dated 09.10.2024 has requested the State Govt. to furnish the details about the violation.
- ii. The Committee observed that OMC has carried out the mining activities in the area. The state has mentioned that the mining operations started and breaking of forestland was done prior to 1996, however it has been observed that the mining continued without approval till 23.11.2006. Further, a proposal for diversion of 305.282 ha was submitted which indicates that there was already a clarity over the legal status of the proposed area as forest land. The matter of violation has to be examined accordingly
- iii. Further, the Collector, Keonjhar has been requested vide office letter No.1787 dt.26.02.2024 of the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division to take necessary action. The updated status in this regard needs submission.
- iv. As per the land use plan submitted the area proposed for excavation is 11.84 ha whereas the overburden dump has been proposed over 13.115 ha which is actually more than the excavation area. The same needs to be examined by the State. Further, the state should also explore the possibility of shifting the non-site specific activities like dumping etc. to non-forest land.
- v. The DDGF (Central) has mentioned that Mining of manganese ore is site-specific activity. So, the proposal for diversion 55.44 ha forest land in favour of PMU (Forest Diversion Cell) Director of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Odisha (Pre-embedded) is recommended with 5 times Penal NPV and Penal CA for violation along with general standard conditions and observation made above.
- vi. The proposal was considered in the meeting of the Advisory Committee held on 05.03.2025 and after detailed deliberation and discussion the AC deferred the proposal for want of additional information from the State Government. The State Government vide its letter dated 02.09.2025 submitted the reply.
- vii. The State was informed that M/s OMC Ltd. had carried out mining operations without valid approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, despite the breaking of forest land prior to 1996. It was observed that mining activities continued without approval until 23.11.2006. A diversion proposal for 305.282 ha of forest land was submitted on 09.01.2006, indicating clear recognition of the legal status of the land as forest.
- viii. In response, the State reported that the 305.282 ha comprised 125.169 ha of virgin forest land and 180.113 ha of broken forest land, including both Village Forest and DLC Forest categories. The proposal was recommended by the Forest and Environment Department, Government of Odisha, and submitted to MoEF&CC along with an admission by OMC Ltd. of violation over 24.8121 ha of Village Forest land, broken without prior approval. Penal compensatory afforestation was suggested as a remedy.
- ix. The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) examined the proposal and confirmed the violation limited to the 24.8121 ha of Revenue Forest

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

land. The Ministry sought further information in December 2011, and the Collector, Keonjhar was directed in January 2015 to initiate legal action. As no response was received, a reminder was issued on 21.07.2025 for appropriate legal action in the matter.

- ix. The Ministry has closed this proposal in 2018.
- lxi. The State was requested to provide the updated status regarding action taken by the Collector, Keonjhar, as per DFO Keonjhar's letter No. 1787 dated 26.02.2024. In response, the State has informed that the DFO, Keonjhar had requested the Collector & District Magistrate, Keonjhar to take necessary action. Subsequently, the Additional District Magistrate submitted a joint enquiry report from the Sub-Collector, Champua, vide letter No. 3303 dated 26.06.2025. The report, signed by officials from the Forest, Revenue, Mining departments, and the user agency, confirms that the 7.21 ha of forest land used for thinning, dumping, and road construction falls within the legally broken-up area of 155.301 ha of DLC forest land. Based on this report, the DFO, Keonjhar Division has stated that no violation has occurred in respect of the 7.21 ha within the Kalimati Manganese Block. Therefore, no action under the Forest (Conservation) Act or OPLE Act is required in this case.
- lxii. The State was asked to examine the justification for proposing an overburden dump area (13.115 ha) larger than the excavation area (11.84 ha) and to explore the possibility of shifting non-site-specific activities such as dumping to non-forest land.
- lxiii. In response, the State informed that the land use plan for the Kalimati Manganese Block (67.177 ha) is based on the Mining Plan approved by IBM, Bhubaneswar, where excavation over 11.84 ha and dumping over 13.115 ha are specified (Ref: Page 85 of the Mining Plan). The block is part of the erstwhile SGBK block, operational between 1948 and 2006, and already contains old quarries, OB dumps, and related infrastructure.
- lxiv. Out of 11.737 ha of non-forest land within the lease area, 7.178 ha has been allocated for non-forestry activities, while 4.559 ha is reserved for future exploration and potential mining. Accordingly, the DFO, Keonjhar Division has reported that the proposed use of forest land is justified and shifting dumping activities to non-forest land is not feasible.
- lxv. As this is a pilot project of pre-embedded Forest Clearance for diversion of 55.44 ha of forest land existing within total Mining Lease area of 67.177 ha of Kalimati Manganese Block under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District, Odisha for mining and ancillary activities of PMU, Directorate of Mines & Geology, Odisha. Deputy Conservator of Forests & Team Leader, PMU has been authorised by the SG to file this proposal. However, the State Govt. has not given details about the lease/Lol.
- lxvi. The Committee observed that, out of the total 55.44 hectares of forest area proposed for diversion in the land use plan, 21.25 hectares have been identified as being under exploration. A detailed justification is required for the inclusion of this area in the

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

mining block and the diversion proposal, especially since its mineral-bearing potential has not yet been established.

4. **Decision of Advisory Committee:** After thorough deliberation and discussion with DDGF (Central), RO Bhubaneswar and APCCF and Nodal Officer, Govt. of Odisha, the Committee decided to **defer** the proposal for want of the following information from the State Government:
- i. As this is a pilot project of pre-embedded Forest Clearance, the state has informed that Deputy Conservator of Forests & Team Leader, PMU, Directorate of Mines & Geology, Odisha has been authorised by the State Government to file this proposal. However, it is not clear whether an Lol has been issued in their favour or whether lease has been assigned to them or otherwise. The details of Lol/lease assigned if any in this regard shall be submitted.
 - ii. Out of the total 55.44 hectares of forest area proposed for diversion in the land use plan, 21.25 hectares have been identified as being under exploration. A detailed justification is required for the inclusion of this area in the mining block and the diversion proposal, especially since its mineral-bearing potential has not yet been established
 - iii. In addition to the reported violation over 7.231 hectares of forest land as observed by the Regional Office, the State Government had, in the earlier proposal, also indicated a violation involving 24.821 hectares of village forest land. The State is requested to provide a detailed justification in this regard, including specific information on the time period during which the forest land was allotted for mining purposes and the duration over which mining operations were carried out on the said land.

Agenda No. 24

Online proposal no. FP/OR/THE/446413/2023

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 65.301 ha of forest land for construction of Additional reservoir and Unit-III of NTPC at Darlipali in the district of Sundargarh under Sundargarh Forest division by NTPC Ltd.


1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha and DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

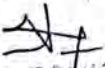
- i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0022-2024-6033/FE&CC dated 27.03.2024 submitted the above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ii. Darlipali Super Thermal Power Station, located at village Darlipall in Sundargarh District of Odisha. Sundargarh is connected to all major towns in Odisha by road. It is connected to Rourkela and Sambalpur by State Highway SH-10. The Project is located north of Raigarh-Jharsuguda National Highway, NH-200 and is approachable from Gandhi Chowk (near Brajarajnagar) through 15 km of distance by road. Nearest major town is Jharsuguda, located at a distance of 25 Km from the project. The nearest Railway Station is Brajarajnagar at 20 Km on SEC Railway. The latitude and longitude of the project are 21°55'00" (N) 83°53'35" (E) respectively. The proposed plant is coming in SOI Toposheet No. F-44-R-13. The nearest Commercial distance of approximately 40 Km from the project site. Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar in Orissa is about 356 Km and Swami Vivekananda International Airport, Raipur in Chhattisgarh State is about 388 Km.
- iii. The construction of additional reservoir and Unit-III of NTPC Darlipali under Sundargarh Forest Division and Jharsuguda Forest Division involves 153.581 ha land in total Out of which, 65.301 ha is revenue forest land and 88.28 ha is non-forest land. Out of the 88.28 ha non-forest land, 38.407 ha comes under Jharsuguda Tehsil of Jharsuguda Forest Division. Out of 88.28 ha non-forest land, 20.129 ha is non-forest Govt. land and 68.151 ha is non-forest private land.
- iv. Legal status of the land proposed for diversion is Revenue Forest. The forest boundary of the project is 12 km away from Bhusiputra RF.
- v. The average density of the vegetation is 0.4 with Eco Value Class-III. Total 5963 Nos of trees have been enumerated over the area and 229 trees on non-forest Govt. land.
- vi. No National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. is part of the proposed forest land for diversion.
- vii. No rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area proposed for diversion.
- viii. The forest land proposed for diversion is not located within the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of the protected Area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ix. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area proposed for diversion.
- x. 66.645 ha non-forest land in 6 patches have been identified in Lephripara and Hemgiri Tahasil of Sundargarh District for Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of the 65.301 ha of Revenue Forest land and additional CA area over 65 ha in in 2 patches on degraded forest land has been identified at Bhusiputra RF under Ujjalpur Range with financial outlay of ₹ 6,04,90,175/- + ₹4,88,74,936/- = ₹10,93,65,111/-.

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xi. Further, the State Government has informed that the Compensatory afforestation scheme has modified including SMC work over total compensatory Afforestation area of 65.301 ha with a total financial outlay of ₹3,24,50,000/.
- xii. As reported, no displacement of people is involved in the proposed project for construction of additional Reservoir and Unit-III of NTPC Darlipali.
- xiii. As reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division, the proposed area does not form a part of any National Park/ Sanctuary/ Biosphere/ Elephant Corridor However, the proposed project i.e. construction of Additional Reservoir and Unit-III of NTPC Darlipal comes within the impact area of 10 Km radius of Darlipali Super Thermal Power Project Stage-I of NTPC Ltd. and required funds have been deposited by the project proponent for various activities for conservation of wildlife within the impact area as per recommendation of PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha. In this regard, the User Agency has furnished undertakings duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division regarding Regional Wildlife Management Plan and Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan. The proposed Darlipali Stage-II is an NEW expansion unit, which is in addition to the already existing 2 x 800 MW plant. For the functioning of the proposed NEW unit, several facilities like Railway Siding, Transmission Towers/Lines, Stacker & Reclaimer of Coal Handling Plant, Fire water system, Fuel Oil Unloading System, Coal conveyors, Stores, Workshops, Administrative building, Service building, Canteen etc., are required, which would be utilised from the existing facilities at available in the already running units. If the new unit had been set up at any different location away from the existing units, it would have entailed land acquisition in higher magnitude.
- xiv. The power from additional unit (800MW) shall be evacuated through the existing transmission lines under stage-I of the project [Darlipali Super Thermal Power Project to Sundargarh pool 765kV Double Circuit Transmission Line owned by PECIL]. Since no new transmission lines will be constructed, no additional forest land is envisaged for the purpose. Power purchase agreements with Odisha and West Bengal has already been signed.
- xv. The State Level Facilitation Cell (SLFC), Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (IPICOL), Govt. Odisha U/T has accepted NTPC proposal and recommended it to Dept. of Water Resources, Govt. Of Odisha for additional water allotment of 7.42 cusec from Hirakud Reservoir in favour of NTPC for the proposed 800 MW plant vide their letter Ref. No ED/SLNA/NTPCLTD/776/23 & 1985 dt: 22.03.2024/ 09.05.2024. The additional water withdrawal for Stage-II shall be affected through the already allocated pipeline corridor and Make-up water pump house of Stage-I Darlipali STPS (2 x 800 MW). No additional forest land requirement is envisaged for this purpose.
- xvi. A copy of the Site-Specific Management Plan approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW(O) vide his Memo No. 2861 dated 10.04.20214 have been submitted for which the User Agency has deposited the amount of ₹3,71,04,000/- through RTGS transfer mode vide UTR No.


Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

CMS211123516 Dt 30.04.2014 in CAMPA SB A/c No: 344902010105428.

- xvii. As reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division, the interventions in respect of Project Impact Area of the SSWLCP have not yet been implemented by the Forest Department due to non-receipt of necessary funds.
- xviii. The UA has explored alternate options for new Ash dyke area. The UA has informed that "the proposed Darlipali Stage-II is a new expansion unit, which is in addition to the already existing 2 x 800 MW plant. For the functioning of the proposed new unit, several facilities like Railway Siding, Transmission Towers/Lines, Stacker & Reclaimer of Coal Handling Plant, Fire water system, Fuel Oil Unloading System, Coal conveyors, Stores, Workshops, Administrative building, Service building, Canteen etc., are required, which would be utilised from the existing facilities at available in the already running units. If the new unit had been set up at any different location away from the existing units, it would have entailed land acquisition in higher magnitude. In order to minimize acquisition of land, optimizing the plant layout & bringing in efficient management of resources, it has been proposed that the existing facilities, designed for the 2 x 800 MW plant, may also be utilized for the new unit, thus leaving no alternate options for relocation of the new unit. However, for the setting up of the Ash Dyke, four locations had been identified. The same has been approved in the EAC meeting for Thermal power projects dated 26.09.2023. Considering minimum disturbance to the ecology, viz. water bodies, drainage Nallas & agricultural land, maximized technical usage & minimum land acquisition resulting in lesser nos. of project affected persons, Option 1 has been selected for the additional ash dyke. The justification given by the UA for non-site specific activities may be considered. The same has also been examined by the RO in their SIR and they agree with the justification given by the UA.
- xix. The State Level Facilitation Cell (SLFC), Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (IPICOL), Govt. Odisha U/T has accepted NTPC proposal and recommended it to Dept. of Water Resources, Govt. Of Odisha for additional water allotment of 7.42 cusec from Hirakud Reservoir in favour of NTPC for the proposed 800 MW plant vide their letter Ref. No ED/SLNA/NTPCLTD/776/23 & 1985 dt: 22.03.2024/ 09.05.2024.
- xx. The additional water withdrawal for Stage-II shall be effected through the already allocated pipeline corridor and Make-up water pump house of Stage-I Darlipali STPS (2 x 800 MW). No additional forest land requirement is envisaged for this purpose.
- xxi. The DIGF (Central), Regional Office Bhubaneswar has inspected the area proposed for diversion and CA. During the site inspection following have been observed by the inspecting officer:
- a. The compliance of the Stage II condition of the earlier diverted 13.95 ha has not been furnished so far. We may take further decisions in this proposal after verifying the successful implementation of the stipulated conditions of Stage II approval of


Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

the earlier diversion. The current proposal is recommended with following conditions:

- a) Trees should be felled only when absolutely necessary with prior permission from the State Forest Department. Wherever possible, transplantation of trees to be carried out.
 - b) The user agency shall submit FRA certificate under FRA, 2006.
 - c) The indigenous trees to be planted on the embankment of the reservoir. The entire embankment has to be geotextiled to avoid soil and moisture loss.
 - d) Green belt to have multi species, multi canopy, indigenous plants to represent near natural forest to be adequately fenced and maintained at project cost.
 - e) Establishment of constructed wetlands around the ash dykes to check the soil and water pollution and leaching of pollutant outside the ash dykes is mandated. Re-vegetation of ash dyke to be carried out with scientific inputs and phytoremediation needs to be carried out with adequate technical and scientific inputs with proper planning.
 - f) Greening of all the open areas around the main plant with suitable species to check pollution to be undertaken concurrently.
 - g) Regular monitoring of water quality around the ash dykes and in adjacent water bodies to be carried out and reported in the compliance report.
 - h) Straw mulching for increasing the ecological restoration and establishing vegetation over fly ash dump areas to be undertaken. The fly ash dump area should be planted with non food vegetation cover.
 - i) Regular monitoring of air quality, water quality and study of the impact on the 1st order stream (if any) and the level I aquifer in the area to be carried out and published in the compliance reports.
 - j) All the non-forest and revenue forest area around the proposed land for diversion, shall be demarcated, which forms a portion up to the road, planted at project cost and notified as reserve forest. This is specifically recommended to create an additional green belt around the plant area.
- b. The DDGF (Central) has recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- a) Though the activities proposed are non-site specific, because of expansion the surrounding areas are being proposed to minimize damage, which appears justified.
 - b) As per DSS analysis, the proposed Revenue forest area has Open Forest 6.00 ha and non-forest 58.00 ha which indicates that the proposed forest land is mostly an open forest without dense vegetation.
 - c) The proposal is recommended with the condition that the user agency will submit compliance to earlier approval

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

dated 13.10.2014 and observations made by DIGF (C) during her inspection with other standard conditions.

- xxii. The non-forestry activities were observed in the area proposed for diversion for which the DFO concerned has stated that the said activities are on the fringe of the forest and not within the proposed land. However, as per the DSS analysis the non-forest activities are well within and at places they are deep inside the KML file boundaries. The same was asked from the State Govt. and the SG has informed that the temporary use of the proposed forest land was done. However, no action has been taken by the State Govt. for violation of the Adhiniyam.
- xxiii. Regarding suitability of the proposed CA land the DFO concerned has reported that the proposed CA land patches are non-forest land. The said land is adjacent to RF/revenue forest land. During site visit by the DFO along with the Range Officer, it is found that an area of Ac. 1.37 (Ac.46 in Badhunjharia and Ac.91 in jhulenbar village) seems encroached by villagers. The said land is not falling on the forest compartment boundary. Also, the Tahsildars have stated that the said lands are free from encroachment and encumbrance. So, the effective area for CA is more than the required area.
- xxiv. The Ministry has accorded the following four approvals in past for this project as per the details given below and for which the compliance report was asked:

S. No.	Subject	Area approved (in ha)	Date of the final approval	Remarks
1.	Diversion of 13.95 ha of forest land for setting up of Darlipali Super Thermal Power Project in Darlipali and Raidihi village under Sundergarh Forest Division of Sundergarh district by NTPC Ltd.	13.95	14.08.2013	Violation of the conditions have been reported by the State Govt. The transfer and mutation of the identified non-forest land provided in respect of the proposal for diversion of 13.95 ha granted on 13.10.2014 has not been done. As per the condition no. (iv) of the final approval letter the identified non-forest land has to be notified as RF/PF within six months but it has not been done

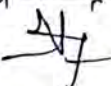
Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

				after lapse of more than 10 years time.
2.	Diversion of 19.70 ha of forest land in villages Darlipali, Raidihi, Chuabahal and Kalamegha in Sundargarh district, Odisha for construction of MGR-Rail Corridor by M/s NTPC Ltd. for transportation of coal from their Dulanga Coal Mines to Darlipali Super Thermal Power Plant in Sundargarh district, Odisha.	19.70	16.11.2016	Compliance report not submitted after verification form RO.
3.	Diversion of 19.43 ha of Revenue forest land in village Laikera, Chuabahal, Kalamegha, Bibajore and Kanaktora in Hemgir Tahasil of Sundargarh district, Odisha for construction of Railway Siding Corridor by NTPC Darlipali STPP to connect their MGR line (drawn between Darlipali STPP and their Dulanga Coal Mines) with MCL Railway stations at Laikera and Kechobahal to transport coal from Basundhara, Garjanbahal area of MCL and also for transportation of oil rakes to the STPP, Darlipali.	19.43	26.06.2024	Compliance report not submitted after verification form RO.
4.	Diversion of 25.56 ha of forest kism land (originally proposed 25.76 ha) in Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts of Odisha for laying of Make Up Water (MUW) Pipeline and 132 KV Electric Transmission lines by NTPC Ltd. for drawal of water from Hirakud reservoir for its Darlipali Super Thermal Power	25.56	Final approval has not been accorded till date. However, the proposal was accorded 'in-principle' approval on 01.11.2016	The proposal was accorded 'in-principle' approval on 01.11.2016. Till date the final approval has not been obtained.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

	Project in Sundargarh district.			
--	---------------------------------	--	--	--

- xxv. The State Government has informed that the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has requested the AGM (HR), NTPC Darlipali regarding violation and name, designation of NTPC Ltd officials who were operating at the time of construction of Make-up Water Pipeline and the 132 KV Transmission line without obtaining working permission vide his memo No 1289 dated 07.03.2025. The NTPC has submitted the name of the officials who were involved in the construction of Make-up Water Pipeline and the 132 KV Transmission line vide their letter No 313 dated 08.03.2025.
- xxvi. Further, the compliance of the conditions of past approvals does not appear to be satisfactory. Moreover, in one case the work has been completed in violation without obtaining Stage-II approval.
- xxvii. The proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 16.04.2025 and the Advisory Committee, after going through the facts of the proposal decided to deferred the proposal and sought certain clarification/information. Ministry vide letter dated 29.04.2025 through online requested the State Government to submit information as per recommendation of AC.
- xxviii. The State Government vide their letter no. 17739/9F (Thermal)-07/2024 dated 25.08.2025 uploaded information on web portal as sought by the Ministry on dated 29.04.2025.
- xxix. The State Government was asked to submit complete compliance of the conditions stipulated in previous forest diversion approvals after verification from the Regional Office. In response, the State has reported that the User Agency has submitted Stage-II compliance reports for the following projects: Main Plant (13.95 ha), MGR (19.70 ha), Railway Siding (19.43 ha), and Make-Up Water Pipeline & 132 KV Transmission Line (25.56 ha). Annual Compliance Reports have also been submitted for the Main Plant, MGR, and Railway Siding.
- xxx. **Findings based on compliance verification:**
- a. **Main Plant (13.95 ha)** – Final approval vide letter dated 13.10.2014:
 - i. **Condition (iv):** Notification of degraded forest land for compensatory afforestation is pending. The land has been mutated in favour of the DFO, Sundargarh, and the draft notification for declaration as Protected Forest has been forwarded to RCCF, Rourkela (letter dated 06.05.2025).
 - ii. **Condition (ix):** Out of 160.84 ha required for greenbelt development, 92 ha has been completed. The remaining area is covered under an action plan for 2025–2029.
 - b. **Status:** Partial compliance; two conditions pending.
 - c. **MGR (19.70 ha)** – Final approval dated 16.11.2016:
 - d. **Status:** All conditions complied with.
 - e. **Railway Siding (19.43 ha)** – Final approval dated 26.06.2024:

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- f. **Status:** All conditions complied with.
- g. **Make-Up Water Pipeline & 132 KV Transmission Line (25.56 ha) –**
Final approval dated 24.04.2025:
- h. **Status:** Stage-II compliance report and undertakings submitted.
- xxxi. The State Government was asked to submit a detailed action taken report regarding the violation of conditions associated with the *in-principle* approval dated 01.11.2016 for diversion of 25.56 ha of forest land for the Make-Up Water Pipeline project.
- xxxii. In response, the State has reported the following actions:
- The DFO, Sundargarh issued a letter (Memo No. 1289 dated 07.03.2025) to NTPC requesting the names and designations of officials involved in the construction of the Make-Up Water Pipeline and 132 kV Transmission Line without obtaining the requisite working permission. NTPC responded on 08.03.2025, providing the requested details.
 - The violation was formally communicated to the Collector & District Magistrate, Sundargarh (Letter No. 3878 dated 16.07.2025) and also to the State Forest Department (Memo No. 3993 dated 22.07.2025).
 - The DFO, Jharsuguda also sought clarification from NTPC regarding any violations during execution (Memo No. 2862 dated 23.05.2025). NTPC submitted a detailed report on 27.05.2025, and subsequently, DFO, Jharsuguda submitted his findings to DFO, Sundargarh on 12.06.2025 (Letter No. 3329/4F(Misc.))
 - Findings:**
The DFO, Jharsuguda noted that there is no clear information on when OFDC (Odisha Forest Development Corporation) commenced tree felling. However, based on the sequence of events and payment of levies on 23.02.2017, it may be reasonable to extend the benefit of doubt to the User Agency and OFDC, assuming that felling and pipeline laying occurred after that date. It is noted that *Stage-II approval* for the same project was subsequently granted on 24.04.2025.
- xxxiii. The State Government was informed that further action on the instant proposal would be taken only after:
- Submission of satisfactory compliance reports for all previous approvals,
 - Obtaining the pending Stage-II approval by the User Agency, and
 - Submission of an action taken report regarding the reported violation.
- xxxiv. In response, the State has reported that the matter of violation over 2.80 ha of Revenue Forest land—used without requisite working permission—has been

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

intimated to the Collector & District Magistrate, Sundargarh, vide Office Letter No. 3878 dated 16.07.2025.

- xxxv. The State was informed that the Regional Office should initiate action under Section 3A/3B, as applicable. In response, the State Government has clarified that, as per Chapter I, Sub-clause 1.16(1)(b) of the Consolidated Guidelines, action under Section 3A/3B is to be initiated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, through its Regional Office at Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar.
- xxxvi. The Committee noted that the RO has submitted the monitoring report of all following previous approvals.
- a. Ministry's letter No.5-ORC158/2013-BHU dated 13.10.2014
 - b. Ministry's letter No.5-ORC240/2015-BHU dated 16.11.2016
 - c. Ministry's letter No.5-ORC349/2018-BHU dated 26.06.2024
 - d. Ministry's letter No.5-ORC279/2016-BHU dated 24.04.2025
- xxxvii. Wherein the RO has reported the following observations:
- a. **In respect of the proposal for diversion of 13.95 ha**
 - i. The State Government shall notify the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land as Protected Forest/Reserved Forest immediately and furnish a copy of the notification to the Regional Office for record.
 - ii. The State Government shall implement the approved Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWCP) using the funds deposited by the User Agency and furnish the implementation status to this Regional Office for records and monitoring.
 - iii. The User Agency shall achieve the Green Belt development target of 160.84 ha within the project area at the earliest and furnish intimation of the same to this Regional Office.
 - b. **In respect of the proposal for diversion of 19.70 ha:**
 - i. During the site visit, it was informed that the proposed CA land is revenue forest land. However, no condition regarding mutation and transfer of the land to the State Forest Department has been imposed in the final approval. At present, the proposal for alienation and mutation of the CA land has been submitted to the local administrative office. Upon receipt of the Record of Rights (RoR) from the Tahasildar Office, the State Government shall notify the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land as Protected Forest/Reserved Forest immediately and furnish a copy of the notification to the Regional Office for record.
 - ii. Since this is a linear project and the diverted forest area lies outside the NTPC Plant, the boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on the ground by the User Agency immediately, and compliance in this regard shall be submitted to the Regional Office.
 - c. **In respect of the proposal for diversion of 19.43 ha:**
 - i. Since the proposed CA land bears good vegetation, the State Forest Department shall submit the CA land change proposal in the Parivesh portal to the Regional Office immediately, along with a suitable CA land proposal and other requisite documents (map, KML, suitability certificate, revised scheme). After

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

approval of the CA land change proposal, plantation shall be undertaken by the State Government immediately at the cost deposited by the User Agency.

- ii. The State Government shall furnish the details of plantation carried out for ten times the number of trees felled from non-forest land, using the funds deposited by the User Agency.
- iii. Since this is a linear project and the diverted forest area lies outside the NTPC Plant, the boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on the ground by the User Agency immediately, and compliance in this regard shall be submitted to the Regional Office.

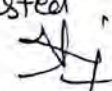
d. In respect of the proposal for diversion of 25.56 ha:

- i. The State Government shall undertake compensatory afforestation on the proposed CA land, using the funds provided by the User Agency, in the next Annual Plan of Operations (APO).
- ii. With respect to the FCA violation committed by the User Agency under this proposal, the State Forest Department has filed a Case No.03/2025 in the Hon'ble Court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (Rural), Sundargarh as per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Sambardhan) Amendment Rules, 2025, which is communicated by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division vide Memo No.5594/4F(Misc) dated 20.09.2025.

4. Decision of Advisory Committee: After thorough deliberation and discussion with DDGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Govt. of Odisha and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee recommended the proposal for granting '*in-principle*' approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 65.301 ha of forest land for construction of Additional reservoir and Unit-III of NTPC at Darlipali in the district of Sundargarh under Sundargarh Forest division by NTPC Ltd. subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:

- i. The State and the Regional Office shall ensure that the action under section 3A/3B as applicable shall be taken for the violations observed in case of earlier proposals pertaining to the instant project.
- ii. Regional Office has raised observations in the monitoring report dated 22.09.2025 with regard to the compliance of the conditions stipulated in the earlier approvals related to the instant project. The state shall ensure to address the observations in a time bound manner. A timebound plan in this regard shall be submitted by the State Government.
- iii. Green belts shall be maintained in the project area and the indigenous trees be planted on the embankment of the reservoir wherever possible.
- iv. Adequate soil and moisture conservation works shall be undertaken in the project area and the embankment of the reservoir.

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Agenda No: 27

Online Proposal No. FP/SK/OTHERS/484235/2024

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 56.67 Ha (9.0 ha in Gangtok District. 32.78 ha in Namchi District and 15.89 ha in Pakyong District) of Forest land for regularization of pre 1980 Taunovadar settlements in Gangtok. Palq/onq & Namchi Districts of Sikkim by Rural Development Department. Government of Sikkim.

1. The agenda for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Sikkim and DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The Government of Sikkim has submitted the above subject proposal under clause 10 (2) (iv) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 on PARIVESH 2.0 portal on 21.08.2024.
 - ii. The proposal pertains to the diversion of 56.67 hectares of forest land in favour of the Rural Development Department, Government of Sikkim, for the regularisation of pre-1980 settlements on forest land. These settlements are located in Gangtok District (8.0 ha), Namchi District (32.75 ha), and Pakyong District (15.89 ha), and pertain to seven Taungyadar villages.
 - iii. Legal status of the land proposed for diversion is Reserved Forest.
 - iv. Canopy density of the proposed area is reported as 0.01 with Eco Class IV. There is no tree felling involved in the proposal.
 - v. The Proposed land for diversion does not form a part of any seriously eroded areas except which is due to natural factors. No National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. is part of the proposed forest land for diversion. No rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area proposed for diversion.
 - vi. The forest land proposed for diversion is not located within the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of the protected Area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - vii. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area proposed for diversion
 - viii. The State Govt. has submitted the justification for regularization of the proposed forest land and it has been mentioned that the Pr. Secretary, State Govt. has informed that this proposal to regularize the pre 1980 settlements of Taungyadars in Forest Lands of Sikkim. Taungyadari was a phenomenon of pre-merger Sikkim but found even now, though to a very limited extent, after the merger of Sikkim with India. Some of the details are

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

documented in a research paper titled "Community Forest Management in Sikkim Himalaya towards sustainable development" authored by Santosh Chettri, A.P.Krishna, K.K.Singh(2015) published in International Journal of Environment and Sustainable Development, Vol.14,No.1,2015 89. Examples of Taungyadars were observed in Three Forest Divisions namely, Namchi, Gangtok and Pakyong. In this system, plantation activities were undertaken on a limited scale in the marginal forest areas. Each family was called Taungya and provided a few acres of forest land each year to plant and then look after these plantations for a period of three years. Thereafter, they had to return the forest land to the forest department. Taungyadars paid no taxes to the government and remained settled within the forest land. They carried out farming, cattle rearing besides plantation work on their own. This system is now gradually being discontinued Taungyadars are basically labourers engaged for the plantation and silvicultural management of the forestry practices in the early 1960 as documented by a retired officer titled "My Days in the Forest Department" Chapter 9 published in the book titled "Sikkim Forestry- a 100 years of Service" in the year 2009.

- ix. The afforestation works programmes were carried out by way of "Taungya System" of plantation. Under this systems the department had to give (6) six acres of land to the family for plantation of 2 acres each in a year retaining two acres for the families homestead and in the third year, the family would have to complete 6 acres and shift to other clear felled areas. In those days it was very difficult to get labourers for carrying out forestry activities in the high forest.
- x. The forest officials used to set Taungyadars in the fringe of the Reserve Forest and were engaged for forestry activities. The Taungyadars were paid ₹200/- as Taungya Subsidy for the year of plantation which was later raised to ₹500/-. They were engaged on daily wage system in all departmental forest operations such as plantation, logging, sawing timbers, stacking of firewood for sale, etc. In those days there used to be very meagre fund for the forest management. As such most of the afforestation works throughout the State then were taken up by the Taungyadars.
- xi. The Taungyadars were engaged not only for the plantation works, they used to protect and conserve the forest and prevent hunting. There are different locations in East District of Sikkim where Taungyadar systems prevail in the olden days. Out of which at three location Taungyadars are still living since 6 decades despite the Taungya system was discarded. These are Yali Reserve Forest under Gangtok Range, Tumlabong Reserve Forest under Singtam Range and Karthok Reserve Forest under Pakyong Range, Melli Compound Area and Majhitar R.F, Melli Range, Rayong RF under Ravangla Range, Jholungey RF under Namthang Range. These land which were allotted to them by the forest officials and are still under their regular occupation. Presently these people sustain their livelihood by cattle rearing and cultivation and the land.
- xii. The Government of Sikkim decided to recognize the Taungyadars contribution and rights by regularizing their settlements in the above areas. It is proposed to regularize their settlements as is where basis to secure their livelihood and their generations in the state. Accordingly, it is proposed to regularize the settled land in the name of Rural Development

Attested

[Signature]
 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- Department, Government of Sikkim and also bring them within the ambit of rural local body, the panchayats.
- xiii. The State Govt. has proposed the CA area originally over 113.78 ha in which 4 ha found VDF and 43 ha found MDF. As per the observation of the Ministry the CA has been changed by the State Govt. over 65 ha. However, in the newly identified area 2 ha is found VDF and 1 ha MDF.
- xiv. State Authorities have recommended the proposal.
- xv. Regarding the records of rights (if any) maintained by the State with respect to settlers and the details regarding the eligibility criteria fixed to identify eligible beneficiaries has been submitted by the State Government. In this regard it has been informed that:

Record of Rights:

- i. The system of Taungyadars have been explained and mentioned in Working Plan of K.C. Rai Chaudhary.
- ii. The details of Taungyadar has also been explained in research paper titled "Community Forest Management in Sikkim Himalaya towards sustainable development"
- iii. The Taungyadar system has also been documented by a retired officer in "My days in Forest Department" Chapter 9 published in book titled "Sikkim Forestry-a 100 years of Service" in the year 2009.
- iv. The Taungyadars were settled before 1980 and sample of a) Form of agreement between the Department and Taungyadars and payment of taxes by Dhuri Khazana by the Taungyadars is placed at Annexure I and II respectively and has also uploaded in the PARIVESH portal.

Criteria: A committee was formed vide Notification No: Home/confdl/04 dated 12.01.12 to examine and recommend the cases of Taungyadars before the enactment of Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The criteria enlisted were as follows:

- i. The committee shall carry out Joint Inspection of the forest land occupied by the Taungyadars. If the Taungya village is located in the middle of the Reserve Forest, the committee will explore the possibilities to relocate them on the periphery of the Reserve Forest.
 - ii. The committee shall ascertain and ensure that all the occupants of the forest land were settled prior to the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (i.e. prior to 25th October, 1980). Copy of notification is placed at Annexure-III and has also uploaded in the PARIVESH portal.
- xvi. Regarding examination and confirm whether the occupation on forest land are actually encroachments or otherwise, the State Govt. has informed that the settlements are not encroachments but families of Taungyadars settled prior to 1980 by the Forest Department. Sample of form of agreement between the Forest Department and the Taungyadars is placed at Annexure I and has also uploaded in the PARIVESH portal.
- xvii. Regarding any concrete proof like remote sensing maps, Government of Documents etc. which proves that the area proposed for regularization is under occupation prior to 1980, the State Govt. has informed that the Form of Agreement signed in the year 1970 and the payment of Dhuri khazana

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- (tax) by the Taungyadars are placed in Annexure I and Annexure II and has also uploaded in the PARIVESH portal.
- xviii. Regarding details of occupations in the working plan and other records and intimate whether the same has been mentioned therein or not? The State Govt. has submitted the relevant documents and has also informed that Taungyadar system has been explained in following Working Plans publications:
- K.C Rai Choudhary (1951-52 to 1970-71)
 - East Division Working Plan (2009-10 to 2020)
 - West Division Working Plan (2011-12 to 2020-21)
- Extracts of the above are enclosed for reference. At Annexure V and has also uploaded in the PARIVESH portal.
- xix. Regarding provide the details of efforts/action taken to remove or resettle the occupants on forest land, the State Govt. has informed that As reported by the Conservator of Forest (Territorial), Forest & Environment Department, Government, the Forest Department facilitated the settlement of Taungyadars under a symbiotic arrangement, allowing them to cultivate designated forest land for their livelihood in exchange for protecting and managing the forest. This practice dates back to the pre-merger era when Sikkim was a kingdom under the Namgyal dynasty. As outlined in the agreements annexed in Annexure I, the arrangement was established between the Taungyadars and His Highness, the Maharaja of Sikkim, hence this system of Taungyadar dates back to pre-merger era. In 2012, a committee was formed to identify and regularize these settlements. A detailed report on this effort is enclosed in Annexure IV and has uploaded in the PARIVESH portal. Further, in post-merger era, developmental activities were initiated in fringe area for the community benefits like developing educational institutions, healthcare facilities.
- xx. Regarding submission of proper justification that why this proposal was not submitted with the earlier proposal for diversion of forest land which was approved by the Central Government vide letter dated 30.01.1995, the State Government has informed that the documentation necessary for the proposal was not complete during that time. The survey for identification of Taungyadars was not done and the matter was in discussion with the Government. The efforts for identification and regularization of Taungyadars was formally initiated in the year 2012 vide Notification number: Home/confdl/04 dated 12.01.12 and the report was submitted by the Committee in the year 2014.
- xxi. The State government has submitted a list of Joint Verification Report (JVR) along with requisite details like proceedings, criteria followed etc.
- xxii. Regarding submission of a certificate to certify that no such areas are left out for regularization in the State, the State Govt. has informed that regularization of Taungyadar System, till date is completed and it is further certified that no more proposal for regularization of Taungyadar will be submitted in future.
- xxiii. The Site inspection has been carried out in the instant proposal by the SO, Kolkata on 8-11th May, 2025. The DDGF (Central) has recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- a. The proposed forest lands shall be demarcated with proper fencing to prevent further encroachment.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- 142-
- b. The status of the land shall remain as reserved forest.
- c. The proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites in Yali RF (6 ha) and Thekabong RF (22.78 ha) may be substituted with suitable degraded forest land, as the current sites contain moderately dense forests.
- d. As the occupation of forest land occurred prior to 1980 with the approval of the erstwhile Sikkim administration, the applicability of penal provisions under the VSESA, 1980 may be determined by the competent authority in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act.
- xxiv. The proposal was considered in the meeting of Advisory Committee held on 26.05.2025. After thorough deliberation and discussion, the Committee decided to defer the proposal and sought the information from the State Government. This Ministry sought above clarification/information online on PARIVESH 2.0 portal regarding certain issues from the State Government on dated 09.06.2025.
- xxv. In this reference, the State Government of Sikkim, Forest and Environment Department, Forest Secretariat, Deorali, Gangtok -737102 forwarding the letter vide Ref./letter No. 3018/FCA/F&ED/292, Dated: 30.08.2025 (uploaded on line on 02.09.2025) and submitted the information as under:

Sl. No.	EDS raised by MoEF&CC, Gol, New Delhi	Reply submitted by State Govt.
1.	The state provide the details of the existing numbers of families/occupants along with the detailed layout plan indicating the present / proposed land use under various components like residential areas, agricultural land and roads etc.	The details of existing numbers of families/occupants along, with the detailed layout plan indicating the present/proposed land use under various components like residential areas, agricultural land and roads, submitted by DFO(T) Gangtok, Pakyong & Namchi are uploaded online on Parivesh portal.
2.	The proposed Compensatory (CA) sites in Yalli RF (6 ha) and Thekabong RF (22.78 ha) shall be substituted with suitable land, as the current sites contain moderately dense forests. The complete details of revised area including the maps/suitability certificate shall be submitted.	The CA is proposed by the concerned DFO's (Territorial) in new area as under: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. 6 ha in Song RF under Gangtok Territorial Division. II. 22.78 Ha in Amba RF 10 Ha & 12.78 Ha Thekabong Khasmal (Total 22.78 Ha) under Pakyong Territorial Division. The complete details of revised area including the maps/ suitability certificate is submitted/uploaded on Parivesh portal.

- xxvi. The State Govt. has submitted that the settlements are pre-1980 and has also provided the reasons that the proposal was not submitted earlier in 1993-1995.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xxvii. The Committee noted that as desired by the AC the State Govt. has submitted the following:
- a. The details of existing numbers of families/occupants along, with the detailed layout plan indicating the present/proposed land use under various components like residential areas, agricultural land and roads, submitted by DFO(T) Gangtok, Pakyong & Namchi have been provided.
 - b. The New CA sites have been provided by the State as under:
 - a) 6 ha in Song RF under Gangtok Territorial Division.
 - b) 22.78 Ha in Amba RF 10 Ha & 12.78 Ha Thekabong Khasmal (Total 22.78 Ha) under Pakyong Territorial Division.
- xxviii. The committee observed that the State has not submitted the component wise breakup of the proposed forest land and it is not clear as to for what purpose the diversion of forest land is being sought.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** After thorough deliberation and discussion with DDGF (Central), RO Bhubaneshwar and the Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Sikkim, the Committee decided to **defer** the proposal for want of the following information from the State Government:
- i. The State shall submit the component wise breakup of the proposed forest land and detailed land use plan with layout clearly indicating different components/purposes for which the diversion of forest land is being sought.

Agenda No.28

Online Proposal No. FP/RJ/ROAD/458221/2024

Subject:- Subject: Proposal for seeking Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion 0.9869 Ha (Earlier proposed area 0.8453 ha) of Forest Land in favour of Public Works Department, Government of Rajasthan for Construction of New Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana (IGNP) Main Canal Bridge from KM Chainge-157/390 to 158/100 on Bikaner-Suratgarh Highway of NH-15 (New NH-62) under Change of Scope work in the State of Rajasthan by Public Works Department, Government of Rajasthan (Online Proposal No: FP/RJ/ROAD/458221/2024)-reg

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The IGF(C), Sub-Office (SO), Hyderabad in-charge of RO, Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer, Government of Rajasthan were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
- i. The State Govt. of Rajasthan vide letter No. No P.P.1(55) Van/2024-009316 dated 02.09.2024 submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion 0.9869 Ha (Earlier proposed area 0.8453 ha) of Forest Land for Construction of New Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana (IGNP) Main Canal Bridge from KM Change-157/390 to 158/100 on Bikaner-Suratgarh Highway of NH-15 (New NH-62) under Change of Scope work in the State of Rajasthan by Public Works Department, Government of Rajasthan.
 - ii. The total forest area under the proposal is **0.9869 Ha** of forest land which is located in Sri Ganganagar Territorial Division, District:- Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan.
 - iii. The proposed forest area is Protected Forest with canopy density of 0.0 (Eco Class-4) and 57 nos of trees (7 species) have been proposed to be felled.
 - iv. The User Agency has stated that the proposal has been examined for Social, Technical and Economical consideration and possible efforts were made to avoid the forest land by NH PWD Division Bikaner but IGNP Main Canal and NH-15 protected Forest Strip falling in the Protected Forest. Without forest land involvement, bridge can't complete. Considering the selection of the path in the construction of the proposed, work minimum forest land has been done 0.9869 Ha.
 - v. The **component wise land use** details submitted with the proposal is as follows:

Sl. No.	Component/ Particular	Forest Land (Ha)	Non-Forest Area (Ha)
1	construction of Bridge	0.9263 ha	0.2842
2.	construction of Proposed Road	0.0606 ha	
	Total	0.9869 Ha	

- vi. The proposal involved violation Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, The State Government has informed that the construction of pillars was started at 85 feet from centre point of IGNP canal, as per land plan of canal the ROW is 350 feet from centre point of canal. The user agency misinterpret and started the construction work believing that this land belongs to irrigation department and they already have NOC from irrigation department. Therefore, the user agency, claiming the land to be canal land, began pillar construction, which was stopped by the Forest Department, and the situation remains unchanged to this day. The bridge, located to the east, dates back to the time of the canal's construction and is currently in a

Attested




DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

completely dilapidated state. Sri Ganganagar city is adjacent to the Pakistan border. For border security, the Indian Army uses this bridge to transport passengers between the military cantonment in Suratgarh and Sri Ganganagar. This makes it clear that the construction of this bridge is essential for national security.

- vii. The State Government has informed that the State Forest Department has stopped the work, JCB and machinery involved in construction activity was seized. The State Forest Department has registered a case under Rajasthan forest act 1953 section 80, 32. The Tehsildar had issued approval for felling of trees located on the south side of IGNP Gahar because there were no trees located on the north side of the canal, only bushes and juliflora were there. Presently the Tehsildar has withdrawn the said approval by his order no. 381 dated 20.03.2025. The 50 trees on the south side of the IGNP canal remain in place. Following the Tehsildar's approval, the user agency personnel/contractor carried out the leveling and clearing of weeds on the north side of the IGNP canal using a JCB. Forest Department personnel considered this a violation of the RFA and filed an FIR No. 136/34 dated 06.10.2023. The FIR was settled in the interest of the state and the public for a fine of ₹53,000. Subsequently, State Forest Department through letter No. 6628 dated 15.12.2023, directed the Project Director, PWD Circle, Bikaner, not to undertake any non-forestry work in the protected forest area without approval. In this letter, Range Forest Officer was also instructed to prevent any non-forestry work without approval of Competent Authority.
- viii. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed on 1.00 ha Degraded Forest Land in village 2 PPN, Tehasil Suratgarh, District Sriganganagar. The State Forest Department has uploaded the CA scheme for plantation of 570 plants over degraded forest land for total cost of Rs.12.41 Lakhs.
- ix. As per DSS analysis, calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is found 0.985 ha. Calculated area of the KML file of proposed CA land is found 0.998 ha wherein 570 plants have been proposed to be planted.
- x. The proposal examined in the Ministry and the Ministry vide EDS dated 07.10.2024 has sought additional information which includes suitability of the area for compensatory afforestation, details of the area involved in the connecting road, details of the responsible person from User Agency side alongwith details of action taken by Forest Department against the person, details of Forest Department official, if any, who has been responsible for not stopping the work on proposed forest land, DSS analysis revealed that the user agency has not included 0.14 ha forest land in the proposal wherein the tree felling and clearing of natural vegetation visible through the time series data available on the Google imagery, therefore, revised proposal after including the left out forest area shall be submitted and when was the existing bridge over the IGNP main canal was constructed and if the approval under

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- the Van Adhiniyam, 1980 was obtained by the user agency from the State Government.
- xi. The observation of Regional Office, Gandhinagar in Site Inspection Report "This is the failure on part of the User Agency and State Forest Department as the work was carried out without approval of the Central Government. Local officials of State Forest Department have shown that only trees were cut but they were silent on construction activities on site. This is a very serious lapse on part of local forest officials as they have misrepresented the facts by hiding construction activities at the Site. It is very difficult to understand how forest officials have held poor labour responsible for violation of Rajasthan Forest Act 1953, Section 80, 32 while conveniently they have allowed the officer who has directed him to fell trees without any punishment" was also forwarded to State Government for comments.
 - xii. The State Government vide their letter dated 08.09.2025 has uploaded the reply on PARIVESH. The State Govt. informed that the inspection on CA land has been done on dated 03.08.2025 and Land is suitable for plantation of 570 plants. It was also informed that there is no need of any connecting road since the new bridge will be used for traffic coming from Bikaner to Suratgarh and vice-versa. However the forest area to be used in catering the traffic of connecting road through service road on NH 62 has been considered in updated proposal.
 - xiii. The State Government further informed that on the application of the user agency, the Tehsildar, Suratgarh, issued approval for the cutting of 15 trees through his letter no. 1078 dated 29.09.2023. In this regard, no information was sent to Ganganagar Forest Division. Ganganagar Forest Division vide letter no. 214-15 dated 11.01.2024 asked the Range Forest Officer, Suratgarh/Virdhwayal to inspect the 0.8453 hectare forest land to be diverted and seek information regarding the department's tree plantation. It is important to clarify that the area north of the IGNP Canal belongs to Range Suratgarh and the area south of Range Virghwal. The Range Forest Officer, Suratgarh informed through letter no. 01 dated 18.01.2024 that there are no tree plantations on the land covered under the forest land proposed for diversion. Similarly, the Range Forest Officer Virdhatal informed through his letter no. 01 dated 18.01.2024 that there are total of 50 trees in proposed diverted forest land. The Tehsildar had issued approval for felling the trees located on the south side of the IGNP canal, as there were no trees on the north side of the canal, only shrubs and juliflora. Currently, the Tehsildar has revoked the approval through his order No. 381 dated 20.03.2025. The 50 trees on the south side of the IGMP canal remain in place. Following the Tehsildar's approval, the user agency personnel/contractor carried out the levelling and clearing of weeds on the north side of the IGNP canal using a JCB. Forest Department personnel considered this a violation of the RFA and filed an FIR No. 136/34 dated 06.10.2023. The FIR was settled in the interest of the state and the public for a fine of ₹53,000. Subsequently, State Forest

Attested




DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Department through letter No. 6628 dated 15.12.2023, directed the Project Director, PWD Circle, Bikaner, not to undertake any non-forestry work in the protected forest area without approval. In this letter, Range Forest Officer was also instructed to prevent any non-forestry work without approval of Competent Authority.

- xiv. The State Govt. also informed that the User agency has increased the area from 0.8453 hact to 0.9869 hact. The State Govt. further informed that the existing bridge over the IGNP Main Canal is more than 60 years old. The existing bridge over the IGNP main canal was constructed when Van Adhinyam, 1980 was not in existence. Existing Old IGNP Main Canal Bridge is totally deteriorated and has already completed its life. Seeing the deteriorated condition of existing Old IGNP Bridge, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has sanctioned an additional New IGNP Main Canal Bridge adjacent to the Old IGNP Bridge. Condition of existing Old IGNP Main Canal Bridge was checked through expert agency in December, 2022 by conducting Non Destructive Testing (NDT) and it was found that the existing Old IGNP Bridge is not structurally safe and needs immediate replacement with the new IGNP Bridge. All required NOC from concerned authorities i.e. Inland Waterway Authority of India (IWAI) and Irrigation Department has already been procured for the construction of New IGNP Main Canal Bridge.
- xv. The Site inspection report on the instant proposal has been submitted by the RO, Gandhinagar. On the going through records and facts on the ground during Site Inspection, the proposal for diversion of 0.8453 ha forest land for construction of new IGNP main canal bridge from KM Chainge-157/390 to 158/100 on Bikaner-Suratgarh Highway of NH-15 (New NH-62) under Change of Scope work in the State of Rajasthan is recommended with following conditions:
- The State Government will demarcate and erect boundary pillars along the length of the IGNP Main Canal up to 70 meters width on both banks by fixing the boundary pillars/fence and shall also carry out the plantation on both strips with suitable species.
 - The penalty for violation for use of forest land for non-forest purpose shall be equal to NPV of the forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual violation as reported by the forest department with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest till the deposit is made.
 - The action has to be taken under the provisions of the Section 3A & 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 against the officers responsible for carrying out non-forestry use of forest land without prior approval of Central Government in violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
 - The User Agency shall carryout Penal CA on two-hectare DFL at its cost.
 - State Govt. will initiate disciplinary action against the officials concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purpose

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

without prior approval of the Central Govt. in violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- (f) The User Agency shall carry out plantation on one kilometre length on both banks (strips of 1000 meters X 70 metres) of the canal after proper fencing the area on either side of the road/bridge at their cost.
- xvi. The Advisory Committee was informed that initially State Government has submitted the proposal for diversion of 0.8453 ha of Forest Land for Construction of New Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana (IGNP) Main Canal Bridge. Subsequently, the State Government has revised the proposal for diversion of 0.9869 Ha of forest land. RO, Gandhinagar has carried out SIR for 0.8453 Ha of forest land and also recommended the proposal for diversion of 0.8453 ha forest land for construction of new IGNP main canal bridge from KM Chainge-157/390 to 158/100 on Bikaner-Suratgarh Highway of NH-15 (New NH-62) under Change of Scope work in the State of Rajasthan.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after thorough deliberation and discussion with the Nodal Officer, Govt. of Rajasthan and IGF(C), Sub-Office (SO), Hyderabad in-charge of RO, Gandhinagar, recommended the proposal for granting 'in-principle' approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion 0.9869 Ha (Earlier proposed area 0.8453 ha) of Forest Land in favour of Public Works Department, Government of Rajasthan for Construction of New Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana (IGNP) Main Canal Bridge from KM Chainge-157/390 to 158/100 on Bikaner-Suratgarh Highway of NH-15 (New NH-62) under Change of Scope work in the State of Rajasthan by Public Works Department, Government of Rajasthan subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:-
- The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
 - The State Government shall initiate action against violations in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.

Agenda No.29

Online Proposal No. FP/RJ/ROAD/477900/2024

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Sub: Proposal for seeking Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.5606 ha Reserve Forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Jalore for construction of Jalore Fort Road via Jharneshwar Mahadev Temple, Tehsil and District Jalore in the State of Rajasthan (online Proposal No FP/RJ/ROAD/477900/2024)- regarding

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The IGF(C), Sub-Office (SO), Hyderabad in-charge of RO, Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer, Government of Rajasthan were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The State Govt. of Rajasthan vide letter No. F.No.1(85)forest/2025 dated 12.05.2025 submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.5606 ha Reserve Forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Jalore for construction of Jalore Fort Road via Jharneshwar Mahadev Temple, Tehsil and District Jalore in the State of Rajasthan.
 - ii. The total forest area under the proposal is 4.5606 Ha of forest land which is located in Jalore Forest Division, District Jalore, Rajasthan.
 - iii. The proposed forest area is Reserve Forest with canopy density of 0.3 (Eco Class-4) and 17 nos of trees (7 species) have been proposed to be felled.
 - iv. The DCF, Jalore in their site inspection report informed that the Regional Office, Gandhi Nagar of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has granted the Stage-I/In-principle approval on dated 20.06.2022 and the Stage-II/Final approval on dated 10th June, 2024 for the same project i.e. Diversion of 4.0144 ha forest land in favour of Municipal Council, Jalore for construction of Road from Jalore City to Jalore Fort (Design Change 0+000 km to 5+176 km) Village, Tehsil and District- Jalore in State of Rajasthan(Proposal No. FP/RJ/ROAD/118453/2021). But due to alignment change, New User agency has submitted the Forest Diversion Proposal for 4.5606 Ha. Forest land as construction activity is not feasible on old alignment.
 - v. The DCF, Jalore in their site inspection report also informed that the present user agency i.e. PWD, Jalore Division has re-registered the instant proposal for diversion of 4.5606 ha Reserve Forest for construction of Jalore Fort Road via Jharneshwar Mahadev Temple, Tehsil and District Jalore in the State of Rajasthan. The proposal ID generated as FP/RJ/ROAD/477900/2024. The present user agency i.e. Executive

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Engineer, Public Works Department, Jalore Division has submitted the following justification with regard to the instant proposal;

"Construction of Jalore Fort Road via TharneshwarMahadev Temple. Tehsil and District- Jalore in the State of Rajasthan" has been examined for Social, Technical, and Economical consideration and possible efforts were made to avoid the forest land by Public Works Department. Division Jalore. Raj, but existing road is passing through the Forest land therefore no any other alternative is feasible.

The Feasibility Study for Construction of road from Jalore city to Jalore fort via Jharneshwar temple is necessary looking to historical importance of the city and the fort. Visitors wish to see the fort for its glorious past but presently there is no connectivity between the city and the fort through the road. Only 1487 steps are available to connect the city and the fort. People use feet or palki to reach the fort which is not only cumbersome but also difficult to reach. Therefore, necessity of constructing of road is being felt from many years. It is expected that the tourism industry, the granite industry and other industry will boost up after constructing the road.

Many options were discussed to connect the city and fort via different routes, Considering merits and demerits of all routs. finally, it was decided to connect the city to fort via Jharneshwar temple.

It is further stated that the area of forest land involved in the alignment for "Construction of Jalore Fort Road via Jharneshwar Mahadev Temple. Tehsil and District-Jalore in the State of Rajasthan" is bare minimum.

- vi. The component wise land use details submitted with the proposal is as follows:

Sl. No.	Component/ Particular	Forest Land (Ha)	Non-Forest Area (Ha)
1	Road	4.5606	0.0938

- vii. The proposal involved violation Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, The State Government has informed that after being learnt by the Forest department that work of fort road has been started on other than sanctioned alignment. User agency was being contacted for explanation. User agency informed that their contractor started the work on wrong alignment due to misunderstanding and immediately the work was stopped. Then an FIR was lodged by forest department against the contractor of user agency under section 26 of Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953 and case was compounded by imposing a fine/penalty of ₹41000/-
- viii. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed on the Non- Forest Land comprising an area of 5.45 ha located in Village: CHHIPARWARA, Plot No. /Kasra No.: 597/672 (773/672), Jalore District of Rajasthan. The

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- State Govt. has informed that the proposed CA land already mutated in favour of State forest department in earlier Proposal.
- ix. As per DSS analysis, the proposed forest area for diversion falls under Jalore district of the Rajasthan State. The Calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is found 4.55 ha. As depicted through satellite imagery the proposed forest land for road is located at a distance of 300 meter from the Jalore Fort. Further, the NoC issued by the Archeological Department for erstwhile user agency and not to the present user agency. NoC has been issued subject to the condition that there will no change in basic structure of fort and there will be no damage to fort. Compensatory afforestation has been proposed in a single patch over the Non-forest land (NFL). The calculated area of the KML file of proposed CA land is found 5.454 ha.
- x. The proposal examined in the Ministry and the Ministry vide EDS dated 10.6.2025 has sought additional information which includes action taken by the State Govt. under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 on violators and along with the action taken report, the trees enumeration data and the canopy density and how the CA and NPV cost will be adjusted in the instant proposal keeping in view of earlier approved forest diversion proposal of 4.0144 ha forest land for the same area and same purpose from the State Government.
- xi. The Government of Rajasthan vide its letter dated 17.07.2025 informed that after being learnt by the Forest department that work of fort road has been started on other than sanctioned alignment. User agency was being contacted for explanation. User agency informed that their contractor started the work on wrong alignment due to mis-understanding and immediately the work was stopped. Then an FIR was lodged by forest department against the contractor of user agency under section 26 of Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953 and case was compounded by imposing a fine/penalty of ₹41000/- . The State Govt. also informed that number of trees proposed to be felled in the project reported as 17 is correct in which bushes of *Prosopis juliflora* have not been included. Moreover, present alignment does vary from alignment of previously approved proposal. Methodology adopted during the tree enumeration is manual survey. The State Govt. has further informed that the user agency has requested to adjust the amount deposited by the user agency in CAMPA Fund. If there is any provision to adjust the amount in this case, amount may be adjusted.
- xii. The reply submitted by the State Government examined and the Ministry vide EDS dated 09.08.2025 has sought some additional information which include whether the action taken by the State Forest Department against the violation carried out by the erstwhile user agency i.e. Municipal Council Jalore under the Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953 is enough or any separate action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 on the officials responsible for violation from erstwhile user agency i.e. Municipal Council Jalore is still under progress.
- xiii. Since the proposal involves already diverted forest land, there are two options available for the State Government A-To move a proposal for withdrawing/ cancelling the earlier approved diverted forest land in favour of Municipal Council Jalore and obtain cancellation order from the

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CP WL(S) SHIMLA

competent authority. Thereafter the instant proposal be resubmitted to the Ministry. OR B-To move a proposal for change in User Agency for Municipal Council Jalore to PWD Jalore in Form F and after obtaining approval, a proposal for change in alignment in form E may be submitted. In the instant option, CA and NPV will be adjusted from the previous approval. State Government shall take action accordingly.

- xiv. The Government of Rajasthan vide their letter dated 03.09.2025 stated that the Municipal Council, Jalore (Primary User Agency) had obtained the Final Approval for the construction of the proposed Fort Road. The Municipal Council, Jalore initiated the primary earthwork on the approved alignment. However, after completing a small portion, the User Agency deviated from the approved alignment in the length of 214.28 mtrs (0.15 Ha.). It was later observed that construction activities on the approved alignment were not practically feasible. Consequently, the Range Officer, Jalore issued directions to immediately stop all non-forestry activities other than those permitted under the approved alignment. In compliance, the User Agency's contractor immediately stopped the work. Subsequently, the State Forest Department imposed a penalty, which the contractor has duly deposited, and the FIR was compounded. No non-forestry activity has been carried out after the FIR and at present, the work has been permanently stopped by the Municipal Corporation, Jalore. Furthermore, the Municipal Council, Jalore has also submitted a written request for revocation of the Forest Clearance Approval. In light of the above, the State Government submitted that this project is of public interest and that the deviation occurred solely due to unawareness of the exact alignment and forest boundary on the ground.
- xv. The State Govt. also clarified that the action taken by the State Forest Department against the violation carried out by the contractor of user agency under section 26 of the Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953 is enough as the work on wrong alignment was carried out due to misunderstanding and was immediately stopped after lodging the FIR against the contractor of user agency. Afterwards no non-forestry activity is carried out by the user agency and status of land remains forest land only. Hence, no any separate action under section 3A/33 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 is under progress.
- xvi. The State Govt. has informed that the Public Work Department, Jalore has submitted the proposal as per Option A. This submission has been made in continuation of the request letter submitted by the Municipal Council, Jalore for withdrawal/ cancellation of the earlier Forest Clearance (FC) approval along with a request for adjustment of the deposited amount against the fresh proposal submitted by the Public Works Department.
- xvii. The Site Inspection Report has been submitted in respect of the above proposal by Regional Office, Gandhinagar. As per SIR, Recommendation of IGF (C), RO, Gandhinagar are as follows:-

- (a) Based on the factual details furnished in the SIR by the Technical Officer (Forestry), It is noticed that the user agency has broken the forest land for formation of road at different locations along the proposed road alignment. The works carried out include breaking of boulders/stones, earth work and levelled the soil on the unpaved path.

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CPWL(S) SHIMLA

State forest department officials have taken required measures to stop further work by the user agency and also taken some action as per the local forest Act.

- (b) As the proposed work of construction of Jalore Fort Road via Jharneshwa Mahadev Temple, Tehsil and District Jalore for connectivity between the city and the fort through the road, is proposed falls on a hilly terrain with steep slopes at some places, thorough examination of the proposed alignment by a technical expert is essential to certify that the proposed road alignment is feasible in the area.
- (c) Municipal Council of Jalore submitted a proposal vide No FP/RJ/ROAD/118453/2021 for construction of a road from Jalore City to Jalore Fort, whose alignment is overlapping the current alignment proposed. This proposal was already approved by the RO, Gandhinagar and issued Stage-I and Stage-II approvals as stated in the SIR. The state government has not mentioned anything about the already approved proposal and recommended a separate proposal now. Thus it is not clear, whether the state government is going to construct two different roads or the earlier one is dropped. Clarity on this matter is required from the state government.
- (d) Instant proposal is recommended subject to initiation of action on the violations reported and also on furnishing clarification on the technical feasibility of the proposed alignment on a hilly terrain in the instant case and the comments of the state government on the earlier approved road under the proposal number FP/RJ/ROAD/118453/2021.
- xviii. The Advisory Committee observed that as per SIR, as the proposed work of construction of Jalore Fort Road via Jharneshwa Mahadev Temple, Tehsil and District Jalore for connectivity between the city and the fort through the road, is proposed falls on a hilly terrain with steep slopes at some places, thorough examination of the proposed alignment by a technical expert is essential to certify that the proposed road alignment is feasible in the area.
- xix. The Advisory Committee observed that the Municipal Council Jalore had diverted forest land (4.0144 ha) for the same purpose for which the new user agency (PWD, Jalore) is requesting to divert the forest land (4.5606 ha). Some part of the forest land (0.481Ha) is found to be overlapping in both the proposal. The State Government has submitted a copy of letter dated 16.1.2024 by Municipal Council, Jalore where it has given its no-objection regarding cancellation order for forest land diversion order issued by the Regional Office, Gandhinagar and requested for adjustment of NPV and CA already paid against the current proposal of PWD. However, the State Govt. has not clarified whether it moved the proposal to Regional Office for cancellation of diversion of forest land.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after thorough deliberation and discussion with the Nodal Officer, Govt. of Rajasthan and IGF(C), Sub-Office (SO), Hyderabad in-charge of RO, Gandhinagar, recommended the proposal for granting 'in-principle' approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.5606 ha Reserve Forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Jalore for construction of Jalore

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Fort Road via Jharneshwar Mahadev Temple, Tehsil and District Jalore in the State of Rajasthan subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- i. The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
- ii. The State Government shall initiate action against violations in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- iii. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.
- iv. As the proposed work of construction of Jalore Fort Road via Jharneshwa Mahadev Temple, Tehsil and District Jalore for connectivity between the city and the fort through the road, is proposed falls on a hilly terrain with steep slopes at some places, thorough examination of the proposed alignment by a technical expert is essential to certify that the proposed road alignment is feasible in the area. A copy of certificate shall be submitted alongwith compliance of Stage-I approval.
- v. Municipal Council of Jalore submitted a proposal vide No FP/RJ/ROAD/118453/2021 for construction of a road from Jalore City to Jalore Fort, whose alignment is overlapping the current alignment proposed. This proposal was already approved by the RO, Gandhinagar and Stage-II approval was issued. The State Government has submitted a copy of letter dated 16.1.2024 by Municipal Council, Jalore where it has given its no-objection regarding revocation order for forest land diversion order issued by the Regional Office, Gandhinagar. Therefore, the State Government shall submit a copy of revocation order of earlier approved proposal from the RO, Gandhinagar along with compliance of Stage-I approval.

Agenda No. 30

Proposal. No. FP/UK/HYD/IRRIG/420146/2023

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (UJVN Ltd.) for non-forestry use of 47.547 ha. Reserved Forest and Revenue Forest for construction of Tiuni Plasu HEP (72 MW) project in Utrakashi District in the State of Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/HYD/IRRIG/420146/2023)- regarding.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 24.06.2025. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office,


Attested

[Signature]
 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 C/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

MoEFCC, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer, Government of Uttarakhand attended the meeting.

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 24.06.2025, wherein the Committee, after examination of the proposal desired the following information from the State Government:
 - i. The Regional Office of MoEF&CC shall visit the revised CA areas and submit its observations and recommendations on the suitability of the CA area for afforestation.
 - ii. A copy of the Wildlife Management Plan, approved by the PCCF (WL) for the conservation and Protection of wildlife in the area will be submitted to the Ministry.
 - iii. The State Government shall submit its comments on the recommendations made with regards to the extant proposal in the Carrying Capacity and Cumulative Impact Assessment Study and necessary modifications in the project, if any recommended in the said study, will be carried out and informed to the Ministry.
 - iv. Proposal for obtaining the approval of quarry sites, involved in the proposal shall be initiated and updated status thereof shall be informed to the Ministry.
4. The State Government submitted its reply online on 17.07.2025 on the observations of the Committee and the Committee note the following:
 - i. Copy of Wildlife Management Plan approved by PCCF (WL) for conservation and protection of wildlife has been submitted.
 - ii. As per recommendation made in the "Cumulative Impact Assessment and Carrying Capacity (CIA&CC)" of Yamuna River Basin conducted by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Tiuni Plasu project is not listed under restricted project and is favourable for implementation.
 - iii. Quarry sites in the forest area will be used as a last option if material would not be available from approved nearby local quarries proposed in the civil land. Accordingly, proposal for approval from State Mining Department for carrying out quarry shall be initiated once the 2nd stage FC is obtained, and project implementation is started.
 - iv. After examination of reply received from State Government, the user agency was advised to initiate the proposal for obtaining the approval of quarry and in case the same is not submitted, the quarry area proposed in the forest land may be reduced and intimated to the Ministry. Further, the State Government was also requested to coordinate with the Regional Office to conduct site inspection at the earliest.
 - v. The State Government submitted its reply online on 19.08.2025 and informed that proposal for obtaining the approval of quarry sites, involved

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

in the proposal has been initiated. The application has been submitted to District Magistrate, Dehradun on 05.08.2025 and to Director Geology Dehradun & Mining, on 05.08.2025. It is certified that requisite approval shall be submitted before taking over the land.

- vi. The Regional Office also submitted its inspection report on the area proposed for raising compensatory afforestation. The Committee noted that a total of 170 ha has been proposed for afforestation in Chakrata and Tons Forest Divisions. All sites have been analyzed using DSS and are found to be suitable to carry out compensatory afforestation.
5. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer, Government of Uttarakhand, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 47.547 ha. Revenue Forest in favour of M/s Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (UJVN Ltd.) for construction of Tiuni Plasu HEP (72 MW) project in Uttrakashi District in the State of Uttarakhand subject to general, standard and following additional conditions:
- The user agency shall obtain the approval of the concerned Department of the State Government of the quarry sites and the same shall be submitted along with approved Mining Plan along with the compliance of in-principle/Stage-I approval.
 - The provisions of the Wildlife and Biodiversity Management Plan, approved by the PCCF(Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden of the State, shall be implemented by the State Forest Department for the conservation and protection of wildlife of the area. Cost of implementation of the Plan shall be deposited into the account of State CAMPA and detail of the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of '*in-principle*' approval.
 - The user agency shall implement the recommendations of "Cumulative Impact Assessment and Carrying Capacity (CIA&CC)" study of the Yamuna River Basin to ensure the conservation and protection of aquatic flora, fauna, biodiversity, and the maintenance of environmental flows (e-flows), etc.

Agenda No.31

Proposal. No. FP/UP/HYD/IRRIG/460724/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 616.4067 ha forest land in favour of Greenko Energies Private Limited for construction of Greenko UP01 Off Stream Closed Loop Pumped Storage Project (OCPSP) falling under Patna Range of Sonbhadra Forest Division and Tariya Range of Obra Forest Division in Sonbhadra District, Uttar Pradesh (Online Proposal No : FP/UP/HYD/IRRIG/460724/2024)-regarding

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
G/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF(C), Regional Office, Chandigarh in-charge of RO, Lucknow and Nodal Officer, Government of Uttar Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh vide their letter No P-128/81-2-2024-800(117)/2024 dated 11.07.2024 submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 616.4067 ha forest land in favour of Greenko Energies Private Limited for construction of Greenko UP01 Off Stream Closed Loop Pumped Storage Project (OCPSP) falling under Patna Range of Sonbhadra Forest Division and Tariya Range of Obra Forest Division in Sonbhadra District, Uttar Pradesh .
 - ii. The total forest area under the proposal is 616.4067 Ha of forest land which is located in Sonbhadra & Obra Forest Division, District Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh. The proposal involved felling of 2,08,651/- (53990, 90 species, 0-150 and greater than 150 girth in Sonbhadra Forest Division) and (154661, 101 species, 0-150 and greater than 150 girth in Obra Forest Division)
 - iii. The Forest area involved, Legal Status, Density of vegetation and Eco Value Class –

Division	Area (Ha)	Eco-Class	Density	No. of trees	Species	Legal status
Obra	357.762	III	0.55	154661	101	Reserve Forest
	74.22	III	0.25			
	9.863	II	0.5			
	441.845 Ha in Obra					
Sonbhadra	32.4019	III	0.55	53990	90	Reserve Forest
	142.1598	III	0.25			
	174.5617 Ha in Sonbhadra					
Total 616.4067 Ha Forest				208651	191	

- iv. The User Agency has stated that Considering the Criteria for Selecting Pumped Storage Project (PSP) Locations, various locations were studied and Sonbhadra District in Uttar Pradesh was selected for this PSP, as the location is in hilly terrain with adequate water source nearby and with availability of sufficient head for power generation. After selecting this particular location, layout optimization was carried out, during this study, it was evaluated that there exists Kaimur Sanctuary (in UP & Bihar), though in PSP all project components are located within 1-2 km, however, to

Attested



DI
O/
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

avoid any interference with Kaimur Sanctuary, the PSP location was planned in the portion/stretch between the Kaimur Sanctuary (in UP & Bihar). Further, many other private developers have identified potential sites on both the sides of present Greenko UP01 PSP location, further restricting the available locations for locating the PSP.

- v. The Component Wise Break Up (Including underground works such as tunnel and similar purpose) details submitted with the proposal is as follows:

S.No.	Component/ Particular	Forest Land (Ha)	Non-Forest Area (Ha)
1.	Upper Reservoir & Upper Intake	166.6861	31.4211
2.	Lower Reservoir & Lower Intake	303.0181	1.76
3.	Water Conducting System(WCS), Power House(PH) & Switch Yard	52.718	2.121
4.	Road to Upper Reservoir, Lower Reservoir, Job Facility Area, Muck Disposal Area and Pumping Alignment	24.0269	2.0667
5.	Road to Upper Reservoir, Lower Reservoir & Switch Yard	50.786	4.666
6.	Road to Buried Penstock & Portal	9.1086	0.4723
7.	Road to Upper Reservoir, Lower Reservoir & Switch Yard	50.786	4.666
8.	Road to Buried Penstock & Portal	9.1086	0.4723
9.	Access Road, Lower Reservoir to Buried Penstock Road	8.333	0
10.	Muck Disposal Area (MDA)-1	0	2.6815
11.	Muck Disposal Area (MDA)-2	0	6.8695
12.	Muck Disposal Area (MDA)-3	0	4
13.	Job Facility Area (JFA)-1	0	5.0709
14.	Job Facility Area (JFA)-2	0	8.612
15.	Magazine	0	0.1
16.	Pumping Intake Point	1.73	0
	Total Forest Land(ha)	616.4066	
	Total Non Forest Land (ha)		69.8410

- vi. As per DSS Analysis of the proposal, the proposed forest area for diversion falls under Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh State. The calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is found 618.852Ha (software calculated) instead of 616.4067 ha as per the proposal. The calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Non-

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Forest land involved in the project is found 69.831 ha, and the user agency total 69.8410 ha Non-forest land is involved in the project.

- vii. As per the DSS, the user agency has erroneously earmarked 27.61 ha land as Non-forest land. However, as per the forest compartment boundaries available on the DSS, this 27.61 ha area is forest land and not the Non-Forest land. Therefore, the State Govt. was requested to carry out necessary correction in the KML file. The component wise details of 27.61 ha forest land which has been erroneously shown as Non-Forest land by the user agency in the instant proposal is as under:

S.No	Component	Area (Ha)
1	Road to Upper Reservoir, Lower Reservoir, Job Facility Area, Muck Disposal Area & Switch Yard	4.67
2	Water Conducting System(WCS), Power House(PH) & Switch Yard	2.12
3	Lower Reservoir & Lower Intake	1.56
4	Lower Reservoir & Lower Intake	0.15
5	Lower Reservoir & Lower Intake	0.1
6	Upper Reservoir & Upper Intake	2.16
7	Upper Reservoir & Upper Intake	0.53
8	Road to Upper Reservoir, Lower Reservoir, Job Facility Area, Muck Disposal Area	0.31
9	Upper Reservoir & Upper Intake	0.5
10	MDA-2	6.88
11	Job Facility Area	8.63
Total		27.61

- viii. As per DSS analysis, 404 ha of land is characterized with Moderately Dense Forest, 203 ha of land as Open forest and 11 ha is Non-forest/Non-wooded (land devoid of tree cover) in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019. The compensatory afforestation has been proposed over the Non-forest land (NFL)/ Agriculture land in 5 villages patches comprising an area of 636.4857 Ha (Software Calculated). The satellite imagery shows the presence of Agriculture land and few built-up area in the proposed CA land in the village namely Barehta (Varahta). The satellite imagery shows the presence of Agriculture land and settlement in the proposed CA land in the village namely Bastaravan.
- ix. The proposal examined in the Ministry and the Ministry vide EDS dated 07.08.2024 has sought additional information from the State Government. The information sought include re-ascertain the suitability of proposed CA land from management and plantation point of view and submit a report/certificate, the detail of other projects proposed on both sides of the instant proposal along with their location, whether the Carrying Capacity and Cumulative Impact Assessment Study of river basin has been done or not, specific report regarding non-site-specific activities like the job facility area and the muck disposal areas etc. are not located on forest land.
- x. The State Govt. was also requested to submit additional information which include as per the DSS analysis, many components comprising an area of 27.21 ha area are falling on the forest land, whereas the same have been

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

indicated in the KML file as located over the non-Forest land, the State Govt. shall re-examine the matter and intimate the exact area of forest land involved in the proposal, the area proposed for CA is free from all encumbrances, the status of the Geological and Geomorphological study proposed by CCF, Mirzapur, detailed plan for evacuation and transmission of power and detail of forest area required for the same, how the requirement of electricity and road will be met by the user agency for the execution of the project and its components, the presence of Scheduled species listed in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 within the proposed forest land, therefore, the comments of the CWLW, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh required.

- xi. The State Govt. was also informed that the CCF, Mirzapur in their SIR reported that there is some discrepancy in the legal status of land which has been earmarked by the user agency as non-forest land. The State Govt. was requested to ascertain the exact status of the land involved and the exact forest area involved in the proposal be intimated. The CCF, Mirzapur in their SIR reported that the number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal have been enumerated based on sample plotting. The State Govt. was requested to ensure that the sampling done is adequate to give a true picture of the no. of trees involved. The State Govt. was requested to submit detailed clarification regarding the plantation work has not been carried out in the proposed forest land under any scheme/ project. As reported by the State Govt., total 208651 number of trees have been earmarked for felling which is exorbitantly high for the Uttar Pradesh which has only 6.15% (as per ISFR-2021) forest cover of its total Geographical area. The State Govt. was requested to offer their comments in this regard.
- xii. The State Govt. vide reply dated 17.4.2025 informed that as per the user agency, at present, the boundary has been frozen as per the farmers who have given consent to give their land for the project purpose and the said land is yet to be purchased. The user agency has informed that private/non forest land which has been left within the CA area and in other the portion of CA land surrounded by private non forest land from almost all sides is mostly govt. revenue lands which shall be obtained from revenue authorities after following due procedure and the net area towards CA shall be provided for 617 Ha. Further, the user agency shall obtain necessary permission from MoFF&CC. in case of any changes in area/location of the proposed CA land parcels. The State Government has also provided list of the other projects and their locations is enclosed. The State Government has also informed that "Carrying Cumulative Impact Assessment Study" is required for second and subsequent projects. This is the first project. The State Govt. has also forwarded an undertaking of User Agency stating that "Greenko Energies Private Limited hereby affirm and undertakes that private land identified towards Compensatory Afforestation land in lieu of forest land proposed for diversion shall be provided free from encumbrances and encroachments before notifying the said land as PF/RF".
- xiii. The State Government also informed that non-site-specific activities proposed in Baijnath village are planned in Non- Forest Land as per the Office records and Maps of Sonbhadra Forest Division. But, these

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

proposed Non-site-specific activities fall under the Forest areas of Obra Forest Division which overlaps with the aforesaid mentioned Non Forest areas of Baijnath Village of Sonbhadra Forest Division. The State Government also informed that the User Agency informed that a detailed study on the Geological and Geomorphological aspects of the Greenko UP01 project are conducted as part of the Detailed Project Report (DPR). This was done to meet the requirements of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and the Central Water Commission Authority (CWCA), which are the statutory authorities responsible for granting approval for the project. Currently, the study is under active review for approval by the CEA and CWC. The implementation of the project will proceed according to the design parameters approved by these CEA/CWC.

- xiv. The State Govt. has forwarded the reply of User Agency stating that the user agency will fulfil the construction power requirements by utilizing the existing grid power available on-site, actively aiming to minimize any impact on forest areas. To enhance accessibility, existing roads leading to nearby villages will be integrated with the proposed project roads. Additionally, the land required for developing roads through forest areas to access project components has been thoughtfully included in the diversion proposal. The User Agency stated that CWLW acknowledged the presence of Schedule-I species and recommended the formulation of a Wildlife Conservation Plan by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in alignment with the guidelines/directions set forth by the Govt. of India. The State Government, vide letter dated May 3, 2024, has formally entrusted the Wildlife Institute of India (WII)- Dehradun with the task of preparing the Wildlife Conservation Plan. The necessary studies have been completed in consultation with the State Forest Department, and the comprehensive report has been submitted to the Nodal Officer- Lucknow. The user agency has submitted the necessary undertaking to ensure the implementation of the Wildlife Conservation Plan as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.
- xv. The State Govt. also informed that in the project proposal, Forest land from Obra and Sonbhadra Forest Division is involved inter-alia wherein Water Conducting System (WCS) was proposed connecting Upper reservoir in Baijnath Village of Sonbhadra Forest with Lower Reservoir in Gudur Village of Obra Forest Division and accordingly diversion proposal was submitted based on joint inspection report of Obra and Sonbhadra Forest Divisions. But, based on joint field visit(s) carried out by revenue, forest department along with user agency in which it is found that an area of 221.194 Ha of Gudur, Mahuna & Garhav of Obra Forest Division is overlapping with Baijnath Village of Sonbhadra Forest Division. The State Govt. also informed that 30 Ha plantation area in proposed diverted forest land will be affected. The User Agency has given undertaking to bear the cost of plantation, if any incurred by the Dept, which comes under proposed forest land to be diverted. Regarding the felling of large number of trees for the proposal, the State Govt. has stated that one additional condition has been imposed regarding support for afforestation efforts on approx. 620 Ha of degraded forest land (DFL) in Sonbhadra District or elsewhere in the state. This is in addition to the regular compensatory

Attested,



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

xvi. afforestation (CA) as per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The Site inspection report on the instant proposal has been submitted by the RO, Lucknow. The SIR carried out by DIGF, RO, Lucknow is submitted without the recommendation of DDGF, RO, Lucknow. Further, the RO, Lucknow has also not carried out Site Inspection of the CA land of the proposal. Following major issues have been highlighted in the SIR uploaded on the portal:-

- (a) Creation of two reservoirs of two levels viz., 400 ha (approx.) and 200 Ha (approx.) respectively will result in loss of flora, fauna and ecosystem services.
- (b) The creation of two reservoirs will create approximately 600 ha of area with no percolation of water to subterranean zone, it will not only have a huge impact on water level of the area (for both wildlife and people) but also will affect the river water availability during drier months of the year.
- (c) Out of total project cost of 17,180.79 Crores, only 145 lacs amount is earmarked for the water conservation and 155 lacs is earmarked for Wildlife conservation. The amount is relatively less and strangely the amount is consented upon during generation of EC for the project. Moreover, the loss of a huge chunk of forest land will create more pressure on adjoining forest area which is equally rich in biodiversity.
- (d) It is important to mention that as per Government of India Notification a Wildlife management plan approved by Chief wildlife warden of the state, with recommendations from the state government should be uploaded as a statutory condition. The wildlife Management plan (termed as biodiversity and wildlife management plan here) is neither approved nor having recommendations with the forest department of the state.
- (e) As per document uploaded on Parivesh portal the Hydro Project appraisal division of Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power has raised concerns about catchment and command area under the project.
- (f) The ministry may have overlooked the above document issued by ministry of power before recommending the project clearly mentioning that "Financial Stability Report may be revised and installed capacity, design energy and cycle efficiency of the project may be reviewed".
- (g) During site inspection visit it was told by people that area of upper reservoir has perennial springs, the effect of continuous discharges of springs on upper reservoir and related complications was not discussed. The disaster management plan is also not addressing above issue in addition to being less focused on forest and wildlife of the inundated area during disasters such as dam break and overflow.
- (h) Divisional forest officer of Obra Forest division has written a letter indicating the land issues between Sobhadra and Obra forest divisions indicating overlapping of the area between two divisions. Though the total area as per the KML remains same, the issue is important as boundary demarcation of khasras kept out of the forest area after settlement under section 20 of IFA is not done on ground.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Actual number and names of khasras may vary after ground verification.

As per SIR, the Inspecting Officer observed the following:-

"As illustrated above the proposal is having major issues as described above points 1, 2, 3 and 4, moreover many more such projects are coming in such landscape. So, a consolidated study of ALL SUCH projects on the landscape must be done before accepting any of the project. The area seems to be chosen only because of ease of getting a large chunk of land one and all with least R & R related issues, though there are majority of such non forest terrain available in the surrounding area. The proposal should be Rejected".

- xvii. On examination of the reply of State Government and Site Inspection Report received from Regional Office, it was observed that the complete reply from the State Govt. has not been submitted. The State Government vide EDS dated 05.05.2025 requested to submit additional information which include major issues highlighted in the SIR uploaded on the portal required to be addressed by the State Government, a copy of approved CAT plan, State Government shall examine the sustainability of large number of projects in the area and their impact on the local Ecology, surrounding environment including the eco-system goods and services presently offered by the landscape.
- xviii. The State Govt. was requested to share the recommendation of the study on the Geological & Geo-morphological aspects of the Greenko UP01 project along with its comments, a copy of approval obtained under the Van Adhinyam 1980 by the User agency who has established the electric transmission line/grid over the Forest land, copy of Wildlife Management Plan of the area prepared by WII, Dehradun duly approved by Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh. As per the information submitted by the State Govt. the total trees effected in the proposal area 205822 as per the sample plot enumeration. The user agency has stated that as per Lidar survey the tree effected in the proposal estimated as 92701 only. There is a huge discrepancy in both the method. The state Govt. was requested to furnish comments/justification in this regard.
- xix. The State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh on dated 02.09.2025 has submitted its reply raised by the Ministry vide EDS dated 05.05.2025. The State Govt. informed that the conversion of more than 600 ha of primarily natural forest for reservoirs and associated works will result in permanent loss of complex, mature forest structure, soil profile and ecosystem services that cannot be recreated by plantation alone. Natural forests provide multilayered habitats, soil stability on fragile slopes and micro climate regulation—attributes that take decades to centuries to re-establish. Thus compensatory plantations, however well-planned, will not fully compensate for the functional and biodiversity loss of the existing forest in the foreseeable future. The project proponent has committed additional mitigation measures beyond the mandatory CA, NPV and Wildlife Conservation Plan, including supporting afforestation on approximately 620 ha of degraded forest land in Sonbhadra (or elsewhere in the State)

Attested

DIV DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/C O/C OF WL(S) SHIMLA

and Plantation of an additional 10 lakh saplings on various revenue or degraded forest lands across Uttar Pradesh.

- xx. The State Government also proposed that the user agency shall deposit a non-lapsable corpus to create an independent "Forest & Landscape Restoration Trust" (the Trust). The State Government recommend a corpus equivalent to 0.5% of the total project cost or such other percentage as the Government may decide. Only the interest/returns on the corpus shall be used for:
- o Long-term restoration and adaptive management of the affected forest and adjacent landscape (soil stabilization, native species restoration, assisted natural regeneration, invasive species control, slope protection).
 - o Regular ecological monitoring and biodiversity inventories of the project and adjacent forests.
 - o Funding peer-reviewed restoration and applied research projects by reputed national/international institutions and universities.
 - o Capacity building of forest staff and local communities for restoration, monitoring and co-management.
 - o Community-based livelihood support directly linked to conservation outcomes (non-timber forest product value chains, eco-restoration wages), subject to safeguards.
- xxi. The State Government also informed by creation of two reservoirs, percolation of water will be effected. The State also informed that the project proponent has submitted the Catchment Area Plan (CAT) and the Wildlife Management Plan; both are presently under review and approval by the competent authorities. The State Govt. also suggested that a comprehensive Disaster Management Plan (DMP) addressing all potential scenarios, including dam failure and inundation, should be meticulously prepared and submitted for approval by the competent authority, as designated by the Government. Additionally, a separate disaster management plan focusing specifically on forest and wildlife relocation and mitigation measures should be developed. This plan should be prepared and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) to safeguard ecological sensitivities and ensure effective ecological mitigation and habitat preservation strategies are incorporated into overall disaster preparedness.
- xxii. As per the records of Obra Forest Division an area of 221.194 Ha under Gudur, Mahuna & Garav village(s) of Obra Forest Division is overlapping with Baijnath Village of Sonbhadra Forest Division. The State Govt. recommended that the area for diversion be determined in accordance with the IFA notification. Accordingly, Compensatory Afforestation (CA), Net Present Value (NPV) and Non-Forest Land (NFL) provisions should be applied to 837.6007 ha. The State Govt. informed that Geological & Geomorphological study for design approval by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is under progress. The copy of the same shall be submitted to MoEFCC/State Govt. once approved by competent authority i.e. Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- xxiii. The State Govt. informed that the User Agency has not clarified its position regarding the use of the power line grid to meet the project's

Attested

→ X

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
OIC O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

electricity needs. The zoned line/grid established for power supply during the project's construction will inevitably affect forest areas. For this, the User Agency will require separate permission under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Since the User Agency has not specified a site for power supply in the project, it is not possible to send a copy of the permission under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Regarding the large number trees (205822) effected in the proposal area, the State Government informed that the proposal forwarded for approval subject to following conditions:-

- a. Support for afforestation efforts on approx. 620 Ha of degraded forest land (DFL) in Sonbhadra District or elsewhere in the state. This is in addition to the regular compensatory afforestation (CA) as per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Adhiniyam, 1980. Evam Samvardhan).
 - b. Retention of approx. 39000 trees by optimizing construction work.
 - c. Greenko Energies Private Limited aims to transplant around 20,000 trees from the project area to nearby non-forest land (NFL) for green belt development.
 - d. The company also plans to support and undertake the plantation of about 10 Lac trees on various revenue or degraded forest lands across the State of Uttar Pradesh, as suggested by the State.
- xxiv. The Advisory Committee noted that the State Government has submitted associated works related to the proposal will result in permanent loss of complex, mature forest structure, soil profile and ecosystem services that cannot be recreated by plantation alone. The State Government has proposed that the user agency shall deposit a non-lapsable corpus to create an independent "Forest & Landscape Restoration Trust" (the Trust) and recommended a corpus equivalent to 0.5% of the total project cost or such other percentage as the Government may decide. The State Government informed that the proposal impact the percolation of water in the proposed area.
- xxv. The Advisory Committee observed that the State Govt. has proposed that a detailed study shall be carried out for cumulative loss of environment due to implementation of the proposed proposal in the area. Further, the State Govt. has stated that current project's strategic importance and being the first of its kind in the area, it can be considered for approval under existing guidelines, but with strict environmental. The State Govt. has recommended that the User Agency shall ensure that the non-site-specific activities like the job facility area and the muck disposal areas etc are not located on forest land. The User Agency shall revise the proposal accordingly. The State Government has submitted that the additional forest land will be required to fulfil the construction of power requirements by utilizing the existing power grid available. The User Agency has not submitted area for forest land will be affected along with power evacuation plan.
- xxvi. The Advisory Committee noted that the State Govt has recommended that the area for diversion be determined in accordance with the IFA notification. Accordingly, Compensatory Afforestation (CA), Net Present Value (NPV) and Non-Forest Land (NFL) provisions should be applied to 837.6007 ha. Therefore, in the light of the above reply, the State

Attested,

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Government should submit the total area sought for diversion with district wise and division wise details.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after thorough deliberation and discussion with the Nodal Officer, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and DDGF(C), RO, Lucknow and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal with the following recommendation:-
- i. A sub-committee constituted with the approval of DGF&SS shall visit the area to have holistic assessment of the various issues related to the project and submit a report to the Ministry in this regard
 - ii. The State Government shall submit the further detail as mentioned below:
 - (a) The State Government shall submit the total area sought for diversion with district wise and division wise area details.
 - (b) The State Government shall submit the updated status of approval of DPR and required approvals from Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission.
 - (c) The State Government shall submit a copy of the approved CAT plan.
 - (d) The State Government shall submit a copy of the approved Wildlife Management plan.
 - (e) As per the DSS, out of 69.841 Ha non-forest land involved in the project, 27.61 ha land is falling within the forest compartment boundaries available on the DSS. Therefore, the State Govt. is requested to clearly bring out the legal status of the 27.61Ha land.
 - (f) RO Lucknow shall inspect the CA land proposed and submit complete SIR with clear recommendations of DDGF on the instant proposal.


Agenda No.32

Online Proposal No FP/RJ/TRANS/451503/2023

Subject:- Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Diversion of 16.5972 ha of roadside protected forest for construction of proposed 400 kv S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-II SS near Village Kaansingki Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan (Online Proposal No FP/RJ/TRANS/451503/2023) – regarding.

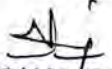
1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The IGF(C), Sub-Office (SO), Hyderabad in-charge of RO, Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer, Govt. of Rajasthan were present in the meeting.

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The State Govt. of Rajasthan vide letter No.1(126)Forest/2024 dated 30.12.2024 submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 16.5972 ha of roadside protected forest for construction of proposed 400 kV S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-II SS near Village Kaansinghki Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The instant proposal electronically received in the Ministry on 01.01.2025.
 - ii. As per the proposal, the total forest area under the proposal is 16.5972 Ha (16.3663 Ha- Deemed Forest and 0.2309Ha- Protected Forests) of forest land which is located in Jodhpur Territorial Division, District:- Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
 - iii. As per the proposal, the forest area is Deemed Forest and Protected Forests with canopy density of 0.1 (Eco Class-4) and 76 nos of trees (5 species) are to be felled.
 - iv. The Government of Rajasthan constituted a State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) with a view to encourage competition in private sector participation for development of transmission projects in State. To achieve the target, Various Solar, Wind, Wind-Solar Hybrid policies have been enunciated by Central and State Governments. Rajasthan is the leading front runner state, implementing large capacity renewable projects under these policies. Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. has awarded project of "6000 MW Solar PV Power Plant linked with 1500MW (Per Annum) Solar PV Manufacturing Plant" to Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited (AREH4L) formerly known as Adani Green Energy Four Limited vide LOA dated 10.12.2019.
 - v. Under this project AREH4L has planned to develop 500 MW Solar Park in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. To evacuate the power and connect the Solar PV plant to ISTS, AREH4L has proposed to develop 400 kV S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-II SS near Village Kaansinghki Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
 - vi. The Component wise break-up of the proposed forest land is as under:

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/G OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
1	Construction of Transmission Line	16.5972	33.1568

- vii. As per Part-II details of the proposal, there is no violation, However, as per Part-I details submitted by the user agency there is a violation in the proposal. The draft notification for declaration of Oran land in Phalodi dist. as deemed forest was released on 01.02.24 by PCCF (Working Plan & Forest Management), Rajasthan, whereas the proposal for diversion of forest land was submitted by company in Nov 2023. The user agency is not aware that the said Oran land of Village Gurha comes under the preview of FCA & hence undertook construction of 14 tower finds in the said area admeasuring 0.3126 ha. Violation happened over Oran land that is now considered as deemed forest. The land is not under jurisdiction of forest department. The period of work started in 2024 and completed in 2024. The User Agency is responsible for violation.
- viii. The State Govt. has informed that the Violation of FCA Act has taken place on Oran Land and was self reported by User Agency. As per Hon'ble Supreme Court Orders, current legal status of Oran lands is that FCA Act is implemented on these lands even though they do not come under the purview of Rajasthan Forest Act. Hence, Forest Department- Division Jodhpur has not done any unlawful activity. No forest staff stands guilty because Oran lands are not part of forest jurisdiction till now. The notification related to Orans was released on 01-02-2024 and the diversion proposal was submitted before that. Hence, there is no action due against unlawful activity w.r.t forest department Rajasthan. However, Violation of Van (SarakshanEvamSavardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 has taken place over an area of 0.3126 Ha. This has been reported by User Agency and suitable penalty can be applied by Central Government as per rules.No Violation of Indian Forest Act, 1927 has taken place.
- ix. The Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over the 47.5 Ha Protected Forest land, Village: Lohavat Vishnavas, Tehsil Lohawat & Range- Phalodiunder District – Phalodi in the State of Rajasthan.
- x. As per DSS analysis, Calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is found 16.582 ha. The State Govt. vide their letter dated 18.07.2025 has reported that the Compensatory afforestation site has been changed and revised/ new CA site over degraded forest land has been proposed in a single patch. The Calculated area of the KML file of proposed CA land is found 47.446 ha
- xi. The RO, Gandhinagar of the Ministry carried out the Site Inspection report. As per SIR, the Proposal for diversion of entire 16.5972 ha. (0.2309 ha which is not correct) of roadside protected forest for

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- construction of proposed 400 kV S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-II SS near Village Kaansinghki Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan for 16.5972 ha forest land where work of transmission line is completed and line charged on 07.09.2024 has been with general, standard and specific conditions mentioned in SIR. Clear recommendation on the instant proposal has not been submitted the DDGF(C), RO, Gandhinagar due to some typing error.
- xii. The Regional office, Gandhinagar in their Site inspection report mentioned that the DFO submitted the Inspection Report on 28.08.2024 where he had stated that the work of the project has been paused by the Agency whereas on Site Inspection it was seen that User Agency charged the line after completing the construction work without prior approval from the Ministry in violation of provisions of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xiii. The State Govt. in the Part-II form reported that the Violation of Van Adhiniyam, 1980 took place over 0.3126 ha deemed forest (oran land) whereas as per the SIR carried out by the RO, Gandhinagar work over the entire proposed forest land has been completed.
- xiv. The State Govt. in their reply dated 17.07.2025 reported that the CA site which was earlier proposed over the forest land in Village: Birai Tehsil: Baori under Jodhpur District has now been changed and new CA site over the forest land in village Village: LohavatVishnavas, Tehsil Lohawat & Range- Phalodi under District – Phalodi in the State of Rajasthan has been proposed. However, the newly proposed CA site has not been inspected by the RO, Gandhinagar and the SIR of the RO, Gandhinagar is based upon the previously proposed CA land.
- xv. The State Govt. informed that the violation happened over Oran land that is now considered as deemed forest. The land is not under jurisdiction of forest department. Violation of Van Sanrakshan Adhiniyam in this case has taken place due to lack of clarity on Oran lands at the time of application. No state government employee is responsible as the Oran land is not under the jurisdiction of forest department. However, since the violation has been reported in a self disclosure by the user agency, relevant penalty can be applied by the central government as per rules.
- xvi. The proposal discussed in Advisory Committee meeting held on 30th July, 2025. After going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal with the following recommendations:-
- a. The State government should clarify whether the extant land is identified as "forest" as per the dictionary meaning by the expert committee constituted by the state government as per the orders

AH ested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICE,
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA


of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12.12.1996 in WP(C) 202/1995. Further, the state shall also clarify whether the said land is included in the consolidated list of forest land under Rule 16(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 for determination of the applicability of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- b. The State Government shall submit the notification of the extant Oran lands vide notification dated 01.02.2024 as deemed forest.
 - c. The State Govt. shall submit the chronology of events in respect of the proposal.
 - d. RO, Gandhinagar shall carry out the inspection of newly proposed CA site and submit the complete Site Inspection Report along-with recommendations.
- xvii. In this regard, the State Government has informed the following-

"The land is an 'Oran' land. As per latest Hon'ble Supreme Court orders, FCA 1980 is to be implemented in all lands recorded as 'Orans' irrespective of they being in 'deemed forest list not. There is an exercise of notifying Oran lands is also going on in Rajasthan. Hence, as per current legal position, only FCA is applicable in the concerned land. Rajasthan Forests Act is still not implemented in these lands."

- xviii. Further, as per recommendation of Advisory Committee, site inspection of newly proposed CA site and complete Site Inspection Report along-with recommendations not received from RO, Gandhinagar.
- xix. The Nodal Officer, Rajasthan stated that the Oran lands in the instant proposal (16.3663 Ha) has not yet been notified as a forest land pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Committee noted the same.
- xx. As per the earlier SIR of the RO Gandhinagar, the work of Transmission line is complete and the line has been charged on 07.09.2024. However, as per the proposal, the State Government has not submitted any action taken against the violations.
- xxi. The ADG(WL) mentioned that unless Oran land is notified as a forest land as per orders of said orders of the Hon'ble Courts as mentioned in the reply of the State government, treating Oran land by default as a 'forest land' under the purview of VSES Adhiniyam 1980 will be legally incongruent proposition in the court of law. At present an Oran land which is 'identified' a forest land under dictionary meaning by the expert committee constituted by the State government in light of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12.12.1996 and submitted before the court through affidavit may be treated as a forest land for diversion under the said Adhiniyam. Therefore, any prior approval by the central government for diversion of the forest land on an Oran land

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

which is neither notified as forest land nor identified by the expert committee constituted for this purpose shall be ab initio ultra vires. In view of the facts submitted by the State government diversion of only notified forest land in the matter should be considered and not the Oran land which appears to be neither notified as forest land nor identified as a forest under dictionary meaning by the expert committee and filed before the Hon'ble SC. The Committee noted the same.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after thorough deliberation and discussion with the Nodal Officer, Govt. of Rajasthan and IGF(C), Sub-Office (SO), Hyderabad in-charge of RO, Gandhinagar, deferred the proposal with the following observations:-

- i. The State Government shall clearly bring whether the Oran land that is part of the instant proposal has been notified/recorded as forest land. A copy of the Government notification shall be submitted before the Advisory Committee.
- ii. As per the earlier SIR of the RO Gandhinagar, the work of Transmission line is complete and the line has been charged on 07.09.2024. The State Government shall submit detailed action taken report along with supporting documents against the violations.
- iii. The site inspection of newly proposed CA site along with recommendations shall be submitted by RO, Gandhinagar.

Agenda No. 33

Proposal No. FP/PB/REDIV/495442/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o Executive Engineer, Department of Irrigation, Punjab for re-diversion of 44.97 ha (originally proposed area is 36.4 ha) out of 70.00 ha Patiari Dam already diverted reservoir area for the purpose of restoring the reservoir's original capacity and further processing the desilted material, Hoshiarpur District in the State of Punjab (Online Proposal No. FP/PB/REDIV/495442/2024)-regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 26.09.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Punjab attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee noted

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 25.08.2025, wherein the Committee noted the following:

- i. The State Government shall submit details of diversion proposal submitted for the proposed road for evacuation of de-silted material along with its KML file.
 - ii. The recommendation letter of the State Government in Part- IV of the proposal has not been uploaded on PARIVESH portal. The State Government shall upload the recommendation on the portal and intimate the Ministry along with a copy of the same.
4. The decision of the Committee was communicated to the State Government on 02.09.2025. The State Government submitted its reply online on 19.09.2025 and informed following:
- i. The Proposal no. FP/PB/OTHERS/495717/2024 for diversion of 0.2723 ha of forest land for road access for evacuation of de-silted material of Patiari dam is under process and is currently pending with IRO, GOI (since 10.09.2025) who is the competent authority to approve this proposal.
 - ii. Recommendation letter of Under Secretary as covering letter addressed to DDGF (Central), Regional Office, has been submitted along with the reply.
5. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Punjab, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for re-diversion of 44.97 ha (originally proposed area is 36.4 ha) out of 70.00 ha Patiari Dam already diverted reservoir area in f/o Executive Engineer, Department of Irrigation, Punjab for the purpose of restoring the reservoir's original capacity and further processing the desilted material, Hoshiarpur District in the State of Punjab subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:
- i. The user agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being re-diverted i.e. 44.97 ha into the account of National Authority, CAMPA and details of the same needs to be submitted along with compliance report.
 - ii. Stage- II approval for instant proposal shall only be considered after obtaining Stage-I approval for road proposal no. FP/PB/OTHERS/495717/2024 for diversion of 0.2723 ha of forest land for road access for evacuation of de-silted material of Patiari dam which is submitted to Regional Office, Chandigarh. Copy of the Stage-I approval shall be submitted along with compliance report.

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Dr. KR Sree Harsha
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Shri Nityanand Srivastava
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Shri Manoj Pant

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Dr. Mehraj AS
Deputy Commissioner (NRM)

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

523



(non-official Member)

(Member)

(confirmed)
Shri Santosh Tiwari
Additional Director General of Forests
(FC)
(Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)
Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey
Additional Director General of Forests
(WL)
(Member)

(Confirmed)
Shri R. Raghu Prasad
Inspector General of Forests
(Member Secretary)

(Approved)
Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi
(Director General of Forests and Special Secretary)
(Chairperson)

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

(PARIVESH 2.0)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on
27.02.2026

Agenda No. 1

Proposal No. FP/AR/MINOIL/528152/2025

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o M/s Oil India Ltd. for non-forestry use of 3.94 ha of Reserved Forest land for exploratory drilling i.e. Onshore oil and gas drilling for establishing Hydrocarbons at location KHAS in Village- Old Plone, District- Changlang in the State of Arunachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/AR/MINOIL/528152/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDG, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 3.94 ha of Reserved Forest for exploratory drilling i.e. Onshore oil and gas drilling for establishing Hydrocarbons at location KHAS in Village- Old Plone, District- Changlang in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.74 ha is required for approach road, 3.13 ha for Plinth, Safety zone & flare and 0.07 ha for passing place.
 - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.2 of Eco class I with 85 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
 - iv. Namdapha Tiger Reserve is located at an approx. aerial distance of 6 km from proposed forest area. State Government has mentioned in his reply dt. 20.01.2026 that proposed area for diversion is located outside the notified ESZ of Namdapha National Park (6 Km from ESZ). So, there is no requirement of approval from the Standing Committee of NBWL.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- v. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificate to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- vi. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area falls under Not-Inviolate or Not In-High Conservation value Zone. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 3 ha is Open Forest and 1 ha is scrub.
- vii. Initially Compensatory Afforestation was proposed over 7.88 ha degraded forest land in Survey No. 1, Village- Khachang, Range- Diyun Forest Range, Tehsil- Miao ADC, Division- Nampong Forest Division, District- Changlang. Subsequently, State Government in its reply dt. 20.01.2026 has proposed Compensatory Afforestation over 7.88 ha degraded forest land in Diyun RF under Nampong Forest Division. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- viii. No violation of the Adhinyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- ix. The life of Mineral oil reservoir is 21 years, the mining lease was re-granted on 29.06.2020 for 20 years w.e.f. 04.05.2018 to 03.05.2038. One borehole of 26" (26 inches) diameter will be drilled at the proposed site.
- x. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. Details of approvals obtained by the State Government in various location in Nigru Petroleum lease, dimensions and number of bore holes proposed to be drilled, comments on small patches of plantation visible along the road will be kept intact or trees will be felled, State to revisit the correctness of the KML file proposed for CA site and submit alternate location which is suitable for plantation and State Government to confirm if the proposal falls within the eco-sensitive zone of Namdapa Tiger Reserve or otherwise and requirement of approval of the Standing Committee of the NBWL etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 26.08.2025. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 20.01.2026 and informed following:
 - a) Government of Arunachal Pradesh has re-granted Ningru Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) to Oil India Limited for carrying out drilling and production activities in the PML vide letter dt. 29.06.2020. Copy of re-grant letter has been submitted along with the reply.
 - b) only one (1) borehole will be drilled at the proposed site and diameter of the borehole will be 26" (26 inches).
 - c) Alternate CA site has been identified at Diyun RF under Nampong Forest Division. Revised CA scheme, suitability certificate, map and KML file has been submitted.

Attested



Annexure A4

(PARIVESH 2.0)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on
27.02.2026

Agenda No. 1

Proposal No. FP/AR/MINOIL/528152/2025

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o M/s Oil India Ltd. for non-forestry use of 3.94 ha of Reserved Forest land for exploratory drilling i.e. Onshore oil and gas drilling for establishing Hydrocarbons at location KHAS in Village- Old Plone, District- Changlang in the State of Arunachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/AR/MINOIL/528152/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDG, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 3.94 ha of Reserved Forest for exploratory drilling i.e. Onshore oil and gas drilling for establishing Hydrocarbons at location KHAS in Village- Old Plone, District- Changlang in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.74 ha is required for approach road, 3.13 ha for Plinth, Safety zone & flare and 0.07 ha for passing place.
 - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.2 of Eco class I with 85 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
 - iv. Namdapha Tiger Reserve is located at an approx. aerial distance of 6 km from proposed forest area. State Government has mentioned in his reply dt. 20.01.2026 that proposed area for diversion is located outside the notified ESZ of Namdapha National Park (6 Km from ESZ). So, there is no requirement of approval from the Standing Committee of NBWL.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- v. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificate to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- vi. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area falls under Not-Inviolate or Not High Conservation value Zone. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 3 ha is Open Forest and 1 ha is scrub.
- vii. Initially Compensatory Afforestation was proposed over 7.88 ha degraded forest land in Survey No. 1, Village- Khachang, Range- Diyun Forest Range, Tehsil- Miao ADC, Division- Nampong Forest Division, District- Changlang. Subsequently, State Government in its reply dt. 20.01.2026 has proposed Compensatory Afforestation over 7.88 ha degraded forest land in Diyun RF under Nampong Forest Division. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- viii. No violation of the Adhinyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- ix. The life of Mineral oil reservoir is 21 years, the mining lease was re-granted on 29.06.2020 for 20 years w.e.f. 04.05.2018 to 03.05.2038. One borehole of 26" (26 inches) diameter will be drilled at the proposed site.
- x. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. Details of approvals obtained by the State Government in various location in Nigru Petroleum lease, dimensions and number of bore holes proposed to be drilled, comments on small patches of plantation visible along the road will be kept intact or trees will be felled, State to revisit the correctness of the KML file proposed for CA site and submit alternate location which is suitable for plantation and State Government to confirm if the proposal falls within the eco-sensitive zone of Namdapa Tiger Reserve or otherwise and requirement of approval of the Standing Committee of the NBWL etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 26.08.2025. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 20.01.2026 and informed following:
 - a) Government of Arunachal Pradesh has re-granted Ningru Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) to Oil India Limited for carrying out drilling and production activities in the PML vide letter dt. 29.06.2020. Copy of re-grant letter has been submitted along with the reply.
 - b) only one (1) borehole will be drilled at the proposed site and diameter of the borehole will be 26" (26 inches).
 - c) Alternate CA site has been identified at Diyun RF under Nampong Forest Division. Revised CA scheme, suitability certificate, map and KML file has been submitted.

Attested



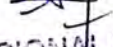
REGIONAL FOREST OFFICER
OFFICE WL(S) SHIMLA

- d) The proposed location i.e. KHAS is located outside the notified ESZ of Namdapha National Park (6 Km from ESZ). So, there is no requirement of approval from the Standing Committee of NBWL. Map showing location i.e. KHAS, Core boundary and ESZ of Namdapha NP & TR is submitted.
- xii. The Regional Office submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhiniyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with certain conditions ensuring adequate safety measures while implementing the project.
- xiii. The authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal
- xiv. The Committee, keeping in view the safety concerns related to such activities in the forest areas, opined that the user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department should keep the forest area of optimum width along the boundary of the area proposed for diversion clear of vegetation as a fire control lines.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 3.94 ha of Reserved Forest for exploratory drilling i.e. Onshore oil and gas drilling for establishing Hydrocarbons at location KHAS in Village- Old Plone, District- Changlang in the State of Arunachal Pradesh subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- To avoid avert disasters, the hazardous zone around the bore well, oil pads or pipelines or other ancillary infrastructure including Blow Out Preventer (BOP) should be maintained by the user agency 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.
 - Recommendations made in the Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas (2022-23 (Safety and Security of Oil Installations of Public Sector Oil companies with specific reference to Baghjan Blow -out incident) shall be strictly adhered to by the user agency to avoid disaster in future.
 - The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department should maintain a fire line of optimum width along the boundary of the area proposed for diversion, in order to prevent fire from spreading into forest areas, in the event of fire accidents.

Agenda No. 2

Proposal No. FPI/AR/HYD/IRRIG/462108/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in

Attested

 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

favour of Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVN) for non-forestry use of 261.53 ha. of unclassified forest land for construction of Attunli Hydro Electric Project (680 MW) on Talo (Tangon) river within the jurisdiction of Anini Forest Division, District-Dibang Valley in the State of Arunachal Pradesh (Online proposal No. FP/AR/HYD/IRRIG/462108/2024)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 26.05.2025. After detailed discussion and deliberation with the DIGF (Central), RO, Shillong, PCCF (HoFF), Government of Arunachal Pradesh and Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:
 - i. A sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee shall visit the area to have holistic assessment of the various issues related to the project as under:
 - a. Impacts of the proposed area on the flora and fauna and efficacy of the mitigation measures suggested in the Wildlife Management Plan prepared by the State Government.
 - b. To assess the land requirement proposed for various project components in light of justification furnished by the State Government.
 - c. Status of requisite statutory approvals obtained by the user agency including approval for quarry area from the concerned Department of the State Government.
 - ii. The State Government shall submit the further detail as mentioned below:
 - a. Status of approval of the mining and reclamation plan of the quarries proposed in the area during the construction phase of the project may be informed by the State.
 - b. Comments on the observation made by the Regional Office in its inspection report regarding non-feasibility of Rock Quarry site- 1 and opinion of the fishery department creating hatcheries and rearing facilities at the project site, proposed conservation measures

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
D/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

11-91/2012FC

on the flora and fauna in the area may be provided by the State Government.

- iii. The State Government on 13.02.2026 submitted reply to queries raised by the Ministry on 10.06.2025 informing the following:
 - a. Rock Quarry site-1 (RQ-1) is situated on the left bank of the Tangon (Talo) River, u/s of the existing steel bridge. The quarry site features a gentle slope with a narrow hill mass, followed by a substantial exposure of fresh and sound quality biotite gneiss. This geological formation is located above the HFL of Tangon (Talo) river. Given these conditions, the site may be considered geotechnically safe for the mining operations associated with the Attunli HEP.
 - b. Regarding opinion of the fishery department creating hatcheries and rearing facilities at the project site, it is reported that establishment of hatcheries and rearing facilities will be provided at project site.
 - c. Regarding conservation measures on the flora and fauna in the area, it is mentioned that Wildlife and Biodiversity Management Plan has been prepared and approved by PCCF (WL), State Forest Department. Further, for the conservation for flora and fauna in the area various Environment Management Plans such as Catchment Area Treatment Plan, Green Belt Development Plan, Reservoir Rim Treatment, Restoration of quarry sites, construction site, road site etc. will also be implemented during construction and operation stage of the project.
 - d. Total area of the proposed quarry sites (6 No.) is 20.88 ha. Since, the preparation and approval of the mining plan is a time sensitive process, it is hereby informed by user agency that the approved Mining Plans will be submitted prior to obtaining Forest Clearance (FC-II).
- iv. As per directions of Advisory Committee, a Sub-Committee was constituted and the Sub-Committee visited the area on 30.10.2025 and submitted its report on 26.12.2025 to the Ministry. The key observations made by the Committee are as under:
 - a. While the project area is ecologically sensitive, efforts have been made to address the impacts of the project on flora and fauna. With strict compliance to the Wildlife Management Plan, CIA & CCS recommendations (including maintenance of e-flows), the ecological impacts can be taken care of. The committee however observed that the instant project is located upstream of the dam of another project name Etalin in Talo (Tangon) river. In case of Etalin Hydro power project the Wildlife Management plan was prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India. Therefore, it would be proper that

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

the wildlife management plan for this extended area is also prepared/ vetted by the Wildlife Institute of India.

- b. In light of justification furnished by the user agency regarding the requirement of forest land, the Committee found the requirement of forest land has been optimized by the user agency. The Committee also noted that the user agency has committed to restoring temporary construction areas and handing them back to the State Forest Department for reuse and regeneration after commercial operation.
- c. Proposed quarry sites cannot be treated as ancillary or integral components of the HEP. They must be examined independently under the mining category. Accordingly, the user agency has to submit the approved mining plan and other requisite details with regard to the quarry area, as are applicable to mining projects.
- d. As the proposed Quarry sites are on steep slopes, the state should get a study conducted through a reputed institute in the field of Geology and ensure that adequate mitigation measures are imposed for minimizing the ecological impact of quarry sites. The state also has to ensure compliance with all statutory approvals and court orders as applicable.
- v. Based on the above observations, the Committee recommended the proposal with the following:
 - a. The area proposed for quarry sites shall be examined like a proposal under the mining category. The User Agency shall accordingly submit duly approved Mining Plans and Mine Closure/Reclamation Plans and other requisite documents for each quarry site.
 - b. Considering that the quarry sites are located on steep slopes, the State Government shall get a detailed geological and slope-stability study conducted through a reputed institute in the field of geology and enforce site-specific mitigation measures to minimize risks of slope failure, erosion, sedimentation, and downstream impacts.
 - c. The Wildlife & Biodiversity Management / Conservation Plan shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency. In view of the project's location upstream of the Etalin Hydro Electric Project, the Wildlife Management Plan for the Attunli project shall be got vetted / reviewed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), so as to

Attested

X

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

ensure landscape-level ecological coherence and consistency with mitigation measures prescribed for downstream projects.

- d. The User Agency shall undertake ecological restoration and reclamation of all temporarily used forest land (120.57 ha) immediately after completion of construction activities, as per an approved restoration plan. All restored areas shall be handed back to the State Forest Department.
- vi. As regards approval from the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), the officers from the Nodal Office and the representative of the user agency informed the Committee that such approval is not required. The safety norms prescribed by the NDSA have already been incorporated in the DPR of the project. Compliance with these norms during the construction and operational phases will be ensured by the National Dam Safety Authority, and the user agency shall abide by all applicable safety standards prescribed by the NDSA.
- vii. The Committee was further informed that the DPR of the project, including its design and safety parameters, has been approved by the competent authority, i.e., the Central Electricity Authority. The Committee observed that, considering the construction of a gravity dam of about 85 metres in height, it is essential that the structural design and safety norms are duly approved by the competent authority.
- viii. The Committee also noted that, given the proximity of Rock Quarry Site-1 (RQ-1) to the Tangon (Talo) River, the height of the dumping site should be carefully planned by the user agency. Efforts should be made to keep the height of the dump to the minimum possible level to ensure stability and safety of the dump.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO, Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:
- (i) The user agency shall submit a copy of the approval of the DPR granted by the Central Electricity Authority, along with an undertaking to strictly adhere to the design and safety provisions contained in the approved DPR and to comply with the safety norms prescribed by the National Dam Safety Authority for construction of such dams.
- (ii) The user agency shall explore the possibility of reducing the area proposed for dumping sites and submit a revised plan, if feasible, to the Ministry.

Agenda No. 3

Proposal No. FP/AR/IND/415686/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking ex post facto approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam,

7


Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMILA

1980 in Deputy Director, Department of Industries, Government of Arunachal Pradesh for non-forestry use of 29.93 ha of Reserved Forest for construction of Mega Food Park under comprehensive package of PM Kisan Sampada Yojna at Dolikoto, Banderdewa, District- Papum Pare in the State of Arunachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/AR/IND/415686/2023)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DIGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Officer from the O/o Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 29.93 ha of Reserved Forest for construction of Mega Food Park under comprehensive package of PM Kisan Sampada Yojna at Dolikoto, Banderdewa, District- Papum Pare in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 29.926 ha is required to carryout various activities in the proposed area.
 - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.4 of Eco class IV with no tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
 - iv. Proposed forest land is located at an approx. aerial distance of 1.56 Km from Kaziranga-Karbianglong Tiger corridor. The State Government in its reply dated 17.02.2026 submitted to Regional Office informed that the aerial distance of Kajiranga Karbianglong Tiger Corridor is more than 100 Km (approx.) from the proposed. Further, there is no report regarding the movement of the tiger and elephant in the proposed site.
 - v. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificate to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
 - vi. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area falls under Not-In High Conservation Value Zone. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 12 ha is Moderately dense Forest and 18 ha is open forest.
 - vii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 59.86 ha degraded forest land in Site Name- Old Lido VFR, Village- Ade, Range- Daporijo, Division- Daporijo, Tehsil- Daporijo Hq, District- Upper Subansiri. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.

Attested

 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 C/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA



11-91/2012FC

- viii. DFO, Banderdewa has mentioned that work was started is 2021 and completed in 2023. However, as per time line form Google earth imagery, it was observed that non-forestry activity was taken place between February, 2017 to November, 2020. State Government in its reply dated 17.02.2026 informed that as per the report, the non-forestry activity during Feb, 2017 and Nov, 2020, as mentioned in the EDS were never detected by the department. However, the issue came to light during 2021 during patrolling of the area by the Range Forest Officer of Drupong Forest Range and accordingly action was initiated.
- ix. A show cause notice was issued to the proprietor Shri Likha Maj, for the violations of FCA, 1980 vide No. SUB/ 04/ 2021/ Cons/1810-17 dated 15th Sept 2021. Thereafter the user agency went to Hon'ble High Court, Itanagar Permanent Bench and obtained stay order vide WP(C) No. 432/2021. The Hon'ble Court vide order dt. 17.12.2021 directed DFO office to restrain from interfering with construction of Mega Food Park. Further, in subsequent order dated 30.05.2022, the Hon'ble Court has disposed off the matter with the directions that "*The matter is disposed off as infructuous. Liberty may be granted to the Petitioner to come again if aggrieved as the matter relates to public importance, the Respondent is expected to co-operate in the matter*". Later, the offence report was drawn in this case vide No. DR/02/2022/83 dt. 07.11.2023 and forwarded to the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Yupia for trail vide DFO Banderdewa's letter No SUB/05/2023/Cons/Part-II/4823-25 06.12.2023. The said matter is under trial and not yet disposed off.
- x. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. justification on creation of infrastructure outside the proposed area which was not visible in February 2017, detailed violations report along with justification on continuing violations for so many years, updated status of the case filed in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Yupia, comments from State regarding non-forestry activity observed in adjoining area, etc. location of the project with respect to Kaziranga-Karbianlong Tiger corridor, etc.
- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 17.02.2026 informing the following:
- It is mentioned that there is no other infrastructure around the proposed area. However, a few encroachments in the forest area do exist in the said RF, which are located outside the proposed area of the Mega Food Park.
 - Individual component wise detail along with the layout map and KML file submitted.
 - The patrolling team, after detection of the earth cutting and development of the area during 2021, took cognizance of the offence and action was initiated.

Attested
✱DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- d) No NoC has been issued by the CCF (Ind). The state has informed that it is found that the NoC found to be forged as per the departmental report.
- e) There is no case pending at the Hon'ble High Court, Guwahati (Itanagar Permanent Branch) as per the judgement passed on 30.08.2023. However, the offence report forwarded to the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Yupia is under trail and not yet disposed off.
- f) No other non-forestry activity taking place outside the proposed area except encroachment in few patches by the local inhabitants.
- g) Revised CA scheme is submitted for an amount of ₹2,75,51,700/-.
- h) The aerial distance of the proposed location from the Kajiranga Karbianglong Tiger Corridor is more than 100 Km (approx.). further, there is no report received regarding the movement of the tiger and elephant in the proposed site.
- xii. The Regional Office in its inspection report has mentioned that construction activities started in the year 2021 and work was done in the year 2023. Entire area of 29.93 ha has been used in violation of the Adhinyam.
- xiii. The DDGF has recommended the proposal citing the justification that the proposal will immensely benefit the State Govt and generate employment opportunity to the locals and support in development. It will improve the infrastructure and provide better facilities, systematic exposure to national market and bring profit to the local farmers thereby increasing the revenue in the region.
- xiv. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal with following conditions:
- a) The State Govt shall ensure the transfer of the admissible cost of penalty for the act of violation to N CAMPA by the user agency and necessary actions against erring officials under section 3A and 3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
- b) The recommendation of this proposal is subject to decisions of the Hon'ble court (the CJM. Yupia) in regards to this proposal.
- xv. The Committee noted that entire area of 29.93 ha of Reserved Forest land has been used for construction of Mega Food Park at Dolikoto, Banderdewa under comprehensive package of PM Kisan Sampada Yojna.
- xvi. The State Government and the Regional Office have recommended the proposal, stating that it will significantly benefit the State by generating employment opportunities for local communities and supporting regional development. The project is expected to improve infrastructure, facilitate better market access, and provide greater exposure to national markets, thereby enhancing the income of local farmers and contributing to increased revenue in the region.

Attested.

X

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

xvii. The State Government and the Regional Office has recommended the proposal citing the justification that proposal will immensely benefit the State Govt and generate employment opportunity to the locals and support in development. It will improve the infrastructure and provide better facilities, systematic exposure to national market and bring profit to the local farmers thereby increasing the revenue in the region.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of ex post facto '**in-principle**' for diversion of 29.93 ha of Reserved Forest for construction of Mega Food Park under comprehensive package of PM Kisan Sampada Yojna at Dolikoto, Banderdewa, District- Papum Pare in the State of Arunachal Pradesh subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 against the erring officials shall be initiated by State Forest Department and a status report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval.
 - ii. The encroachment in the nearby forest areas, as reported by the State Government, shall be evicted by the State Government and a report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval.
 - iii. In accordance with the provisions of para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhiniyam by the user agency violation which shall be five time the NPV of forest land used in violation plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand and till the deposit is made by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.
 - iv. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
 - v. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Shillong and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.

Agenda No. 4

Proposal No. FP/AS/MIN/QRY/488108/2024

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Shri Anil Das for non-forestry use of 7.46 ha. of Reserved Forest for operation of Ekchelia Stone Quarry located in Milmilia Reserve Forest under Kamrup West Forest Division, Bamunigaon, District- Kamrup in the State of Assam (Online No. FP/AS/MIN/QRY/488108/2024)- regarding.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attend the meeting. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 26.05.2025 and 25.08.2025, wherein the Committee, after deliberation, desired that following additional details may be furnished by the State for its further consideration by the Committee:
 - i. The State Government shall prepare a long term sustainable mining plan for carrying out optimum mining in the districts where such mining is being taken and proposed in future. The said plan shall take into consideration the finding of District Survey Report regarding total reserve available and quantities of reserves which can be excavated in a sustainable manner.
 - ii. To mitigate the impact of the proposed mining activities on the wildlife including the elephants, a comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan for the landscape, in consultation with an institute of repute, should be prepared and submitted to the Ministry.
 - iii. KML files of the all existing mines and proposed mines in the area will be submitted by the State.
4. The State Government submitted its reply online on 30.01.2026 informing the following:
 - (i) With regards preparation of preparation of sustainable mining plan, the State Government has mentioned that District Survey Report of Kamrup District was prepared in accordance the provisions of the sustainable sand mining guidelines of the MoEF&CC which was subsequently examined and approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) on 29.08.2025. The approved DSR comprehensively evaluates minor mineral resources, including stone, detailing category-wise reserves, replenishment potential, environmental sensitivity, and scientifically determined sustainable extraction limits. Ekchelia Stone Mahal, identified as a stone-bearing area within the district, has been assessed in terms of

Attested
✖

mineral potential, environmental constraints, and carrying capacity. Sustainable mining at Ekchelia Stone Mahal is proposed to be undertaken strictly in accordance with the approved DSR and the duly approved site-specific Mining Plan, ensuring regulated extraction within ecological limits and compliance with applicable guidelines and statutory provisions.

- (ii) With regards to mitigation measures for the protection and conservation and protection of wildlife, it has been mentioned that Nodal Officer sought scientific and technical support from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to assess wildlife-related aspects of the proposed Ekchelia Stone Mahal project. Accordingly, a WII expert team conducted a site inspection on 06.12.2025 in association with the Kamrup (West) Forest Division. It has been mentioned that the project site, located within Milmilia Reserve Forest, lies far from notified Protected Areas, tiger corridors and elephant corridors, with the nearest elephant corridor approximately 134 km away, and no evidence of regular elephant movement in or near the quarry area. Based on the site assessment, the WII has recommended site-specific mitigation and conservation measures to minimize potential wildlife impacts.
- (iii) With regards to other mines in the area, it has been informed that there are no operating mines in the Milmilia Reserve Forest. The extant mine is the only mine proposed in the area other mines are located beyond the Milmilia reserved forests and are closed at present except one mine (Jagoroad F1) for which approval was granted in 2023.

5. The Nodal Officer, further informed the following:

- i. District Level Committees have been constituted across the State for preparation, monitoring and oversight of the District Survey Reports (DSRs). The Committee, headed by the District Commissioner and comprising officers from the Water Resources Department, Revenue and Land Department, Directorate of Geology and Mining, and Assam Pollution Control Board, prepares the DSRs. The DSRs are recommended by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee and subsequently approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority.
- ii. The approved DSRs provide a comprehensive scientific assessment of minor mineral resources, including stone and sand, covering reserve estimation, annual production capacity, replenishment characteristics, environmentally sensitive areas and No-Go zones. Mining operations in the State are regulated in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the respective approved DSRs to ensure sustainable mining.
- iii. The Nodal Officer has also referred to the order dated 23.07.2024 of the Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 86/2024 (*Pradeep Singh Shekhawat vs. Union of India & Ors.*), wherein it was noted that as per the *Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining*, preparation of a District Survey Report is mandatory prior to auction/e-auction or grant of mining lease/Letter of Intent by the State authorities.

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- iv. The project proponent shall comply with all wildlife mitigation measures recommended by WII and any additional conditions that may be prescribed by the Ministry
 - v. An I.A. No. 218391/2024 in W.P. (C) No. 202/1995 has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court alleging illegal mining (stone quarrying) in certain districts of Assam. In this regard, the State Government has constituted a Committee, and a report has been submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. There is no court case or other litigation pending in respect of the extant mine. However, any binding directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its final decision in the aforesaid I.A. shall be duly complied with by the user agency in respect of the extant mining lease.
 - vi. The Nodal Officer further submitted that Committee that many developmental projects area being implemented in the State and more developmental projects have been proposed. To cater to the requirement of construction material for these projects, stone quarries are essential for the State.
6. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 7.46 ha. of Reserved Forest for operation of Ekchelia Stone Quarry located in Milmlia Reserve Forest under Kamrup West Forest Division, Bamunigaon, District- Kamrup in the State of Assam subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- (i) The observations and recommendations made by the Wildlife Institute of India regarding mitigation measures for the protection and conservation of wildlife shall be incorporated in the site specific Wildlife management Plan and a copy of the approved Wildlife Management Plan shall be submitted along with the compliance of the in-principle approval. The cost of preparation and implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan shall be borne by the user agency and deposited into the account of State CAMPA through PARIVESH Portal.
 - (ii) A plan on Soil and Moisture conservation mitigation measures, required in the area will be prepared and submitted along with compliance of In-principle approval. The cost of preparation and implementation of the Soil and Moisture conservation mitigation measures shall be borne by the user agency and deposited into the account of State CAMPA through PARIVESH Portal.
 - (iii) The State Government shall ensure that the extant mine is in conformity with the mining potential assessed in the District Survey Report (DSR) prepared by the State Government.
 - (iv) An I.A. No. 218391/2024 in W.P. (C) No. 202/1995 has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court alleging illegal mining (stone quarrying) in certain districts of Assam. Any binding directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its final decision in the aforesaid I.A. shall be duly complied with by the user agency in respect of the extant mining lease.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/G OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Agenda No. 5

Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563127/2025

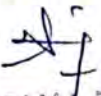
Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat for diversion of 1.731 ha of forest land for exploratory location SPAA in Doyang Reserved Forest under Golaghat Division, Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563127/2025)-regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-II approval vide letter 3 ASB/124/2022/GHY dated 25.07.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

Condition No. xvii. The State Government shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset.

Condition No. xx. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.
 - ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
 - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
 - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
- (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
- iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I and Stage- II approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
- v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of the Stage-II approval, with the following conditions:
- i. *To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
- ii. *No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

Agenda No. 6

Proposal No. FPI/AS/MINOIL/563145/2025

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat for diversion of 2.2091 ha of

Attested

[Signature]

16

REGIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
CHIEF OF WL(S) SHIMLA

forest land for drilling of exploratory location ELAJ in Doyang Reserved Forest under Golaghat Division, Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563145/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

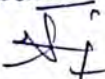
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:

- i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-II approval vide letter 3 ASB/126/2022/GHY dated 25.07.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

Condition No. xvii. The State Government shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset.

Condition No. xx. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.

- ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
 - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
 - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
 - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
 - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
 - iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I and Stage- II approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
 - v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of Stage-II approval, with the following conditions:
- i. *To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
 - ii. *No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

Agenda No. 7

Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562682/2025

Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in final approval for diversion of 1.7678 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat for exploratory location TLAA in Doyang Reserved Forest under Golaghat Division, Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562682/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
G/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:

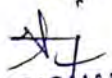
- i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-II approval vide letter 3 ASB/117/2022/GHY dated 25.07.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

Condition No. xvii. The State Government shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset.

Condition No. xx. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.

- ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
- (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
 - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
 - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
 - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I and Stage- II approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
 - v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of Stage-II approval, with the following conditions:
- i. *To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
 - ii. *No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

Agenda No. 8

Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562870/2025

Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in final approval for diversion of 1.8212 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat for drilling of exploratory location SUAD in Doyang Reserved Forest under Golaghat Division, Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562870/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-II approval vide letter 3 ASB/116/2022/GHY dated 25.07.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

Condition No. xvii. The State Government shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset.

Condition No. xx. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.

- ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
 - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
 - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
 - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
 - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
- iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I and Stage- II approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
- v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(G) SHIMLA

disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of Stage-II approval, with the following conditions:
- i. *To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
 - ii. *No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

Agenda No. 9

Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562407/2025

Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in final approval for diversion of 1.781 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat for exploratory location TLAB in Doyang Reserved Forest under Golaghat Division, Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562407/2025)-regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-II approval vide letter 3 ASB/122/2022/GHY dated 25.07.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

Condition No. xvii. The State Government shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset.

Attested

[Signature]

Condition No. xx. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.

- ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
 - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
 - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
 - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
 - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
 - iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
 - iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I and Stage- II approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
 - v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to

Attested
[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

amendment the condition No. xvii and xx of Stage-II approval, with the following conditions:

- i. *To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
- ii. *No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

Agenda No. 10

Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563199/2025

Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in In-principle approval for diversion of 2.2864 ha of Reserved Forest in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. for exploration drilling of Hydrocarbon at location BWNA in Village- Namram Reserved Forest, District- Golaghat in the State of Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563199/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-I approval vide proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/422315/2023 dated 21.08.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

Condition No. 1.14. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.

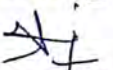
Condition No. 1.15. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset.

Attested


REGIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 (CHIEF WILDLIFE) SHILLONG

- ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
- (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
 - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
 - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
 - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
- iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
- v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. 1.14 and 1.15 of Stage-I approval, with the following conditions:
- i. *To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- ii. No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.

Agenda No. 11

Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563217/2025

Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in In-principle approval for diversion of 1.709 ha of Reserved Forest in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. for exploration drilling of Hydrocarbon at location BWNB in Village- Chungajan Block No 3 NC, District- Golaghat in the State of Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563217/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-I approval vide proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/426584/2023 dated 21.08.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

Condition No. 1.14. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.

Condition No. 1.15. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset.
 - ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
 - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
 - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
 - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
- iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
- v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. 1.14 and 1.15 of Stage-I approval, with the following conditions:
- i. *To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
 - ii. *No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Agenda No. 12

Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563228/2025

Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in In-principle approval for diversion of 1.77 ha of Reserved Forest in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. for exploration drilling of Hydrocarbon at location CJAA in Village- Namram Reserved Forest, District- Golaghat in the State of Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563228/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-I approval vide proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/424232/2023 dated 21.08.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

Condition No. 1.14. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.

Condition No. 1.15. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset.
 - ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
 - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
 - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
 - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
 - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.

Attested



- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
 - iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
 - v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. 1.14 and 1.15 of Stage-I approval, with the following conditions:
- i. *To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
 - ii. *No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

Agenda No. 15

Proposal No: FP/CG/MinorCanal/461096/2024

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 49.850 ha of forest land for construction of Jagmadwa Minor Tank project in favour of Water Resources Department in District Kabirdham in the State of Chhattisgarh (Proposal no. FP/CG/MinorCanal/461096/2024).

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh were present in the meeting.

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Government of Chhattisgarh vide their letter No. F 5-27/2024/10-2 dated 15.10.2024 has submitted the above mentioned proposal on PARIVESH portal under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - ii. The Jagmadwa Minor Irrigation Project proposed dam site is located across Sukha Nala near village Jagmadwa and Dumariya, Block Sahaspur Lohara, District-Kabeerdham of Chhattisgarh. The project requires total area of 90.433 ha of land, out of which forest land involved is 49.850 ha.
 - iii. The State Government submitted that proposed land for diversion has forest cover with the canopy density of 0.5 of Eco Class III. The number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is 8574.
 - iv. As submitted by the State Government, the proposal does not involve violation of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980,
 - v. The DFO in Part-II reported that Bear and Leopard are present in the proposed area. Further, the proposed forest area for diversion is located at an approximate aerial distance of 10.12 km from Borhamdev Wildlife Sanctuary and about 6.33 km from Kahna-Indravati tiger corridor.
 - vi. The State Government submitted that Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the Jagmadwa Reservoir project has been prepared and forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) for approval. It has been stated that necessary action will be undertaken in accordance with the plan as approved by the PCCF (Wildlife).
 - vii. The State Government has proposed an extent of 49.85 ha of non-forest area in 3 patches i.e. 21.48 ha in Sy No 1429, 1494 & 1493 of Akola Village, 18.37 ha in Bagdumar Village and 10 ha in Litia Village for undertaking Compensatory Afforestation.
 - viii. The Regional Office, Nagpur in its Site Inspection Report submitted that the part of the CA land has already existing plantation over an extent of 41 ha. The State Government clarified that the existing plantation is not part of compensatory afforestation in lieu of any previous diversion proposal. During the inspection, it was noticed that the area which was already been planted, has not attained 0.4 density. Hence, the RO, has recommended

Attested



- for revision of CA scheme shall be revised including the provision of to take up enrichment planation over open space available, besides maintenance of existing plantation.
- ix. Further, the RO in its SIR submitted that, out of 21.48 ha patch identified in Sy No 1429, 1494 & 1493 of Akola Village, an extent of 2.50 ha area covered with water body and hence, there is no scope for taking up of planation in the said area. As per the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, over an extent of 5 ha of degraded forest area needs to be planted in lieu of 2.50 ha of non-forest land, not found suitable for plantation.
 - x. The State Government submitted that CAT Plan has been approved and forwarded by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Durg to PCCF & HoFF for approval.
 - xi. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:
 - a) The tree fellings should be restricted to the FRL by the user agency in consultation with the forest department.
 - b) As the proposed forest area is prone to soil erosion, a Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan and a Catchment Area Treatment Plan shall be implemented at the project's cost to prevent soil erosion in nearby or adjoining forest areas.
 - c) Out of the 21.48 ha identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA), 2.50 ha are covered by a water body, making it unsuitable for plantation. Hence, as per the provisions of VSS Rules, 2023, 5 hectares of plantation shall be undertaken in a degraded forest area. Accordingly, the CA scheme should include plantation in 5 hectares of degraded forest land, in addition to the maintenance and enrichment of existing plantations in the proposed CA area, at the project's cost.
 - d) As the existing road will be submerged, the User Agency (UA) shall construct an alternative road along the boundary within the forest area proposed for diversion to ensure connectivity for nearby villagers.
 - e) Considering the presence of wildlife species such as bears and leopards, a site-specific mitigation plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), shall be implemented by the State Forest Department at the project's cost.
 - xii. The Committee observed that the Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan was approved by the CCF Durg. However, as per the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the CAT Plan needs to be approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF).

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xiii. The committee observed that the proposed area for diversion is falling in High Conservation Zone as per DSS. In response, the State Government submitted that the affected compartments (49.850 ha) fall under Site Quality Class IV with mixed forest of moderate age and 0.5 density, predominantly comprising fuelwood species, and that biodiversity is of a general in nature. It has been stated that no alternative site is available for irrigation, and therefore diversion is justified. The committee took note of the submission made by the State Government.
- xiv. The Committee further observed that the necessary approval of the NDSA and SDSO has not been obtained by the User Agency. In this regard, the Nodal Officer informed that the project is of minor Irrigation category and does not require approval of the NDSA/SDSO.
- xv. The committee further observed that the land proposed for diversion has the presence of cultivated land and a road within the proposed forest area. In response, the State Government submitted that the private agricultural land lies outside the forest boundary. The road from Lohara to Ganjaidabri is an existing forest road recorded in Appendix No. 40 of the Kawardha Forest Division Working Plan. As this forest road falls within the proposed submergence area, provision for construction of an alternative road has been incorporated in the project plan. However, as per the component wise break up submitted by the State Government, forest area required for shifting the existing road from the submergence area to the non-submergence area has not been included in the proposal.
- xvi. The committee further sought clarification with regard to the plantation and water body within the CA sites. In response, the State Government submitted that the CA land is revenue land with plantations raised under State schemes and that the water body is for irrigation, with no encroachment.
- xvii. The committee also observed that the Regional Office in its SIR submitted that out of 21.48 ha patch identified in Sy No 1429, 1494 & 1493 of Akola Village, an extent of 2.50 ha area is covered with water body and hence, there is no scope for taking up of plantation in the said area. The committee noted the fact that 5 ha of degraded forest land (DFL) area needs to be planted in lieu of 2.50 ha, not found suitable for plantation. However, the details of DFL area identified for CA has not been submitted by the State Govt.
- xviii. The Committee further observed that the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the Jagmadwa Reservoir project has been prepared and forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) for approval. It has been stated that necessary action will be undertaken in accordance with the plan as approved by the PCCF (Wildlife).

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Nagpur and Nodal Officer,

Attested

Government of Chhattisgarh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh, the Committee '*deferred*' the proposal of prior approval under section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 49.850 ha of forest land for construction of Jagmadwa Minor Tank project in favour of Water Resources Department in District Kabirdham in the State of Chhattisgarh, for want of following information:

- i. The Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) shall be submitted by the State Government.
- ii. An existing forest road, Lohara-Ganjaidabri road mentioned in Appendix No. 40 of the Kawardha Forest Division Working Plan and falls within the proposed submergence area, for which an alternative road has been planned. However, the details of the alternate forest road proposed along with its alignment has not been provided. The State Government shall provide the necessary details in this regard.
- iii. The 2.50 ha area out of 21.48 ha in Sy. Nos. 1429, 1494 and 1493 of Akola Village identified for CA purpose is a water body and unsuitable for plantation. Hence, the State Government shall provide the details of additional 5 ha of degraded forest land (KML File, site suitability certificate etc.) for undertaking Compensatory Afforestation along with the detailed CA scheme.
- iv. The State Government shall submit the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the Jagmadwa Reservoir project duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW).

Agenda No.17

Proposal. No. FP/HP/ROAD/514215/2024

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department for non-forestry use of 7.5479 ha of Protected Forest for widening of already constructed road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad km 0/00 to 12/460 in District Lahaul & Spiti in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/514215/2024)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the

Attested

[Signature]

Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

i. The Government of Himachal Pradesh vide online proposal no FP/HP/ROAD/514215/2024 submitted the above mentioned proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 7.5479 Ha of Protected Forest for construction of road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad km 0/00 to 12/460 in District Lahaul & Spiti in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

ii. The Component wise break up are as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
1	Proposed Road	7.3879	0.8447
2	Dumping site-1	0.04	0
3	Dumping site-2	0.04	0
4	Dumping site-3	0.04	0
5	Dumping site-4	0.04	0
Total		7.5479	0.8447

iii. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 26.09.2025. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:

- The State Government shall look into the action taken against officers responsible for the violation and submit a comprehensive report on the matter to the Ministry.
- The State Government shall submit a copy of Wildlife Management Plan approved by Chief Wildlife Warden with specific comments.
- The State Government shall submit an updated Action Taken Report against the User Agency.

iv. The above decision of the Committee was conveyed to the State Government on 06.10.2025. The Government of Himachal Pradesh uploaded reply on PARIVESH portal 2.0 on 16.01.2026.

v. The State Government has submitted that the Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings have been initiated against the officer/official responsible for the violation. Departmental disciplinary action against the officer/officials i.e. 02 Forest Guards, 01 Deputy Ranger and 02 Forest Rangers have been initiated who are responsible for the violation detailed as under:

Attested



S. No.	Name of officer/Officials	Designation	Remarks
(i)	Hardev Singh Negi, HPFS the then DFO WL Spiti	Divisional Forest Officer	Show cause notice issued.
(ii)	Dorje Namgial, FR the then RO WL Tabo	Range Officer	Chargesheet issued, disciplinary proceeding in progress.
(iii)	Ramesh Chand, FR the then RO WL Tabo	Range Officer	Chargesheet issued, disciplinary proceeding in progress.
(iv)	Chhewang Angroop, DR the then BO Sichling	Deputy Ranger	Chargesheet issued, disciplinary proceeding in progress.
(v)	Davender Kumar, Fgd the then I/C Poh Beat	Forest Guard	Chargesheet issued, disciplinary proceeding in progress.
(vi)	Palvinder, Fgd the then I/C Sichiling Beat	Forest Guard	Chargesheet issued, disciplinary proceeding in progress.

- vi. DFO concerned has submitted that the Wildlife Management Plan of proposed road has been approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh. The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Himachal Pradesh vide letter dated 27.11.2025 has approved the Wildlife Management Development & Biodiversity Conservation Plan formulated as a part of execution of the Road Widening Project from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad (District Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh) for the period 2025-26 to 2028-29, with a budgetary allocation of Rs. 9,74,360 Lakhs.
- vii. The State Government has uploaded the detailed action taken report furnished by CF Wildlife (South). As per the report, on 15.12.2022, a request was made by RFO Tabo to the In-Charge Police Station, Kaza, for registration of an FIR against HPPWD for the said illegal act. On 16/09/2025, FIR No. 0026 was registered by the Police Station, Kaza regarding illegal construction of road from Gecha to Dhankar Helipad under Section 329(3) of the BNS and Sections 32 and 33 of the Indian Forest Act and Investigation has initiated. The penalty amounting to 1.49 crore is yet to be deposited by the User Agency. For deposition of penalty, the HPPWD has been requested time to time.
- viii. The State Government has also informed that the Hon'ble NGT during previous hearing held on 15.09.2025 reserved the order in the instant matter which has been pronounced on 11.12.2025. The operative part of the order is as under:-

However, in view of the fact that respondents have already diverted forest land, cut the trees and constructed the road without approval for the diversion of forest land under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan

Attested,

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980, the respondents are directed to provide non-forest 28.7516 ha land for compensatory afforestation and deposit compensatory afforestation amount of Rs. 1,49,10,000/- with the Forest Department within one month and the Forest Department is directed to take up the matter of implementation of remedial measures including afforestation by utilizing the Compensatory Afforestation amount within next two months and file compliance report in this regard at-least one week before the next date of hearing fixed.

List on 08.04.2026 for further proceedings/orders.

- ix. The State Government has stated that as evident from the orders of 11.12.2025 issued by Hon'ble NGT Bench New Delhi, The Hon'ble Court has directed to deposit compensatory afforestation amount of Rs.1,49,10,000/-with the Forest Department within one month and the Forest Department is directed to take up the matter of implementation of remedial measures including afforestation by utilizing the Compensatory Afforestation amount within next two months and file compliance report in this regard at-least one week before the next date of hearing fixed i.e. 08.04.2026. In addition, the Hon'ble Court has directed to provide 28.7516 ha of non-forest land for compensatory afforestation.
- x. The Advisory Committee noted that the Nodal Officer (FCA), Himachal Pradesh Forest Department vide letter No.HPFD-F05/380/2024-FCA dated 25.02.2026 has informed that as per the direction of Hon'ble NGT OA No.173/2022 dated 11.12.2025, User agency has deposited the penalty amount of Rs.1,49,10,000/- in the State Forest Department treasury account 0406-01-101-08 through e-challan dated 28.01.2026 for illegal construction of road.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, decided to '*defer*' the proposal with the following observations:
- i. The matter is presently *sub-judice* before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal(Principal Bench, New Delhi) , and the next date of hearing is 08.04.2026. In view of the matter being sub judice, the State Government shall first comply with the orders of the Hon'ble NGT in the matter and thereafter the State may approach the Ministry for further deliberation and decision on the proposal.

Agenda No. 18

Proposal No. FP/JH/REDIV/431331/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for re-diversion of 0.9113 ha Protected Forest for re-drawing of safety zone along common boundary considering Noamundi Iron Mine & Katamati Iron Mine of M/S

Attested

[Signature]

36

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Tata Steel Ltd as a cluster for extraction of locked up minerals located under Chaibasa Forest Division, Pashchimi Singhbhum District of Jharkhand State (Online No. FP/JH/REDIV/431331/2023)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Ranchi, and Nodal Officer, Government of Jharkhand attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves re-diversion of 0.9113 ha Protected Forest for re-drawing of safety zone along common boundary considering Noamundi Iron Mine & Katamati Iron Mine of M/s Tata Steel Ltd as a cluster for extraction of locked up minerals located under Chaibasa Forest Division, Pashchimi Singhbhum District of Jharkhand State.
 - ii. As per component-wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.9113 ha is required for change in land use for mining purpose.
 - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.1 of Eco class III forest types with 56 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
 - iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. However, as per site inspection report of Regional Office, Ranchi, proposed forest land is having the presence of schedule-I species such as Elephant, Wild boar, Barking deer, Slot bear etc. Further it has been reported that the proposed area is a part of Singhbhum Elephant Reserve.
 - v. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
 - vi. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area falls under Not-Inviolate or Not In-High Conservation value Zone.
 - vii. Since the proposal is for re-diversion, compensatory afforestation is not applicable, as compensatory levies for diversion has been paid already including safety zone.
 - viii. No violation of the Adhinyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
 - ix. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. complete compliance report of earlier Stage- II approval,

Attested

[Signature]
 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 D/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

comments from State Government regarding safety zone between Noamundi Iron Ore and Katamati Iron Ore mine devoid of vegetation and no plantation visible, KML files of 370.92 ha forest land; CA land; KML file of 383.37 ha forest land and KML file of mine boundary of Noamundi Iron Ore mine, comments of the CWLW, Details of area proposed for dumping of overburden, status of notification of 151.67 ha Non-forest land as RF/PF under IFA, 1927, complete mining plan, location map along with the KML file highlighting the area where the safety zone is proposed to be shifted/ re-drawn and status of forest land reclaimed by the user agency in the instant mine etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 05.09.2024.

- x. The State Government submitted its reply online on 15.12.2025 and informed following:
- a) Compliance report of Stage- II approval dated 04.09.2014 was submitted.
 - b) The proposed safety zone area over both Noamundi and Katamati iron mine is part of top horizon which comprises of very hard Canga (mix of bouldery material of laterite & hard iron ore with cemented matrix), laterite and hard iron ore. There is negligible soil in this area. Below this, there is hard iron ore. Porous space of these lithotypes and permeability are negligible. Hence, growth of trees is negligible. As per the Google imagery dated 23.01.2025, pillars like structures are found visible in the safety zone of Noamundi Iron ore mine.
 - c) KML file of approved forest land i.e. 370.92 has been submitted. The KML file of the Non Forest land for CA 150.856 ha (KML area 150.916 ha) has been uploaded on the PARIVESH. Out of which, 5 ha is Moderately Dense Forest, 9 ha is Open Forest and 137 ha is Non-Forest/ Non-wooded in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019. The KML file of the Degraded Forest land 9.19 ha for plantation work (KML file area 9.385 ha) has been uploaded on the PARIVESH. Out of which, 9 ha is Non-Forest/ Non-wooded in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019. KML file of 333.591 ha has been submitted. KML file of mine lease boundary of Noamundi Iron Ore mine with safety zone has also been submitted.
 - d) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand, Ranchi has approved the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for Noamundi Iron Mine by Office Order No. 28 dated 28.08.2020. The said plan has been prepared in compliance with the conditions imposed under the environmental clearance granted by MoEF&CC for the said mining lease. Also, the above plan has been modified in compliance with the condition imposed in the proposal submitted by the user agency for diversion of the remaining forest land measuring 391.51 hectares within their mining lease area, which has

Attested.

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

received Stage-I approval by MoEF&CC, Govt. of India vide letter No. F.No. 8-65/2018FC dated 08.12.2022. This plan has been approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand, Ranchi, vide Office Order 33 dated 15.05.2024. In the circumstances described above, it does not appear necessary to formulate a separate wildlife conservation plan for the current forest land diversion proposal, which is within the 370.92 ha mining lease. In this regard, the opinion of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand, Ranchi, has been forwarded to the Principal Secretary, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi, through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-cum-Executive Director, Wasteland Development Board, Jharkhand, Ranchi, vide their letter No. 496 dated 29.05.2024. A total of 5 elephants have died in the last 10 years in the Noamundi region. The Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been in effect for the past four years. Each year, proposed actions are being carried out in a planned manner. It is also monitored at the departmental level.

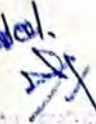
- e) Item-wise breakup details of the forest land proposed for diversion is submitted.
- f) User agency has mentioned that draft PF notification of transferred and mutated non-forest land has been finalised by DFO Gumla and is in process for forwarding for necessary action.
- g) The complete mining plan approved by IBM vide letter No. RAN/WSB/Fe/MP-24/2021-22 dated 15.03.2022 for the period from 2022-23 to 2026-27 is submitted.
- h) Desired map/ KML file has been uploaded by the user agency on PARIVESH portal 2.0. No new forest land is required for relocation of safety zone.
- i) Progressive mine closure plan approved by the user agency for the period 2019-20 to 2023-24 has been submitted and reclamation work is being carried out as per the progressive mine closure plan.
- xi. The Regional Office also submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhinyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with following:
 - (i) This proposal is part of 370.92 ha of forest land which has been given approval for non-forestry purpose by Govt. of India, MoEF&CC vide letter No.8-279/1985-FC (Pt) dated 04.09.2014.
 - (ii) Total 0.9113 ha Forest land is involved in proposed re-drawing of Safety Zone of Noamundi Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. for mining purpose. It is reported that a total of 16 million tons of high grade iron ore is locked over the proposed area. Hence, it become

Attested

imperative to carry out mining operation over mineral locked area in the interest of mineral conservation.

- (iii) The DFO has reported that the proposed area does not come within any National Park, Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve or within 10 Km boundary of any Protected Area. The proposed area is a part of Singhbhum Elephant Reserve.
 - (iv) The State Govt. has reported that Review of Mining Plan has been approved by IBM vide letter No. RAN/WSB/Fe/MP-24/2021-22 dated 15.03.2022 for the period from 2022-23 to 2026-27.
 - (v) The DFO, Chaibasa has reported that no violation has been observed in respect of the forest land proposed for diversion under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. However, during site inspection a road was seen in between the safety zone, which was reported to be of pre-1980 by the user agency.
 - (vi) The instant diversion proposal for redrawing of safety zone and change in land use pattern over 0.9113 ha forest land from Safety zone to mining purpose on Jharkhand side of working pits of Noamundi Iron Mine (Jharkhand) by M/s Tata Steel Ltd.
 - (vii) As reported by the Nodal Officer, Jharkhand user agency has provided 151.67 ha of non-forest land for raising CA in lieu of already diverted 370.92 ha of forest land (229.748 ha broken up prior to 1980 + 141.172 ha fresh area) including safety zone area involved in this mining lease. Hence, CA land to the safety zone proposed for diversion (0.9113 ha) is not required.
 - (viii) As reported by the State Govt., DGMS has granted the permission under Regulation 111 (3) of Metalliferous Mine Regulations, 1961 to extend the opencast working of Katamati Iron Mine within 7.5 m of the common mine boundary with Noamundi Iron Mine of Tata Steel Ltd. vide letter No.330127 dated 17.02.2023.
 - (ix) Mining in the safety zone of both the mining lease will result in no inter-state boundary at that point. The representative of user agency said that the boundary will be virtual and the GPS reading of the boundary will be maintained and after mining below the pit as per the GPS reading boundary pillars will be installed.
- xii. State Government has mentioned that mining plan has been approved by IBM vide letter No. RAN/WSB/Fe/MP-24/2021-22 dated 15.03.2022 for the period from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for re-diversion of 0.9113 ha Protected Forest for re-drawing of safety zone along common boundary considering Noamundi Iron Mine & Katamati Iron Mine of M/s Tata Steel Ltd as a cluster for extraction of locked up minerals located under

Attested.

 JUNIOR FOREST OFFICER
 CPWL(S) SHIMLA

Chaibasa Forest Division, Pashchimi Singhbhum District of Jharkhand State subject to the general, standard condition.

Agenda Note 20

Online Proposal No: FP/JH/IND/528045/2025

Subject: Proposal for seeking Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 184.43 ha Forest land in favour of M/s ESL Steel Limited (Formerly known as Electrosteel Steels Limited) for setting up of an Integrated Steel Plant under Bokaro District of Jharkhand State (Online Proposal No: FP/JH/IND/528045/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Ranchi and Nodal Officer, Government of Jharkhand attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 22.01.2026 and following was discussed:
 - I. The Govt. of Jharkhand vide their letter No Van Bhumi-20/2025-3330 dated 18.09.2025 forwarded a diversion proposal to obtain Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 184.43 ha Forest land in favour of M/s ESL Steel Limited (Formerly known as Electrosteel Steels Limited) for setting up of an Integrated Steel Plant under Bokaro District of Jharkhand State. The instant proposal electronically received in the Ministry on 18.09.2025.
 - II. ESL Steel Limited (formerly Electrosteel Steels Limited) has set up an Integrated Steel Plant located in villages Siyaljori, Bhagabandh, Budhibinor, Alkusha, Dhandabar, Bandhdih and Hutupathar of Bokaro District of Jharkhand. The present plant is spread over 374.81 ha of land (including the approach road to the plant). The project has adopted steel making through Blast Furnace route and primarily consist of a Sinter Plant, Coke Oven, Blast Furnace, Basic Oxygen Furnace, Billet Caster, Wire Rod Mill, Bar Mill, DI Pipe Plant and Power Plant. The plant has been designed to produce TMT bars, wire rods, DI pipes, pig iron and billets.
 - III. This forest diversion proposal, although applied in Industry category, is towards regularization of encroachment on 184.43 ha of forest land over

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

SIR

which steel plant exists. The site is situated about 15 km from Chas town (adjacent to district head quarter of Bokara) and about 5-6 km inside from Chas-Parbatpur Road. A connecting road, constructed by user agency, provides access to the steel plant. The construction of 3 MTPA capacity Steel Plant by M/s Electrosteel Steel Ltd. continued on forest land, despite several litigations during 2008-12, that project proponents claimed to be raiyati.

- IV. Previously, the proposal for diversion of 184.23 ha of Forest land (174.23 ha encroached (ex-post facto approval) and 9.84 ha virgin land) in favour of M/s Electro steel Steels Limited in the State of Jharkhand was granted Stage-I/In-principle approval by this Ministry's letter no. 8-21/2019-FC dated 17.12.2019.
- V. As per details in PARIVESH Portal 1.0, with proposal number FP/JH/ENCRH/37467/2018, the erstwhile proposal by ELECTROSTEEL STEELS LIMITED stands revoked. The proposal was accorded in-principle approval vide Ministry's letter dated 17.12. 2019 for ex-post facto approval of 184.23 ha forest area. Subsequent to in-principle approval, the erstwhile User agency has deposited NPV amount of ₹11.53 Cr for diversion of 184.23 ha of forest land (174.39 ha violation plus 9.84 ha fresh diversion) and five times Penal NPV of ₹54.58 Cr for violation over 174.39 ha on 05.10.2021. Due to non-submission of complete compliance of Stage- I conditions by the User Agency, the Ministry revoked the in-principle approval vide its letter dated 06.07.2023.
- VI. Further, the Committee was informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Ranchi between 17th to 24th December, 2025. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Ranchi. The observations of the Regional Office in SIR are as below:
- a) The Compensatory Afforestation area falls in 75 distinct land patches across six districts, totalling approximately 209.87 ha, with the majority of the land bank concentrated in Simdega and Palamu. A detailed examination of the data reveals a high degree of fragmentation, which poses significant logistical challenges for management and protection.

Size Slab	Count of Patches	Total Area (Ha)
Up to 1 Ha	29	12.67
1 to 2 Ha	11	14.46
2 to 3 Ha	10	25.95
3 to 4 Ha	6	21.20
4 - 5 Ha	6	27.27
5-10 Ha	9	58.16
More than 10 Ha	4	50.16
Total	75	~209.87

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Out of the 75 identified sites, 29 patches are one hectare or smaller in size will require high investments in fencing and monitoring relative to the area secured.

From ecological viability angle the analysis of forest connectivity shows that approximately 49.1% of the total land area is contiguous or partially contiguous to existing forest lands, which is favourable for extending the current ecosystem. The remaining CA-NFL lands being isolated from forest lands, vulnerable to encroachment and biotic pressure necessitating fencing and intensive management

Hence state government need to explore the feasibility of management aspects of these patches and ensure its protection.

- b) The proposal is for regularization of encroachment done in the forest land. There are number of cases registered by Bokaro forest division against the violation done in relation with the proposal. The violation has already been examined and established by the ministry during the processing of same proposal applied previously.
- c) The project area is sharing its south-eastern boundary for about 3.5-4 km with Izri river which is a perennial tributary of River Damodar, therefore, area under present proposal forms part of the catchment of Izri. But the area is already under vivid construction and consequently the surface hydrology is completely modified.
- d) The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), RO, Ranchi has recommended the proposal with following observations.
 - i. The User Agency shall not be permitted to apply afresh for ex-post facto diversion.
 - ii. The User Agency shall comply with all conditions stipulated in the Ministry's Stage-I approval dated 17-12-2019. Regarding the mandate for five times Compensatory Afforestation (CA) on Non-Forest Land (NFL) stipulated in stage I approval dated 17-12-2019, the identification and procurement of NFL shall proceed only after obtaining an acceptance certificate from the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). This process must strictly adhere to Rule 13 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, and Para 2.2 of the MoEF&CC Consolidated Guidelines.
 - iii. The State Government shall review the NFL provided for CA to ensure adequate management and protection. The User Agency shall bear the cost of necessary fencing to prevent encroachment and shall raise plantations in accordance with the State's CA scheme.
 - iv. A comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan and Catchment Area Treatment Plan shall be prepared and implemented by the Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency. These plans must aim

Attested.

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
D/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- to minimize the project's impact on the surrounding wildlife and hydrology.
- v. The User Agency shall rectify errors in the Cost-Benefit Analysis and submit a recalculated Cost-Benefit Ratio for the project.
 - vi. The User Agency shall develop a green belt with a minimum width of 50m along the interface of the Izri River and the plant boundary.
 - vii. Intact forest areas within the plant premises that are not included in the proposed diversion shall be returned to the Forest Department.
 - viii. The User Agency shall be liable for penal action for commencing rail track construction on non-forest land without securing the necessary forest diversion approval, as the alignment includes forest land. This pertains to the related proposal submitted in May 2025, which has been delisted since June 2025.
- VII. The Committee was informed that the extant proposal was considered in its meeting held on 22.01.2026, wherein the Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Ranchi and officials from Government of Jharkhand, '**deferred**' the instant proposal for diversion of 184.43 ha Forest land in favour of M/s ESL Steel Limited (Formerly known as Electrosteel Steels Limited) for setting up of an Integrated Steel Plant under Bokaro District of Jharkhand State with the following directions:
- (i) The State Government has proposed 209.87 ha towards Compensatory Afforestation. There are 75 land parcels in total; of which 62 patches are less than 5 ha. Out of these, 29 patches are less than 1 ha; while 11 patches are between 1-2 ha. The State Government should provide a detailed justification for proposing such small and scattered land parcels. The Regional Office to examine and ascertain whether the proposed CA land parcels are encumbrance free and whether these lands are feasible to be managed and protected by the State Forest Department.
 - (ii) The Regional Office shall examine and report on various actions by the State Government on the violation cases filed in the matter.
- VIII. The above decision of the Committee was communicated to the Regional Office, Ranchi on 15.02.2026. Regional Office, Ranchi submitted report as sought by the Ministry on 15.02.2026. summary of the same are as under:
- In compliance with the directions of the Ministry, a meeting was held with the concerned Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) and the Nodal Officer of the State Forest Department on 17.02.2026. In addition, detailed scrutiny of the CA land parcels was undertaken based on the Site Inspection Report (SIR). Accordingly, the following report is submitted:

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

i. **Examination of CA Land Parcels: Suitability, Encumbrance and Feasibility of Management.**

The CA Non-Forest Land (NFL) identified by the User Agency is distributed across multiple (six) districts in small and scattered patches. A considerable number of patches are below 5 ha, with several less than 2 ha, indicating a high degree of fragmentation which may pose challenges in protection, monitoring, and long-term management. Notwithstanding the fragmentation, the parcels have been examined with reference to field feasibility and management inputs provided by the concerned DFOs.

Based on the SIR and field inputs received during the meeting held on 18.02.2026, the CA patches (up to 2 ha) have been categorised for analytical purposes as under:

Category	Description	Size Class	No of Patches	Total Area (ha)
A	Contiguous/Partially contiguous to forest	Up to 1 ha	17	6.654
B	Contiguous / Partially Contiguous to forest	1-2 ha	4	5.535
C	Not contiguous to fores	Up to 1 ha and 1-2 ha	4	4.175
D	Contiguity details not available	Up to 1 ha and 1-2 ha	15	10.772
Total	All Categories	Up to 1 ha and 1-2 ha	40	27.136


ii. **Patches Contiguous or Partially Contiguous to Forest Land:**

A significant proportion of the CA parcels are contiguous or partially contiguous to existing forest areas. Such spatial alignment is ecologically favourable for extension of the existing ecosystem and enhances the possibility of long-term survival and sustainability of plantations. Most of the DFOs, during the meeting dated 18.02.2026, confirmed that these patches can be made manageable from the protection and maintenance perspective under the approved CA scheme incorporating few additional and special provisions related to fencing, watch & ward, watering, 20 years maintenance etc.

Accordingly, the Regional Office is of the considered view that the patches contiguous or partially contiguous to forest areas can be effectively managed and protected by the State Forest Department through routine protection measures and standard watch and ward arrangements.

iii. **Patches Not Contiguous to Forest Land:**

Certain CA parcels, particularly those located in Jhargarha (Palamu) and Khaiwagadha-2 (Sundega), are isolated and situated away from

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

forest areas, including river/drainage side lands and agricultural landscapes. These isolated patches are comparatively more vulnerable to biotic pressure and potential encroachment.

The concerned DFOs have indicated that effective protection of such patches during the formative period would require adequate fencing, strengthened watch and ward, and site-specific management interventions.

The Regional Office concurs with these views and is of the opinion that the CA scheme for such patches needs to be suitably revised to incorporate provisions for fencing, protection infrastructure, and intensive monitoring to ensure successful establishment of plantations.

iv. **Patches Where Contiguity Details Are Not Available:**

In respect of certain CA parcels where contiguity details are not provided by state, the concerned DFOs have been requested to furnish verified field information. The same is awaited and shall be submitted to the Ministry upon receipt along with the considered views of the Regional Office.

Overall, the identified CA land, though fragmented, is considered suitable for plantation from a management perspective, subject to strengthening of protection measures, revision of the CA scheme for isolated patches, and strict monitoring by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency.

v. **Status of Encumbrance and Protection Concerns:**

As reported in the Site Inspection Report, most of the CA lands have been procured from private raiyats and are presently under the same land use as earlier, with several parcels surrounded by agricultural fields. While parcel-wise encumbrance or encroachment on CA land has not been specifically recorded in the SIR, the fragmented and isolated nature of certain patches may render them susceptible to biotic interference and local pressures.

In view of the above, the Regional Office is of the considered view that the identified CA sites may be accepted subject to the condition that the User Agency ensures that all CA lands are encumbrance-free prior to handing over to the State Forest Department.

In case any encumbrance is detected during field verification, the same shall be resolved by the User Agency before formal transfer and commencement of CA activities. Adequate fencing and watch and ward arrangements shall be ensured, particularly for small and isolated patches.

vi. **Examination of Violation Cases and Extent of Land under Violation:**

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

As per the Site Inspection Report, the proposal pertains to regularisation of encroachment over forest land on which the steel plant has already been established and is operational. The SIR indicates that at least 54 violation cases have been registered by the Bokaro Forest Division in connection with the project. There were 44 cases registered by forest department against the project proponent for forest land encroachment during 2010 & 2014, but all of them were quashed by hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand. There are another 10 such cases by the state forest department against the PP that are pending in the court of CJM Bokaro. The detailed list of all the 54 cases is attached herewith.

The extent of forest land under violation corresponds to 184.43 ha of forest land presently under possession and non-forest use by the User Agency for the steel plant and associated infrastructure. Although, as highlighted in the SIR 10.38ha forest land within the plant premises is said to be unused yet it is under possession of user agency, within its premises and destitute from any forestry uses since its occupation by the PP, therefore, entire 184.43ha of forest land is the extent of violation in the present case.

During the meeting dated 18.02.2026, the Nodal Officer informed that no specific action against the User Agency has been initiated under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 to date as the forest land under proposal was encroached and not diverted by any state authority without prior approval of central government.

In view of the established violation and the fait accompli nature of the project, the Regional Office is of the considered view that the State Government may be directed to initiate appropriate action against the User Agency in accordance to the provisions prescribed in paragraph 1.16(ii) (d) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the V(S&S) Adhinyam/Rules.

vii. **Overall Assessment and Conclusion:**

- a) The proposed CA land parcels are almost suitable for plantation from a silvicultural and management perspective, notwithstanding their fragmented and scattered distribution.
- b) Patches contiguous or partially contiguous to forest land are feasible for effective protection and management under routine measures by the State Forest Department.
- c) Isolated and non-contiguous patches require revision of the CA scheme with adequate provisions for fencing, watch and ward, and intensive protection during the formative period, at the cost of the User Agency.
- d) Verification of contiguity details for certain parcels is under process and updated information shall be submitted separately upon receipt from the concerned DFOS.

Attested,


[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- e) Acceptance of CA sites may be considered subject to certification that the lands are encumbrance-free prior to handing over to the State Forest Department.
- viii. The proposal involves established violation over 184.43 ha of forest land with multiple cases registered; therefore, appropriate action under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 may be initiated by the State Government as per directions of the Ministry.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Ranchi and Nodal Officer, Government of Jharkhand, recommended the proposal for grant of '**in-principle**' approval for diversion of 184.43 ha Forest land in favour of M/s ESL Steel Limited (Formerly known as Electrosteel Steels Limited) for setting up of an Integrated Steel Plant under Bokaro District of Jharkhand State subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:-

- (i) No Environmental Clearance shall be considered for the extant proposal until the entire compensatory afforestation land including the penal compensatory afforestation is transferred and mutated in favour of State Forest Department.
- (ii) All the non-binding conditions in the previous in-principle approval accorded by the Ministry vide letter No. 8-21/2019-FC dated 17.12.2019 which was revoked, shall be imposed in the in-principle approval.
- (iii) Action under Section 3A/3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be initiated against the erring officials and a report in this regard, be submitted by the State Forest Department at the time of submission of the proposal for Stage-II approval.
- (iv) The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 regarding the procedure and prescription of penal compensatory afforestation, in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. In compliance with these guidelines, the State Government shall identify and provide suitable land for undertaking penal compensatory afforestation equivalent to the forest land used in violation of the Adhiniyam. The proposal shall be supported by requisite documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, and other relevant documents to ensure compliance with the said guidelines. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal compensatory afforestation shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- (v) Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Ranchi and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.

Attended


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

(vi) The State Government shall ensure that the environmental damage resulting from the unauthorized use/diversion of forest land, if any, is comprehensively assessed by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) or any institution designated by it, at the cost of the User Agency. The assessment shall, inter alia, evaluate the extent of ecological degradation, loss of forest cover, biodiversity impacts, soil and hydrological disturbances, and any other associated environmental externalities arising from such violation. Based on the findings of the assessment, the State Government shall submit the environmental damage assessment report to the Ministry along with the compliance report for Stage-I approval. The report shall also include specific recommendations for remedial and restorative measures, including ecological restoration, soil and moisture conservation measures, and any other mitigation interventions considered necessary.

The entire cost associated with the assessment as well as the implementation of the recommended remedial and restorative measures for mitigating the environmental damage shall be borne by the User Agency, and the State Government shall ensure that such measures are implemented in a time-bound and verifiable manner

Agenda No. 21

Proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/QRY/492393/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 62.4612 ha. Forest land for Jitpur Opencast Coal Project (2.5 MTPA in a total area of 537.93 Ha) in f/o M/s Terri Mining Private Limited under Godda District in the State of Jharkhand (Proposal No FP/JH/MIN/QRY/492393/2024)-regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Ranchi and Nodal Officer, Government of Jharkhand attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 62.4612 ha Forest land for Jitpur Opencast Coal Project (2.5 MTPA in a total area of 537.93 Ha) in f/o M/s Terri Mining Private Limited under Godda District in the State of Jharkhand.

Attested



ii. Component-wise details are as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Proposed Diversion (in ha)	Land for Non-forest Land (in ha)
1.	Excavation Area	21.786	113.664
2.	External dump	13.659	86.341
3.	Safety Zone	3.103	7.734
4.	Road Diversion	0.725	1.335
5.	Nala Diversion	4.084	12.366
6.	Road & Infrastructure Area (Coal Stockyard, CTR, Pit Office, Weighbridge, Stockpile, Permanent Haul Road)	1.491	8.312
7.	Rationalization Area	3.004	18.654
8.	Garland Drains	0.592	2.439
9.	Embankment	1.043	6.659
10.	Green Belt	11.23	41.626
11.	Coal Transportation Road (Outside Lease Area)	1.7442	18.284
12.	Settling pond	0	1
	Total	62.4612	319.720

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.4 of forest types of Eco class III with 8101 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- v. The instant proposal falls under Not-Inviolate or Not-In high conservation zone (NHCV) category as per the DSS Rule-2. However, the instant proposal falls under Inviolate or In High conservation (HCV) as per DSS Rule-I due to presence of Hydrological feature i.e. Gumani Nadi within lease boundary of the instant project. Final result is Not-Inviolate/ Not-In high conservation zone (NHCV).
- vi. Compensatory Afforestation was proposed over 63.757 ha non-forest land in Govindpur, Chakpalsa and Tangdaha Villages of Dumka District. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. No violation of the Adhinyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- viii. Recommendations of DDGF (Central), RO, Ranchi: Based on the site inspection, the recommendations of the State Government, and the

Attested


[Signature]

50

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

site-specific nature of the proposal, the proposal has been recommended subject to the following conditions:

- a. The User Agency shall explore the possibility of shifting all non-site-specific ancillary activities, including overburden dumping, crushers, pit offices, and stockyards, to the non-forest area of the lease. The forest area originally proposed for diversion for these activities shall be retained as green cover.
- b. The User Agency shall bear the cost of preparation and implementation of a site-specific Wildlife Management Plan and a Catchment Area Treatment Plan to mitigate the impacts of mining on flora and fauna, as well as on water discharge within the lease area.
- c. The User Agency shall maintain a green belt/safety zone along the lease boundary, as required for mining projects.
- d. The State Government shall assess and confirm the suitability of the proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) non-forest land from a management perspective, with specific reference to its location in a predominantly agricultural region. The proposed CA land in the non-forest area at Govindpur, comprising patches of 0.278 ha, 0.028 ha, 0.099 ha, and 0.083 ha, is not recommended due to the fragmented nature of the patches, lack of connectivity with larger CA non-forest land parcels or existing forest areas, and the associated management challenges. The State Government shall advise the User Agency to identify alternative suitable non-forest land in lieu of these patches, ensuring that such land is contiguous either to the selected patches or to existing forest areas.
- e. The State Government shall ensure that the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan is implemented in accordance with the relevant rules.
- f. The User Agency shall submit the progressive reclamation plan, restoration schedule, and the schedule for surrender of forest land, as stipulated under Standard Condition 2(1) of the standard conditions applicable to such projects.
- g. The State Government shall notify the CA land received against Proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/928/2010, for which Stage II approval was issued on 03-03-2018, and shall ensure that CA plantation is established expeditiously.
- h. Diversion of the existing drainage system within the lease area shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved plan, the study conducted by IIT-ISM, Dhanbad, and after obtaining all statutory clearances. The User Agency shall

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

maintain a green belt of 50 m on both sides of the diverted channel, in addition to the mandatory safety zone.

- i. The ambiguity arising in the area statement of the project, due to differences between the ROR data and the DGPS data as compiled by CMPDI, as detailed in point No. 1A(4) of the SIR, may be rationalised by the competent authority by allowing the earlier approved area of 139 ha to prevail over the latter figure of 136.251 ha (finalised as per the mine boundary by CMPDI) for all technical, administrative, and logistical requirements, including NPV/CA calculations and R&R compensation considerations.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 62.4612 ha Forest land for Jitpur Opencast Coal Project (2.5 MTPA in a total area of 537.93 Ha) of M/s Terri Mining Private Limited under Godda District of Jharkhand State subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. The State Government shall implement the Wild Life Conservation Plan duly approved by the CWLW at the cost of the User Agency.
 - ii. Compensatory Afforestation patches less than 5 ha which are not adjoining to any forest boundary, shall be maintained for 20 years at the cost of user agency.

Agenda No. 22

Proposal No. No.FP /KA/WATER /456606/2023

Sub:Proposal for seeking ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL), Bengaluru for diversion of 111.0277 ha (originally proposed area is 173.3105 Ha) of forest land from CH 000+00 to 261.690 Km in Hassan and Tumkur District for the construction of Gravity Canal under Yettinahole Drinking Water Project from Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited in Karnataka State- regarding.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Committee noted that proposal was earlier considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 24.06.2025 and 27.10.2025 and the Committee, after considering the various facts of the proposal desired additional

information from the State along with a joint inspection report from the Regional Office and the State Government regarding the area used in violation of the Adhinyam and action taken by the State Government against the violation of the Adhinyam.

4. The Decision of the Advisory Committee was communicated to the State Government on 09.11. 2025. In response to this, the State Government vide letter dated 09.12.2025 forwarded the letter dated 06.12.2025 of the PCCF (HoFF) with reference to the reply of the observations raised by the Ministry.
5. As per the decision of the Advisory Committee, the Regional Office, Bengaluru, vide letter dated 26.12.2026, had submitted its independent inspection report to the Ministry, wherein it has been observed that the modified forest area proposed for diversion is 108.01 ha, as against 111.0277 ha indicated by the State Government.
 - i. The canal area proposed for diversion remains unchanged at 69.80 ha, while the muck dumping area has been substantially reduced from 103.50 ha to 38.21 ha, with no muck dumping proposed in areas yet to be worked, 47.88 ha of forest land earlier proposed but not utilized for muck dumping, and 17.41 ha already utilized to be cleared of muck by the User Agency. Further, though the total forest area proposed for diversion falls within Hassan and Tumkur Forest Divisions, the reported violation of 107.97 ha has occurred only in the Hassan Division, covering four different forest areas. Moreover, the State Government, vide letter No. FEE 89 FLL 2025 (e) dated 08.10.2025, submitted that out of 107.87 ha of reported violation, 107.83 ha was not recorded as forest in revenue records (RTC) and largely comprises agricultural lands under possession and cultivation of local farmers. However, the relevant revenue records, RTC extracts, and possession certificates were not furnished and the claim could not be verified. The Karnataka Forest Department has been asked to justify how, notwithstanding Notification No. 10783-Ft dated 13.05.1898 notifying 10,000 acres as forest, the work was allowed to commence, resulting in violation of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, with the reply from the Forest Department still awaited to ascertain whether the violation of 107.87 ha is attributable to the User Agency.
 - ii. As per the observations of the Advisory Committee, this Ministry requested the State Government to provide the approved WL management plan duly vetted by Wildlife Institute of India. The Wildlife Mitigation plan duly vetted by the WII is yet to be submitted. However, the State Govt. submitted that the Wildlife Mitigation/Management Plan Framework was approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden vide order dated 29.11.2025, after submission through the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Tumakuru. Subsequently, the User Agency was directed to obtain a comprehensive Wildlife Mitigation/Management Plan from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in accordance with the approved Framework. Accordingly, WII was

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

approached and, vide letter No. WIICAP/Yettinahole/209 dated 26.12.2025, conveyed that the plan would be prepared subject to payment of Rs. 3,92,93,232/- (excluding 18% GST). An amount of Rs. 4,63,66,014/- (inclusive of 18% GST) has since been deposited with WII on 02.01.2026 (UTR No. SBINR52026010211485113). The Yettinahole Project, an integrated drinking water project, has completed 246.00 km out of 252.34 km of gravity canal, with only about 6.00 km falling within the forest stretch for which the forest clearance proposal has been uploaded. Upon clearance, the remaining work will be completed, facilitating drinking water supply to approximately 75 lakh people in drought-prone districts. Since the Framework stands approved and the comprehensive plan is under preparation by WII in accordance with the approved Framework, Stage-I approval is requested.

- iii. With regard to extent of forest land used in the proposal for diversion of 13.93 Ha in Sakleshpura taluk of Hassan District wherein the Ministry had granted Stage-II approval on 15.09.2016, the State Government has submitted that out of 13.93 Ha area in Sakleshpura taluk of Hassan District wherein the Ministry had granted Stage-II approval on 15.09.2016, an area of 4.98 Ha has been utilised and 8.95 Ha area is not utilised.
- iv. Subsequently joint inspection report was submitted by the DDGF RO Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Karnataka Forest Department. The joint inspection report concluded the that:
 - a) Violations of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 were committed during the period from March 2018 to December 2019. The violations occurred in Idahalla Amruth Kaval and the contiguous Naikanakere Amruth Mahal Kaval in Hassan Forest Division. The forest land parcels in these areas are covered under Gazette Notification No. 10783-FT.F.40-95 dated 13.05.1898, published in the June 1898 Gazette, whereby 10,000 acres (4046.85 ha) were notified as Reserved Forest. Reference has also been made to a notification published in the May 1898 Gazette (1,000 acres) and a subsequent notification dated 19.05.1930.
 - b) The Report further records that the Working Plan of the Division was not prepared on the basis of the extent notified in the May or June 1898 Gazettes. Instead, forest boundaries were mapped with reference to the notification dated 19.05.1930. Subsequently, during the period 2022-25, the forest boundary map was revised and the areas covered under the June 1898 notification were incorporated into the Working Plan.
 - c) It has been observed that the Karnataka Forest Department failed to prevent violations over an extent of 84.463 ha carried out by the User Agency, primarily due to the non-availability of the June 1898 Gazette



Attested

FOREST OFFICER
O/C, WL(S) SHIMLA

notification in its records. The Department relied instead on a notification bearing the same number but published in the May 1898 Gazette, which reflected a notified extent of only 1,000 acres in Idahalla Amruth Kaval as Protected Forest.

- d) The violation has therefore been attributed to the non-demarcation of forest boundaries on the ground through boundary pillars and the failure to incorporate the relevant forest notifications in revenue records. The User Agency relied upon revenue records and documents held by the land occupant, which did not indicate the land as forest. Accordingly, the cause of the violation cannot be solely attributed to the User Agency but appears to be a consequence of long-standing discrepancies in official records and lack of effective ground demarcation.
- e) The total area involved in violation of the Adhinyam is 107.97 ha, comprising 84.463 ha in Idahalla Amruth Kaval, 21.9 ha in Sigegudda, and 0.132 ha in Ramadevahalli. Out of the total forest land used in violation, an area of 84.09 ha has been included in the modified proposal. As per the Joint Report, the remaining area involved in violation shall be surrendered to the Forest Department.
- f) The Committee noted that as per the joint inspection report, the area under violation is 107.97 ha observations made by the joint inspection report.

6. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO Bengaluru and Nodal Officer Karnataka recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL), Bengaluru for diversion of 111.0277 ha (originally proposed area is 173.3105 Ha) of forest land from CH 000+00 to 261.690 Km in Hassan and Tumkur District for the construction of Gravity Canal under Yettinahole Drinking Water Project from Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited in Karnataka State subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:

- i. Action under section 3A and 3B shall be initiated by the State Forest Department against those responsible for violation of the Adhinyam.
- ii. In accordance with the provisions of para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhinyam by the user agency which shall be five time the NPV of forest land plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand and till the deposit is made by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land for penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- iv. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bengaluru and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- v. The remaining forest area used without prior approval, but proposed to be surrendered by the user agency, shall be restored through appropriate reclamation and rehabilitation (R&R) measures. The cost of reclamation and rehabilitation shall be borne by the user agency. The State Forest Department shall submit a detailed R&R plan for the remaining area under violation along with the compliance of the in-principle approval, and the same shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency.
- vi. The State Government shall submit a Wildlife Management Plan for the conservation and protection of wildlife in the area, duly vetted by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), along with the compliance report.

Agenda No. 24

Proposal No. FP/KL/NONMIND/547248/2025

Subject: Proposal received from Government of Kerala under Section 2 (iii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for renewal of lease of 7,748.441 ha of forest land in favour of Kerala Forest Development Corporation Ltd (KFDC) for continuation of existing forestry and plantation management operations for a further period of 25 years (Proposal No. FP/KL/NONMIND/547248/2025)- regarding.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 2.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Kerala were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

Attached.

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- i. The proposal relates to assignment of forestland on lease under section 2(1)(iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the purpose of renewal of an existing lease granted to Kerala Forest Development Corporation Limited over an area of 7,748.441 ha of forest land. Proposal has been submitted in accordance with the provisions of section 2(1)(iii) and Guidelines issued thereunder.
- ii. The proposal has been submitted in accordance with the provisions of section 2(1)(iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 which mandates the prior approval of the Central Government for:
 - i. (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;
- iii. It is reported that the lease has been expired on 31.12.2025. Proposal is submitted for renewal of lease for next 25 years
- iv. The Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC) was established in 1975 and was entrusted with the management of forests in Kerala. The ownership structure of KFDC is shared between the State Government (90%) and the Central Government (10%). Within the leased forest areas, KFDC's activities are silvicultural in nature, focusing on the cultivation of long-rotation crops such as timber, pulpwood, and bamboo, along with the management of eco-tourism initiatives.
- v. In line with the State Government's eco-restoration policy, KFDC has initiated a program to replace exotic species with native ones, with a target of full conversion by 2040. It has been informed that all activities of KFDC have been carried out in accordance with a management plan approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It has been informed that all activities of KFDC have been carried out in accordance with a management plan approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- vi. The Management Plan has been approved by the Regional Office on 7th July, 2025 for the period 2025-26 to 2029-2030.
- vii. The lease is located over 7,748.441 ha in Thiruvanthapuram, Punalur, Achencovil, Ranni, Munnar and Thrissur Forest Division of Kerala State.
- viii. Division wise detail of forest area proposed for assignment of lease is as under:

S. No.	Name of the Division	Area applied for renewal (ha)
1.	Thiruvanthapuram	2092.56
2.	Punalur	2169.14
3.	Achencovil	792.31
4.	Ranni	451.294

Attested



57

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

5.	Munnar	1212.59
6.	Thrissur	1030.547
	Total	7748.44

- ix. The State Government has stated that in certain patches of Pathanapuram Range (Punalur Division), encroachments were observed over an area of approx. 0.459 ha. As per records, these encroachments occurred prior to transfer of the forest land to KFDC.
- x. The presence of wildlife species in and around the lease area has been reported underscoring the ecological significance in term of its wildlife.
- xi. After initial examination of the proposal in light of the provisions of the Guidelines given under para 7.2 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the Ministry sought additional information on the proposal from the State Government of Kerala on 08.02.2026. The State Government submitted its online reply on the observations of the MoEF&CC.
- xii. The Committee also noted that the Regional Office, Bengaluru has carried out Site inspection of the proposed lease area using the sample size of 23 to 46% in different Divisions. Key observations made by the Regional Office in their inspection report are as under:
- The lease originates from Government Order No. 43/76/AD dated 09.02.1976, whereby the Government of Kerala accorded approval for the transfer of 10,618.897 hectares of forest land to the Kerala Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (KFDC) in a phased manner from various forest divisions for raising plantations and undertaking forestry operations
 - Subsequently, as per letter No. 389/2003/F&W dated 04.03.1989, an additional extent of 25 years was granted, and a further lease deed was executed on 15.05.2003 for 7,748.441 hectares of forest land
 - The lease period has since expired on 31.12.2025, and the present proposal pertains to its renewal for continuation of existing forestry and plantation management operations.
 - The land transferred to KFDC was primarily intended for plantation forestry and scientific management of forest areas. Over time, certain portions of the leased land were diverted prior to transfer—such as 0.19 hectares handed over to the Revenue Department for establishment of a Government Veterinary Hospital in 1976, and 0.269 hectares handed over to the Irrigation Department for the Kallada Irrigation Project
 - The Regional Office has observed that the renewal of lease is sought for continuation of existing plantation and forestry operations, including eco-restoration of certain degraded and grassland patches, and sustainable harvesting in accordance with the approved Detailed Project Report (DPR). No additional forest land is proposed for diversion beyond the existing leased area.
 - During inspection, the majority of plantations were found to be established and maintained, though exhibiting varying stock densities and growth

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA



- conditions. Several plantations demonstrated good to excellent growth performance, while a few isolated patches reflected poor stocking or failed plantations. The boundaries of the lease area were found to be largely intact.
- g) The presence of wildlife species in and around the lease area was also noted, underscoring the ecological significance of the landscape and the need for continued environmentally responsible management practices.
 - h) **Encroachments:** In certain patches of Pathanapuram Range (Punalur Division), encroachments were observed over an area of approx. 0.459 ha. As per records, these encroachments occurred prior to transfer of the forest land to KFDC.
 - i) **Area Mismatch:** Minor discrepancies were observed between Working Plan records, proposal area, and DSS/KML data in Ranni, Achenkovil and Thrissur Forest Divisions. The observed area differences are attributable to survey refinements, inclusion/exclusion of non-plantable patches, and historical administrative adjustments. The discrepancies do not indicate unauthorized diversion or expansion of leased forest land. The Regional Office considered the justifications provided by the DFO concerned and noted that matter relates to technical reconciliation which can be rectified by record reconciliation and proper documentation.
 - j) **Violations of the Adhinyam, 1980:** No violation of the Adhinyam reported in case of current lease renewal proposal.
 - k) No non-forestry construction activities are proposed.
- xiii. The Regional Office, after detailed field inspection and scrutiny of records, has recommended renewal of the lease for continuation of existing forestry and plantation management operations for a further period of 25 years under Section 2(iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam.
 - xiv. The Committee noted that proposal is for renewal of lease under section 2 (1) (iii) of Adhinyam.
 - xv. The activities proposed are primarily a forestry activity as per the approved management plan of the Kerala Forest Development Corporation.
 - xvi. The Nodal officer Kerala appraised the committee that activities of the Corporation have been stopped due to the pending renewal of lease.
 - xvii. The committee was of the view that forestry activities can be continued on the proposed lease area.

Decision of the Advisory Committee: The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Kerala. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Kerala, the Committee '*deferred*' the proposal and decided to take up subject proposal as separate policy matter in next Advisory Committee, as the activities proposed on the leased area are primarily related to forestry activities.

Attested



59

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Agenda No. 25

Proposal No. FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/516717/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 6.6151 ha Forest land (revised from earlier 9.08 Ha) for the construction of Marshall Small Hydel Power Project (24.75 MW) under Rewa Forest Division, Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State in favour of M/s Marshall Small Hydel Power Pvt. Ltd. (Online No. FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/516717/2024) – regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their File No F-4/64/2024/10-11 dated 13.02.2025 forwarded a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 9.08 ha Forest land (revised to 6.6151 Ha) in favour of M/s Marshall Small Hydel Power Pvt Ltd, A-148, Emerald Park City, Near AIIMS, Bagsewania Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh for the construction of Marshall Small Hydel Power Project (24.75 MW) under Rewa Forest Division, Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State.
 - ii. Prevailing Rules & Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023 regarding the instant proposal is as under:
 - (a) Rule 10 (2) (iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023 says that 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, shall be examined and disposed of by the Central Government in the manner specified under these rules.

Attested



FOREST OFFICER
OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- (b) Para 9.3 (i) of the Chapter-9 issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023 says that Cumulative Impact study of a basin would reflect the cumulative impact of commissioned/up-coming hydro-power projects in the basin on environmental flow, bio-diversity, muck disposal sites, traffic flow in the region, R&R issues, etc. While, the first project in a basin could come up without insisting on cumulative study for all subsequent hydro-power projects in the basin, it should be incumbent on the developer of the second/other project(s) to incorporate all possible and potential impact of other project(s) in the basin to get a cumulative impact assessment done. This condition shall be stipulated at the ToRs stage itself during the EC process. Once such a cumulative impact study has been done, the same could be shared by Expert Appraisal Committee with AC. The Cumulative impact study in respect of bio-diversity component may be separately got done by one of the specialized institutes. While making recommendation on EC/FC for such projects, the EAC/FAC will take into account the results of such cumulative studies.
- iii. Earlier, the UA submitted the proposal No. FP/MP/HYD/42686/2019 (12.8042 Ha). The proposal was considered in the AC meeting held on 25.04.2023, where in the AC recommended that the proposal cannot be considered in the present proposition because of the left over 0.75 Ha thick forest existing between the water body and area proposed for diversion. Subsequently, the UA submitted the revised proposal by including that left out area.
- iv. It has been submitted by the State Government that the total area involved in the proposal is 31.4061 Ha. Out of this 24.791 ha is Non-Forest Land (NFL) and the balance 6.6151 ha is Forest Land. The proposal is situated on the bank of the rives Tamsa/Tons.
- v. **The proposed 6.6151 Ha of forest land (4.22 Ha: Reserved Forest and 2.3951 Ha: Protected Forest) is having the canopy density of 0.4 with Eco Class II forest types.**
- vi. **The State Government has submitted the following component-wise breakup of the land use plan of the proposal:**

S.N.	Component	Forest Land (in Ha) Original Proposal	Forest land (in Ha) Revised proposal	Non forest land (in Ha)
1.	Approach Road to Power House	-	1.189	-
2.	Surge Shaft	-	0.6383	-
3.	Transmission Line and road to surge shaft	0.37	0.37	-
4.	Power House,	2.335	1.8468	-

Attested



	Switchyard, Penstock, TRC, Road and connected Civil Structure			
5.	Approach road to Power House (Patch 2)	-	2.478	-
6.	Weir (Diversion structure) Area	0.093	0.093	1.1905
7.	Road to Power House	2.316	-	-
8.	Working Area and Camp	2.11	-	-
9.	Approach Road to Power House	0.566	-	-
10.	Store Area	1.29	-	-
11.	Road (Weir to work Area camp)	-	-	-
12.	Intake Structure Area	-	-	0.324
13.	Road (intake to weir area)	-	-	0.2023
14.	Head Race Tunnel Area (Part 1)	-	-	0.22
15.	Tunnel Area (Part II)	-	-	0.152
16.	Head Race Tunnel Area (Part 3)	-	-	0.3298
17.	Muck Disposal Area (Part 1)	-	-	1.6235
18.	Muck Disposal Area (Part 1 to 2)	-	-	0.2026
19.	Muck Disposal Area (Part 2)	-	-	1.1223
20.	Muck Disposal Area (Part 3)	-	-	1.624
21.	Transmission Line	-	-	17.8
	Total	9.08	6.6151	24.791

- vii. The Cumulative assessment for impact study of river basin-carrying capacity and cumulative impact assessment study of river basin of Tons river is not necessary for the proposed Marshall Small Hydro Power Project since this project is the first project on the Tons river. This has been confirmed vide letter of the office of the Commissioner New & Renewal Energy indicating the Marshall Hydro Power Project is the first Hydro Power Project proposed in the Tons/Tamas river.
- viii. It has been submitted by the State Government that as per EIA notification, 2006, the project involving hydro-electric power generation below 25 MW capacity does not require Environmental Clearance. The

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Capacity of the instant Project is 24.75 MW and does not fall within ESZ or any protected area.

- ix. The State Government reported that the project does not involve displacement of any human habitation and therefore resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required.
- x. The proposed project requires electricity for construction and operations. A 33KV line will be provided from Umari Substation to the project site switchyard, which will also exporting the generated power to the substation after completion of construction and commissioning. A new 11 kV / 33 kV transmission line will be laid from the nearest substation located at Umiri village approximately 12.14 km from the project site. Total area of the Transmission line is 18.1909 Hectors. Out of this, the UA will be utilising only 0.37 Hectors of forest land. New DG set for backup of power will be installed.
- xi. The State Government has submitted the copy of Muck disposal plan along with the proposal.
- xii. The Divisional Forest Officer in its Site Inspection Report mentioned the presence of the Wild boar, Blue cow, Hare, monkey, Peacock, vulture etc. in the area proposed for diversion.
- xiii. It has been submitted by the State Government that the proposed forest land is not prone for soil erosion because User Agency will not be disturbing natural streams and drains passing through project site. If any soil erosion will take place, the user agency will take mitigation measures.
- xiv. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 9.194 Ha of Non Forest land in a single patch in Village Kaadi, tehsil Mauganj, Khasra No. 11, 12, 14, 17, 18/1, 18/2, 19/1, 19/2, 20/1, 20/2, 21/1, 21/2, 22/1, 22/2, with area respectively (in Ha) 1.473, 0.827, 0.550, 0.145, 0.521, 0.547, 0.291, 0.292, 1.064, 1.064, 1.097, 1.100, 0.112, 0.111, for which the technical approval has been granted by the CCF, Rewa vide order no.304 dated 16.10.2024. The CA scheme has also been prepared for 0.7672 crores.
- xv. The Site Suitability certificate has been given by the DFO, Rewa for the proposed CA land. It has been further submitted by the State Government that the proposed CA land is adjacent to the forest land.
- xvi. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
 - a) While constructing the structures as mentioned in the layout plan, the User Agency is suggested to fell only those trees which are required to be felled. Further, the vegetation near to the river bed shall be protected by strong RCC wall. Also, the areas where, no construction is required, the existing trees should be protected and also plantation shall be done in gaps. The proposed road should have plantations on either side of the road.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- b) The area is suitable for raising plantation with a mixture of native species after taking up chain link fencing all around. The soil and moisture conservation works like staggered contour trenching is suggested for better results. Since, the area is located at higher altitude, a watcher's hut cum watch tower is suggested to be constructed at a suitable location for better monitoring and shelter for the watcher.
- xvii. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report also submitted that the User Agency has already taken up, the hydro-geological studies before submitting the proposal and also it is observed that there is a Purva fall in the river which creates a head of about 100 meter, sufficient for production of 24.75 MW power under the given situation. Also, it is observed that all the areas in the river bed downstream of Purva falls are falling in RF/PF. So, any change in location of the project downstream of Purva falls to take advantage of the head, would require diversion of forest land. Therefore, the project is observed to be site-specific in nature with no any other alternatives.
- xviii. The CAT plan for the subject proposal has been approved by the APCCF & Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh with a financial outlay of ₹4360635/-.
- xix. The Committee observed that the State Government has reduced the forest land requirement from 9.08 ha to 6.6151 ha by shifting the Working & Handling Area and Store Area to non-forest land as per the observations made by the Advisory Committee.
- xx. The Committee further observed that the State Government, vide letter dated 12.02.2026, has informed that the surplus muck disposal area and the muck compaction and stabilization area, measuring more than 2.50 ha, shall be utilized for accommodating the Working and Camp Area and Store Area (2.4649 ha), which have been shifted from the proposed forest land to non-forest land. Accordingly, no additional non-forest land is required.
- xxi. The Committee further observed that the User Agency has reduced the proposed forest land requirement by 2.4649 ha, from 9.08 ha to 6.6151 ha, being the bare minimum. It has been further stated by the State Government that there is no feasibility or scope for any further reduction, as the remaining 6.6151 ha is essential for project components that are required to be located in the vicinity of the main Hydel Project area.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee recommended the proposal for '**In-principle**' approval for diversion of 6.6151 ha Forest land (revised from 9.08 Ha) for the construction of Marshall Small Hydel Power Project (24.75 MW) under Rewa Forest Division,

Attested



REGIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/S OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State in favour of M/s Marshall Small Hydel Power Pvt. Ltd. with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. While constructing the structures as mentioned in the layout plan, the State Government shall ensure to fell only those trees which are required to be felled. Further, in areas where no construction activities are required, the existing trees should be protected and plantation shall be undertaken in gaps.
- ii. No working & handling area and Store Area shall be constructed over the forest land proposed for diversion.

Agenda No. 26

Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/437171/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 31.4161 Ha (Originally proposed for 28.079 ha) of forest land for Compartment No RF-23, Range Rewa under Rewa Forest Division for Tikar Bauxite Phase-I mining project of M/s Katni Minerals Private Ltd. in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State (Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/437171/2023) - regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their note No R-2142750/2024/10-3 dated 05.07.2024 forwarded a fresh diversion proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 28.079 ha forest land (now revised to 31.4161 Ha) of Compartment No RF-23, Range Rewa under Rewa Forest Division for Tikar Bauxite Phase-I mining project of M/s Katni Minerals Private Ltd. in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State.
 - ii. As per the observations of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 26.09.2025, the area of the proposed road for mineral evacuation was added in the instant proposal and a consolidated proposal was submitted

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- by the State Government. Accordingly, the total area involved in the proposal has been revised from 28.079 Ha to 31.4161 Ha.
- iii. The legal status of the proposed forest land for diversion i.e. 31.4161 Ha is Reserved Forest with canopy density of 0.5 with forest of Eco-class IV. The number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is 16660.
 - iv. The LOI has been issued for the entire forest block of 95.26 Ha. But, only 28.079 Ha. forest area is available for mining and allied activities in the mineralized zone; therefore, a proposal has been submitted for diversion only for the mineralized zone available within the block. The validity of the LOI is upto 13.03.2027.
 - v. The committee noted that the State is submitting the forest diversion proposal in piecemeal manner and it is also reflecting in the title of the proposal like Tikar Bauxite Phase-I and in future the Phase-II may be come up. In this reference, the Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh informed that after prospecting the entire block and calculating the reserve of the entire forest block, it is found that the entire forest block is not mineral bearing area and only part of the forest area is mineralized area. That is why the area within the mining lease is marked in pieces to carry out non-forestry activity. The Mining proposals as per the approved Mining Plan is confined within the area proposed and applied for forest clearance and Mining operations in the auctioned block will be carried out by the bidder on the basis of the mining plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines, Govt. of India.
 - vi. There is a presence of Schedule-I species in and around the project site like Leopard, hyena, jungle Cat, jackal, Blue cow, Wild boar, Black francolin, sambar deer, Grouse, Peacock, Quail, Parrot etc. The area is situated 9.82 KM away from Sanjay Tiger Reserve or Son Gharial WLS.
 - vii. The State Govt. submitted that the proposed area does not come under any eco sensitive zone, hence instant proposal does not require Wildlife Clearance under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - viii. The State Government has informed that the proposed forest land forms part of the approved Working Plan of Rewa Forest Division (2013-14 to 2022-23), wherein no rare, endangered, or unique flora and fauna have been reported.
 - ix. However, a Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan incorporating mitigation measures has been prepared and approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh, vide letter dated 03.02.2025. The approved Plan, with a financial outlay of ₹416.10 lakh for 10 years, has been submitted with the proposal.
 - x. The State Government submitted that the overburden produced will be much smaller in quantity as the deposit is mostly exposed to the surface. The total deposit comprises of Bauxite and Laterite. The extraction of

Attested



minerals will be done by drilling and blasting with Shovel and Dumper combination. The extracted mineral will be supplied to the cement plants as raw material. The transport of minerals to cement plants is proposed by road.

- xi. The State Govt. has informed that reclamation plan as provided in the approved mining plan, suggests that the overburden and the mining waste will be used in backfilling the void created by extraction of minerals. As the quantity of mineral extracted would be much larger than the overburden and mining wastes, the void would not be able to be filled up to the current level. Therefore, a depression with surface terrain similar to the current terrain would be left after mining and the same shall be afforested at the cost of the User Agency.
- xii. The committee found that as per the DSS analysis the area proposed for diversion is having high biological richness. The Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the Director of Geology & mining Madhya Pradesh Bhopal vide letter no. 11812 dated 29.10.2024 has mentioned that *"This area has been auctioned as per the prospecting work carried out by department during 1987-1989 field season. On the basis of providing of mineral deposit and resources, the block was prepared and auctioned. Bauxite is metallic mineral and main source for production of aluminum. Apart from aluminum industry, it is also used in steel making, refractory, abrasive, cement and chemical industry. As on date, no mineral resources is proven in vicinity of unbroken area. The committee took note of the fact and agreed to the submission made by the Nodal Officer.*
- xiii. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal, subject to the following conditions:
 - a) To mitigate the adverse impact of mining in the surrounding area, it is suggested to have about 20 meter un-disturbed buffer area around the proposed diversion area and approach road. This may be done by erecting chain link fence all around at a distance of 20 meter from the proposed diversion area and also on either side of the proposed approach road.
 - b) A wildlife mitigation plan and soil conservation plan shall also be prepared by the concern DFO at the cost of the User Agency to reduce the impact of mining in the surrounding area.
 - c) It is observed that the proposed approach road is only 3.5 meter in width and the transport of minerals is proposed by trucks through the same road from mine to outside the forest area. It may not be possible to use only 3.5 meter wide road for transport of minerals by trucks. Therefore, the User Agency is required to explain the plan for transport of minerals by truck through a 3.5 meter wide road.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- d) The proposal is for mining of minerals like Bauxite and Laterite which are site specific in nature. Therefore, there cannot be any alternative to the proposal.
- xiv. It was informed to the committee that the proposal was first considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 16.04.2025, wherein the committee "deferred" the proposal for the want of the following:
- The evacuation of the mineral has been proposed through a road in the forest area which is just 3.5 meters wide. The efficacy, suitability and the carrying capacity of a 3.5 meter wide road for plying of trucks to transport minerals needs to be examined. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted.
 - The State shall provide the details of the existing 3.5 meters wide road passing through the forest land along with the copies of approval obtained under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - The copy of NoC from the competent authority of the State Government regarding the impact on the Nalla(s) due to mining activity in the proposed forest land shall be submitted.
 - The land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) in the proposal is found to be almost a linear patch on the ridge of a hillock beside Juhila river and the average width of the CA patch is around 100 meters. The area does not appear to be suitable from management point of view. Further, a black top road is also observed to be passing across the CA area indicating that the area is not free from encumbrances. Therefore, the CA area needs to be revised and relevant attributes like Map, KML file, Site suitability, CA scheme etc. shall be submitted accordingly.
 - The State Govt. shall submit the copy of valid Lol.
- xv. The State Government has uploaded the point-wise reply for the observations raised by the Advisory Committee meeting dated 16.4.2025, on the PARIVESH portal vide letter dated 02.09.2025. The details are as below:
- The State Government has informed that the road has not been diverted under the Adhiniyam till date. The additional forest land would be required for the expansion of the road.
 - It has also been submitted by the State Govt. that 3.688 Ha Non Forest land has been identified as CA land for the use. The State Government has also submitted the CA scheme for 3.688 Ha. non forest land identified against the use of the existing forest road for the use of the User Agency for the mineral evacuation.
 - The widening of the road will be upto 6 m and at some places, it will be around 10 m wide.

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- d) The State Government further submitted that there is no presence of the Nalla in the land proposed to be diverted. However, in the SIR report submitted by the Regional Office Bhopal, it is mentioned about the 5-6 seasonal Nalla(s) in the area.
- e) The State Government also submitted that as per the report submitted by the DFO Anuppur vide letter dated 14.05.2025, the proposed CA site has been found suitable for the plantation and from management point of view. It is also submitted that the temporary road is passing through the NFL provided for the CA land, which is being used by the locals. Before plantation of trees in the said area, the UA shall shift the road towards south of the river for movement of villagers. There is no encroachment in the said proposed plantation area.
- f) The State Government also submitted the Lol with validity till 12.03.2027.
- xvi. Thereafter, the proposal was again considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 26.09.2025 and the committee after detailed deliberation with the DDGF (C) Bhopal and Nodal Officer Madhya Pradesh *deferred* the proposal for the want of the following:
- a) The State Government has informed that additional forest land would be required for the widening of the existing road to 6 m and at some places, around 10 m, which will be used for the mineral evacuation purpose. Accordingly, the state shall include the entire area involved in the road to be used for mineral evacuation and submit a comprehensive proposal for diversion of forest land.
- b) The state shall verify the legal status of existing road, and submit a detailed report in this regard.
- c) The State Government vide letter dated 02.09.2025 had informed that there is no Nalla (stream) in the area proposed for diversion. However, the Regional Office, Bhopal during Site Inspection has observed the presence of 5-6 seasonal Nallas in the area proposed for diversion. The State Government shall examine the matter and take necessary measures accordingly
- xvii. The State Government uploaded the point wise information on the PARIVESH portal vide letter dated 07.11.2025 and accordingly, the State Government, revised the area of the proposal from 28.079 Ha to 31.4161 Ha by including the area of the road that is proposed for the use of the Mineral Evacuation purpose. The necessary corrections have been made in the online proposal. The State Government further clarified that there is no permanent Nalla found in the area proposed for diversion. However, there are 6 Seasonal Nallas in the area proposed for diversion. The water flows in these Nallas only in the rainy season.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xviii. The proposal was again considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025. After consideration of the proposal in its AC meeting held on 02.12.2025, the committee *deferred* the proposal for the want of the following information:
- a) The State Government has proposed 3.4051 ha for the approach road to be utilized for mineral evacuation. Against this requirement, 3.76 ha of non-forest land comprising three isolated patches of 2.480 ha, 1.0 ha, and 0.280 ha has been proposed for compensatory afforestation. Since, these fragmented patches are small and may not be suitable for effective management and protection, the State Government shall provide a single CA patch of adequate size against the above requirement.
 - b) The Regional Office shall inspect and confirm the suitability of the area so proposed for compensatory afforestation by the state government.
- xix. The State Government uploaded the point wise information on the PARIVESH portal vide letter dated 27.01.2026, and submitted that the proposed patches are adjacent to forest compartment boundaries. Accordingly, the proposed CA lands may be considered in terms of para 2.2 (xi) of the consolidated guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. Further, the Regional Office, Bhopal, vide letter dated 13.02.2026, also submitted in its Site Inspection Report that the proposed CA patches are adjacent to Forest Compartment No. 1746 and possess good potential for forest restoration, soil stabilization, biodiversity enhancement, and long-term ecological sustainability in the Betul region. The DDGF (C), RO, Bhopal, has also recommended that the proposed CA sites are suitable for undertaking compensatory afforestation
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee recommended the '*In-principle*' approval for the diversion of 31.4161 Ha (Originally proposed for 28.079 ha) of forest land for Compartment No RF-23, Range Rewa under Rewa Forest Division for Tikar Bauxite Phase-I mining project of M/s Katni Minerals Private Ltd. in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan duly approved by the CWLW shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency.
 - ii. Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan shall be prepared and implemented at the cost of the User Agency and the cost of implementation shall be deposited in CAMPA account.

Agenda No. 27

Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/532908/2025

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 469.612 ha. of reserve forest land for proposed Under Ground Gondbahera Ujheni East coal mine in favour of M/s Mahan Energen Limited, District Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh (FP/MP/MIN/QRY/532908/2025)- reg.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter F-1/909/FP/MP/MIN/QRY/532908/2025/ dated 21.11.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Forest Clearance for diversion of 469.612 ha. forest land for proposed Gondbahera Ujheni East coal mine, M/s Mahan Energen Limited, District Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh (FP/MP/MIN/QRY/532908/2025).
 - ii. The proposal is for mining of coal from "Gondbahera Ujheni East Coal Mine" with rated capacity of coal 3.0 MTPA by M/s MP Natural Resources Pvt Ltd, having Project area / Lease boundary as 1130.00 ha located at Villages- Ujjaini, Majhauli, Pachur and Kunda, Tehsil/ Taluka – Deosar / Bargawan, Dist-Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh.
 - iii. The coal block has been allocated to M/s MP Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd. (MPNRPL) vide letter no. NA-104/8/2022-NA dated 10th October 2022. Subsequently, the ownership of the block has been transferred to M/s Mahan Energen Ltd. (MEL) from M/s MP Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd. (MPNRPL) and the execution of the deed of adherence and deed of assignment was done on 13th May 2024, 18th April 2024, and 27th November 2024, respectively. Stage-II exploration approval was received on 10.05.2024 in online proposal no. FP/MP/SRY/430957/2023. The UA through State Government has submitted the compliance of the conditions of the approval dated 10.05.2024.

Attested

[Signature]
 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 C/O OF WL(S) BHIMLA

- iv. The State Government submitted that proposed land for diversion have canopy density of 0.4 with forest type of Eco Class III. The number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is Nil due to the underground mining.
- v. As submitted by the State Government, the proposal does not involve the violation of the Van (Sanralshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- vi. The land use plan for the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)
1.	Excavation area	0	221.241
2.	Top soil dump	0	10
3.	Safety zone	0	2
4.	Road and Infrastructure area	0	21.457
5.	Green belt	0	10
6.	UG entry	0	2.82
7.	Undisturbed area	469.612	392.87
Grand Total		469.612	660.388

- vii. The State Government submitted that the proposed forest land for diversion is not located within 10 Km from any Wildlife sanctuary, National park, Tiger Reserve and Tiger corridor. The wildlife present in and around the land proposed for diversion are Parrot, House Crow, Sparrow, Python, Monitor Lizard, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Jackal Hyena, Monkey etc.
- viii. The State Government further informed that a subsidence study conducted by CIMFER (CMRI), Dhanbad, indicates that out of 208 panels, 194 panels are proposed for depillaring from five seams using continuous miner technology. The maximum predicted tensile strain after 33 years is 2.98 mm/m, which, as per the study, is not expected to cause damage to surface structures or forest land. Necessary safeguards, including maintaining a 25° angle of draw and provision of drainage systems have been proposed.
- ix. The State Government has submitted that the project involves only underground mining, with no requirement of forest land for surface activities, and that subsidence management measures have been proposed. It has been stated that the temple and other structures will not be affected; the road constructed after 2002 does not belong to or will not be used by the present User Agency; and the railway line, located on non-forest land, is being used by another User Agency. However, specific details of prior approvals or confirmation regarding any fresh diversion or re-diversion of forest land, if applicable, for the existing road and railway line have not been furnished by the State Govt.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- x. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal with the following observations:
The proposal is recommended. Subsidence as a result of depillaring may impact waterbodies and stream flow in the mined area, and the flora as a consequence. Necessary mitigation may be planned in anticipation.
- xi. The committee observed that the coal block was initially allocated to M/s MP Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd. by the Ministry of Coal vide letter dated 10.10.2022. Subsequently, ownership was transferred to M/s Mahan Energen Limited after obtaining consent from the Ministry of Coal, followed by execution of the Deed of Adherence and Deed of Assignment as per CBDPA conditions. The committee further observed that, upon completion of the assignment process, the approved mining plan and mine closure plan also stood transferred to M/s Mahan Energen Limited, and relevant documents have been submitted.
- xii. The State Government submitted that, as per the certified land schedule, the total forest land within the mine lease is 469.612 ha, and the variation may be due to differences in projection systems and datums used during digitization. It was also clarified that the forest land diverted for the Gond Deosar Multi-Village Rural Water Supply Scheme lies outside the lease boundary and does not overlap with the proposed diversion area.
- xiii. The State Government further stated that no mining will be undertaken below surface water bodies. Additionally, a surface water rejuvenation plan, including pond rejuvenation, construction of new ponds, check dams, settling tanks, and rainwater harvesting structures, is proposed. However, the State Government has not furnished the NOC from the Water Resource Department.
- xiv. The State Government submitted that two operational opencast mines and one underground mine exist near the proposed diversion area. The M/s Jaypee Ventures Limited (JPVL) operates the Amelia North Coal Mine, which received Stage-II approval on 11.05.2015. The Amelia Coal Mine operated by THDC India Limited received Stage-II approval on 15.02.2021. The Gondbahera Ujheni Mine of MP Natural Resources Private Limited received Stage-II approval vide proposal dated 12.08.2025 for diversion of 461.77 ha. The State Government clarified that the present proposal pertains to Gondbahera Ujheni East Coal Mine (469.612 ha), which is owned by Mahan Energen Limited, and therefore involves a different project and ownership.
- xv. The State Government submitted that the approved mine plan includes both underground and open-cast mining; however, no surface activity is proposed on forest land. It was further informed that, as per the recommendation of the EAC while granting EC, mining is permitted only through underground methods. Although the mine plan envisaged limited open-cast mining during the last five years of the mine life, the EAC recommended extraction of such reserves through underground methods.

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xvi. The State Government has also submitted an undertaking from the User Agency confirming that it will not seek approval for conversion of the proposed underground mine into an open-cast mine or undertake open-cast operations over the forest land proposed for diversion.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh, the Committee recommended the proposal for '*In-principle*' approval for the diversion of 469.612 ha. of reserve forest for proposed Under Ground Gondbahera Ujheni East coal mine in favour of M/s Mahan Energen Limited, District Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- The proposed underground mine is likely to cause subsidence of 2.98 mm/m. Accordingly, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented by the State Government, at the cost of the User Agency, to reduce tensile strain on the surface.
 - In case the subsidence level is more than that is now forecasted, the user agency shall comply and pay the requisite NPV and Compensatory afforestation, as required under the Ministry's guidelines.
 - In the event of any subsidence within the forest area, prompt safety measures shall be implemented by the User Agency in coordination with the State Forest Department.

Agenda No. 28

Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/454396/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 96.66 ha forest land for Bajna iron Ore mine of M/s SUNFLAG IRON & STEEL COMPANY LIMITED in Chhatarpur District of Madhya Pradesh State (Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/454396/2023).

- The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
- During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
- The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

Attested



REGIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter No. F-11899/2025/FP/MP/MIN/QRY/454396/2023/ dated 21.11.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 96.66 ha of protected forest land for New Opencast Mechanized Mining Project (HEMS-Based) in Chhatarpur District in favour of M/s Sunflag Iron & Steel Company Limited.
- ii. The proposed forest land for diversion i.e. 96.6 Ha is having the canopy density of 0.5 with Eco Class III and 17406 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- iii. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)
1.	Total Area degraded	58	0
Includes other areas as follows			
2.	Office	0.0513	0
3.	Garden	0.0313	0
4.	Water Storage	0.0204	0
5.	Temp. Soil Dump	0.5024	0
6.	Non degraded area	38	0
Includes other areas as follows			
7.	Mineral Stack	0.5608	0
8.	Crushing and Screening Plant	0.5018	0
9.	Safety Zone (Plantation)	3.7388	0
10.	Approach Road	0.66	0
Grand Total		96.66	0

- iv. The proposed land for diversion is having the presence of the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*), and Chital (*Axis axis*). Further, the Proposed area is situated at a distance of approx. 12 km from the boundary of Panna Tiger Reserve.
- v. The CA has been proposed over 96.72 Ha in 9 villages in clusters. The State submitted that all CA sites are adjacent to the forest compartment boundaries and accordingly may be considered as per the guidelines.
- vi. The State Government submitted that the proposed mitigation measures have already been included in the approved Mining Plan and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, and that the same shall be implemented as proposed in the Mining Plan and Environmental Management Plan (EMP).
- vii. With regard to justification for opening new mine in High Conservation Zone, the State Government has submitted that on ground verification, the

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

proposed area has been found to have degraded mixed deciduous forest with canopy density (0.3–0.4) and with no unique or threatened flora. The DSS classification, being based on landscape-level modelling, may not fully reflect site-specific conditions. It has been stated that the mineral deposit is site-specific and auctioned by the State, rendering the project unavoidable, and that approved mitigation measures, EIA/EMP provisions, and compensatory afforestation will be implemented. The Committee took note of the facts and agreed to the submission made by the State Government.

- viii. There is an adjoining mine of Khera Majora Pyrophyllite Mine (4.650 ha) operated by M/s Khajuraho Minerals in Compartment No. P-306, Forest Block Khera Majora, for which forest clearance was granted by the Regional Office, Bhopal on 17.03.2008. It has further been stated that there is no overlapping forest diversion with the present proposal and there is no cumulative impact on forest land beyond the assessed buffer zone.
- ix. It has been submitted by the State Govt. that the seasonal nallah lies outside the western boundary of the proposed mining area and that no mining, excavation, dumping, or construction activity is proposed in and around the nallah. The natural course of the nallah will neither be diverted nor obstructed. It has further been stated that necessary mitigation measures have been incorporated in the approved Mining Plan and EIA/EMP, which are considered adequate to safeguard the nallah and support the grant of Forest Clearance.
- x. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- A 7.5 m mandatory safety barrier along the mine periphery shall be provided for open-cast mining, and the same must be clearly incorporated in the revised KML file for the proposed diversion area.
 - The safety zone, dumping area, office/maintenance hut, and all other components shall be properly depicted in a revised KML to be uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.
 - The mined-out forest land shall be progressively reclaimed by backfilling as per the approved Mining Plan, restoring the terrain close to its original topography and enabling plantation of native species.
 - The User Agency shall submit detailed information on muck disposal, clearly indicating whether dumping is proposed within forest land or at an alternative site.
 - In view of the presence of ecologically important wildlife, a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared and implemented with appropriate mitigation measures to safeguard wildlife and forest ecology.

Attested

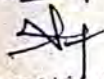

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xi. The Committee observed that the State Government has proposed the CA land over 96.72 Ha in 9 villages in clusters. Many of them are falling inside the forest compartment boundaries as per DSS analysis.
 - xii. The Committee observed that the user agency has agreed to shift non-site-specific activities such as mineral beneficiation to non-forest land. However, the revised area details have not been submitted by the State Govt.
 - xiii. The Committee further observed that the proposed area is situated at a distance of approx. 12 km from Panna Tiger Reserve boundary. Further, the land proposed for diversion have the presence of the Leopard, Sloth Bear, Nilgai, Golden Jackal, and Chital.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '*deferred*' the proposal for the want of the following information:
- i. The State Government has proposed the CA land over 96.72 Ha in 9 villages in clusters. Many of them are falling inside the forest compartment boundaries as per DSS analysis. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit the correct KML files of CA site after rectifying the KML boundary and ensure that the identified CA land falls outside the forest boundaries and free from encroachment and encumbrances along with the documentary evidences.
 - ii. The State Government submitted that overburden dumping and mineral storage are site-specific activities as per the approved Mining Plan and the proposed land use is in conformity with the approved Mining Plan/EMP. The user agency has agreed to shift non-site-specific activities such as mineral beneficiation to non-forest land. Accordingly, the revised area details shall be submitted by the State Govt.
 - iii. The proposed area for diversion is situated at a distance of approx. 12 km from Panna Tiger Reserve boundary. Further, the area proposed for diversion has the presence of the Leopard, Sloth Bear, Nilgai, Golden Jackal, and Chital. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit comments of NTCA and CWLW in the matter.

Agenda No. 29

Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/481237/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 1063.1142 ha of forest land out of total 1,200 ha lease area of the Marwatola-VII coal block for coal mining [Coal Mining proposed in the project is partly by Open Cast including infrastructure (624.6439 ha) and Partly by

Attested,


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Underground method (438.4703 ha)] by M/s Rama Cement Industries Private Limited, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) in Ghanghuti Forest Range under the Umaria Forest Division, Umaria District of Madhya Pradesh State.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide letter No F-5/2025 forwarded a fresh proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 1063.1142 ha of forest land out of total 1,200 ha area of the Marwatola-VII coal block for coal mining by M/s Rama Cement Industries Private Limited, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) in Ghanghuti Forest Range under the Umaria Forest Division, Umaria District of Madhya Pradesh State.
 - ii. The Coal Block Development and Production Agreement (CBDPA) was signed on 29.03.2023. Allocation order was issued vide reference no. NA-104/19/2023-NA dated 08.06.2023. Total area of Coal Mine Block allocated is 1200.00 ha. Out of total 1200.00 ha project area, an area of 1063.1142 ha falling over Forest Land (including an encroachment of about 385.753 hectare as per revenue and forest records) has been proposed for diversion.
 - iii. The State Government submitted that out of 1063.1142 Ha of forest land involved in the proposal, 1000.3379 Ha is reserved forest, 37.5533 Ha is Protected forest and 25.223 Ha is Revenue forest land. The area proposed for diversion has the canopy density of 0.5 with Eco Class III forest type. The number of trees, proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is 153657.
 - iv. As submitted by the State Government, the proposal does not involve the violation of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - v. The land-use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)	Total (in Ha)
1.	Safety Zone	29.0853	18.3887	47.474

Attested,


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA



2.	Garland Drain/ Trench	6.7402	0.9805	7.7207
3.	Nala Diversion	1.6706	5.0265	6.6971
4.	Road Diversion	2.3762	3.4292	5.8254
5.	HT line diversion	3.981	8.9727	12.9537
6.	OC Mine	552.2309	100.2682	652.4991
7.	Infrastructure	33.5	0	33.5
8.	UG Mine	433.53	0	433.53
Grand Total		1063.1142	137.066	1200

- vi. The DFO, in its Site Inspection Report has stated that the proposed diversion area is located at a distance of 19.8 km from the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. However, the boundary of the proposed area is adjoining the Bandhavgarh–Achanakmar Wildlife Corridor. In the diverted forest land and nearby area wild animal like tiger, leopard, sloth bear, cheetal etc. live and have their habitation.
- vii. The State Govt. submitted that the Wildlife Biodiversity Conservation and Management has been approved by the CWLW. Further, the CWLW vide its letter dated 09.09.2025 informed that the Wildlife Clearance is not required in the instant proposal.
- viii. A 3D subsidence modelling study was carried out by CSIR-CIMFR, Dhanbad for the underground mine. Results indicate maximum surface strain of 4.96 mm/m, which is within the permissible limit of the guidelines issued under the Adhinyam.
- ix. The State Government has initially proposed the CA land over an area of 628.452 Ha in 4 patches. However, during the Site Inspection, the DFO found that there is a presence of road, Nallas etc. comprising an area of 0.752 Ha. The DFO has excluded that land from the proposed CA land leading to reduction in the CA land to 627.7 Ha, sub-divided into 20 sub patches.
- x. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal with the following observations:
- a) Out of 1063.1142 ha proposed for diversion, 88.29% of the coal block area is under Forest land, of these, 93.69% is Reserved Forest. Approximately half of the Northern part of the block is densely Forested. Accordingly, it is planned by the user to Exploit Coal beneath majority of densely Forested area (438.47 ha) by UG Mining, 33.50 ha. Infrastructure with UG Mining and remaining

Attested,



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- Southern part of Coal block area of 728.03 ha. is planned to be exploited by OC Mining along with area required for Garland Drain and diversion of Nala, Road and HT line.
- b) There is a possibility of subsidence in UG mined areas due to depillaring which may affect the growth of trees. The subsidence should be periodically monitored and remedial measures should be undertaken immediately.
 - c) CA has been proposed over the Non forest land in lieu of the Open Cast Mine. The proposed CA sites are suitable for afforestation with site specific interventions for conserving soil moisture, protect from biotic pressures and choosing tall plants of native hardy tree species.
- xi. The State Government submitted that the evacuations of material shall be done by the existing PWD roads. Also, as per the land use plan submitted by the UA, 12.95 Ha land is proposed to be used for HT line diversion. Accordingly, the UA submitted that no additional forest land beyond the area already proposed for diversion is required for project execution.
 - xii. The State Government further submitted that the lease area of 1200 ha allotted for the Mavatola VII Coal Mine was separately verified by the Revenue and Forest Departments. Upon superimposition of the certified maps, 390.1162 ha was found overlapping, primarily due to longstanding encroachment of revenue land within recorded forest land, as also noted in the inspection report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Umaria. The user agency has treated the entire overlapping area as forest land and has included it in the forest diversion proposal, undertaking to comply fully with applicable provisions, including compensatory afforestation and NPV payment. An undertaking has also been submitted to extend due benefits to private landholders and occupants as per Government norms, and it has been stated that the rights of the Forest Department and affected occupants will not be prejudiced.
 - xiii. The State Government has submitted copies of NOCs under the PESA Act, from MP Power Transmission Company Limited for shifting of transmission line, from MP Gramin Sadak Vikas Pradhikaran for road diversion, from the Water Resources Department for diversion of nallah, and compliance under the Forest Rights Act.
 - xiv. The State Government has submitted that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking to remove the encroachments prior to handing over the non-forest land identified for compensatory afforestation to the State Forest Department, pertaining to Patch Nos. 1, 3, and 7 of Jhiriya village and Patch No. 1 of Chakk Bilaiki village.
 - xv. The Committee observed that, upon superimposition of the certified maps, an area of 390.1162 ha was found to be overlapping, primarily due to longstanding encroachment of revenue land within recorded forest land,

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O.C. OF WL(S) SHIMLA

as noted in the inspection report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Umaria. The entire overlapping area has been treated as forest land and included in the diversion proposal, with an undertaking from the User Agency to comply with all applicable provisions, including payment of NPV and undertaking compensatory afforestation.

- xvi. The Committee observed that the User Agency has submitted the copies of the NOCs under the PESA Act, from MP Power Transmission Company Limited for shifting of transmission line, from MP Gramin Sadak Vikas Pradhikaran for road diversion, from the Water Resources Department for diversion of nallah, and compliance under the Forest Rights Act.
 - xvii. The Committee observed that there is a possibility of subsidence in UG mined areas due to depillaring which may affect the growth of trees. The subsidence should be periodically monitored and remedial measures should be undertaken immediately in consultation with the Forest Department.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee recommended the proposal for '*In-principle*' approval for the diversion of 1063.1142 ha of forest land out of total 1,200 ha lease area of the Marwatola-VII coal block for coal mining [Coal Mining proposed in the project is partly by Open Cast including infrastructure (624.6439 ha) and Partly by Underground method (438.4703 ha)] by M/s Rama Cement Industries Private Limited, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) in Ghanghuti Forest Range under the Umaria Forest Division, Umaria District of Madhya Pradesh State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The proposed underground portion of the mine is likely to cause subsidence of 4.96 mm/m. Accordingly, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented by the State Government, at the cost of the User Agency, to reduce tensile strain on the surface, and any additional amount towards NPV/CA, as required under the Ministry's guidelines, shall be paid.
 - ii. In case the subsidence level is more than that is now forecasted, the user agency shall comply and pay the requisite NPV and Compensatory afforestation, as required under the Ministry's guidelines.
 - iii. In the event of any subsidence within the forest area, prompt safety measures shall be implemented by the User Agency in coordination with the State Forest Department.
 - iv. The subsidence should be periodically monitored and remedial measures should be undertaken immediately.

AHested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- v. The State Government shall implement the Biodiversity Conservation and Management plan as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) at the cost of the User Agency.

Agenda No. 30

Proposal No: FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/421339/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 520.66 ha of forest land (308.96 hectares under Satna Forest Division, Satna district and 211.70 ha under North Panna Forest Division, Panna district) for the construction of the Panari Standalone Pumped Storage Project (1800 MW) in favour of M/s Sri Siddharth Infratech & Services (1) Private Limited under Satna & Panna Districts of Madhya Pradesh-reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their State File No F-4/67/2025/10-11/ dated 08.06.2025 forwarded a fresh diversion proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 520.66 ha of forest land (308.96 ha under Satna Forest Division, Satna district and 211.70 ha under North Panna Forest Division, Panna district) for the construction of the Panari Standalone Pumped Storage Project (1800 MW) by M/s Sri Siddharth Infratech & Services (1) Private Limited under Satna & Panna Districts of Madhya Pradesh.
 - ii. The State Government submitted that Panari Standalone Pumped Storage Project (PSP) is of 1800 MW /11160 MWH storage capacity, located at Panna and Satna District, Madhya Pradesh. The Panari Standalone PSP will comprise of two reservoirs which are to be constructed afresh. The Upper reservoir constructed in Panari village under Panari Beat, Devendra Nagar Range, North Panna Forest Division in Panna District. The lower reservoir is proposed to be created in the existing seasonal tributary / Nala (Baghain Nadi) in Kathawariya Beat, Barondha Range, Satna Forest

Attested
✶

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/G OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Division in Satna District. Water requirement for PSP is 1.383 TMC. The proposal is of closed loop PSP project type.

- iii. Out of 520.66 ha of forest land proposed for diversion, 308.96 ha is protected forest with canopy density of 0.4 with Eco-class III forest type in Satna District and 211.7 ha is also protected forest with canopy density of 0.4 with Eco-class III forest type in Panna District. Total 140023 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- iv. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

Component	Forest Proposed Diversion (ha)	Land for Non-forest Land (ha)
Upper Reservoir & Upper Intake	176.42	0
Lower Reservoir , Lower Intake	257.28	0
Water Conducting System	18.92	0
Power House & Lower Intake	15.17	0
Road To Adits, Lower Dam, Adits & Portal	5.29	0
Road to Diversion Tunnel and Lower Dam	8.75	0
Muck Disposal Area-1	0	17.68
Muck Disposal Area-2	0	6.14
Job Facilities Area-1	0	13.08
Job Facilities Area-1	0	10.87
Job Facilities Area-3	0	10.33
Road to VPS, Buried penstock & Upper Reservoir	18.69	2.8
Diversion Tunnel	2.85	0
Magazine	0	0.12
Stock Yard- 1	5.34	0
Stock Yard- 2	11.95	0
Total	520.66	61.0200

- v. The State Government submitted that total 211.70 ha of proposed area falls under compartment P-132, 133, 135, 136, 137, which is part of NTCA approved North eastern Tiger Corridor Plan of Panna Tiger Reserve.
- vi. The State Government submitted that the Wildlife Clearance proposal has been submitted in PARIVESH 2.0 under Proposal No. WL/MP/HYD/551887/2025 and the same is under consideration in the Ministry.
- vii. The State Government has submitted that the CAT Plan has been approved by the PCCF (LM) vide letter dated 04.02.2025 with a financial outlay of ₹4,99,53,220/-

Attested

[Signature]

- viii. The State Government submitted that ToR in the instant proposal has been granted by Ministry vide its letter No. J- 12011/05/2020-IA. I [R] dated 13.04.2020.
- ix. The State Government submitted that the expected impact on downstream flows due to impoundment is negligible, as the project is a purely Pumped Storage Project (PSP) and prescribed guidelines shall be followed in the instant proposal.
- x. The State Government submitted that 531.845 ha of non-forest land has been identified as Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land. However, based on site suitability, plantation is proposed over 527.88 hectares only, and the CA scheme has accordingly been prepared for 527.88 hectares.
- xi. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report submitted that possible alternatives have been explored for which details are given in the proposal. However, the proposal seems to be site-specific in nature due to involvement of lots of technicalities required to install such PSP based projects. Accordingly, the Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a) The lower Reservoir is proposed across a seasonal stream (Baghain Nadi), implying minor hydrological impact, which should be taken under consideration while deciding the proposal under the provision of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. The Upper Reservoir is standalone and located away from any major river systems. As per the discussion held with the Project Authorities, adequate provisions to release natural flows from lower reservoir without impacting downstream of the Baghain Nala has been included in the design.
 - b) The construction of access approach are critical for construction but may cause temporary forest fragmentation. Therefore, wherever possible, structures suggested in the guiding document of WII for "Eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of liner infrastructure on wildlife" shall be followed during construction.
 - c) As per the proposal, tentative figure of enumeration of trees provided after conducting survey is 70240 in Satna Forest Division and 62278 in North Panna Forest Division, which comes out to be 1,32,518 trees. But, during the visit, it was informed that 100% tree enumeration has been done in the area of North Panna Forest Division while in Satna Forest Division 100% counting is about to complete. It is suggested that the blanket felling in the project area is avoided and felling can be done as and when requirement basis. A committee could be formed of Site Engineer, Range Officer and one specialist (wildlife/ornithology), to ensure correct and necessary felling of trees in the area.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- d) Since this is large standalone HEP, in order to understand the impact on downstream flows due to impoundment in seasonal Baghain Nadi and evaluate fragmentation of forest patches and wildlife movement barriers must be taken under consideration.
- e) Though, the muck disposal is to be carried out in non-forest area in the project, but there is a possibility for unregulated dumping during the construction, especially on slopes and near water channels. The approved engineering designs incorporating bio-engineering techniques, check dams, slope stabilization to check the unregulated dumping or erosion in the area may be ensured with detailed plan of transporting the muck to the selected dumping sites.
- f) In the Wildlife Management Plan and CAT Plan submitted with the proposal, issues like monitoring of Schedule I species, Reclamation & Restoration of disturbed sites, Invasive species Management, Green Infrastructures (Wildlife Crossings or Underpass are not integrated in design of linear components) and contingency plan for wildlife displacement is partially covered or missing. These needs to be addressed with more clarity.
- g) The Power Evacuation Plan (PEP) has not yet been finalized for the project. Further, this is also not clarified that during the construction how would they meet the requirement of power (Grid or DG- based). The clarity on Power Evacuation Plan and cogent and convincing reasons for not including in PEP at this stage are required to be provided by the State Govt/Project Proponent.
- h) The CA area should be secured with Chain Link Fencing all around before taking up plantation activity. Soil-Moisture conservation works like staggered contour trenching and formation of percolation tanks at suitable locations would be helpful for better results.
- i) This is observed that all selected sites for raising CA are very much suitable for raising mixed plantation with native species after fencing. The availability of water bodies are also observed in and around the few selected sites which is good. For rest of the site provision of solar pump and borewell may be installed.
- j) The requirement of "monitoring/watchers hut" is also suggested to be part of the scheme in patches of more than 15 ha.
- k) This is observed that in almost each patches some of the area is under cultivation by the locals and can be considered as encroachment. However, as enquired with the representatives of the project proponent and forest staff, the encroachment would be evicted prior to taking up plantation in these areas. The concerned DC has also given certificate to this effect.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- l) Considering the large-scale tree felling and movement/presence of Schedule I, II, III and IV wildlife species in and around the project area, the project proponent shall install adequate noise barriers around high-decibel construction zones. This measure is essential to mitigate noise pollution and reduce disturbance to local fauna, particularly during critical periods like breeding and migration seasons. The layout and design shall be prepared in consultation with the concerned Forest Divisions.
- m) The user agency shall develop and maintain a green belt in and around the diverted forest land, as well as in adjacent vacant areas wherever feasible, in consultation with the local forest department. The green belt shall preferably consist of indigenous species and be designed to aid in ecological restoration and aesthetic improvement of the area.
- n) This is observed that area around Stock Yard 1 and 2, diversion tunnel and penstock are fragmented due to construction of approach access in the area for which the project Proponent may ask to develop forest with "Miyawaki Method" under the supervision of Forest Department after completion of the project except the area needed for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) because the area will be of no use or used in lesser extent after completion of the construction in the project.
- o) Since this is "closed PSP" in which the "lower reservoir" as informed by the Project Authority shall be filled once, the trees felling in FRL-4 in lower reservoir can be allowed, if there is any absolute requirement.
- xii. The State Govt. submitted that the project site is entirely located within forest land, no private land is available in proximity to the powerhouse area. Accordingly, temporary stock yard locations have been identified within the forest area to facilitate construction the forest activities. These stock yards have been established on a non-permanent basis and will be dismantled upon completion of the project. Post-removal, the area will be restored through plantation.
- xiii. State Govt. submitted that in this project both the reservoirs are proposed to be newly constructed due to the absence of suitable existing reservoirs for meeting technical criteria like elevation difference, head, shortest water conductor system (WCS), and capacity. The site of this project has been selected based on topography, geology, and availability of land.
- xiv. The Committee observed that the location of the project falls within the High Conservation Zone. In response, the State Government submitted that three locations were comparatively assessed on technical, hydrological, geological, environmental, and techno-economic parameters. Based on this assessment, Location-3 (Panna & Satna Districts) was found most suitable due to its higher net head, shorter WCS length,

Attested



favourable L/H ratio (3.88, eliminating the need for a surge shaft), lower excavation and land requirement, reduced construction cost, and absence of impact on National Parks or inhabited areas. Accordingly, Location-3 has been selected for the proposed project. The committee noted the submission made by the State Govt.

- xv. The Committee observed that the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), in letter dated 02.09.2025, has asked to submit the Wildlife Clearance for the project, as it falls within a designated Tiger Corridor. Accordingly, the Wildlife Clearance proposal has been submitted in PARIVESH 2.0 under Proposal No. WL/MP/HYD/551887/2025 and the same is under examination in the Wildlife Division of the Ministry.
 - xvi. The Committee observed that on downstream flows due to impoundment is negligible, as the project is a purely Pumped Storage Project (PSP) and prescribed guidelines shall be followed in the instant proposal.
 - xvii. The Committee further observed that the proposed 308.96 ha of area out of the total proposed area falling under the Satna Forest Division, the improvement work has been done in the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the Bamboo Forests as per the prescriptions of approved working plan.
 - xviii. The Committee observed that the DPR/Pre-DPR covering the proposed design, structure, and components has been submitted to the Chief Engineer, HPP & I Division, Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The CEA has forwarded the same to the concerned agencies, namely CWC, GSI, and CSMRS. However, the approved DPR has not been submitted by the State Government.
 - xix. The Committee further observed that the User Agency submitted that the approval of NDSA will be obtained after approval of the embankment design (technical aspects) by the Embankment Directorate, CWC. The DPR covering the design, structure, and components has already been submitted. It has further been undertaken that project construction will commence only after obtaining NDSA approval, and an undertaking to this effect has been submitted by the User Agency.
 - xx. The Committee also observed that the District Collector, has issued certificate dated 19.02.2025, that the identified Government revenue land proposed for CA will be made available free from encroachments.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
- i. The State Government shall submit the recommendations of the SC-NBWL on the proposal.
 - ii. The State Govt. shall submit the DPR covering the proposed design, structure, and components duly approved by the competent authority.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
G/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- iii. The State Government shall submit the copy of the approvals obtained from the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO).

Agenda No. 31

Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464243/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 62.0 ha of reserve forest land for mining lease of Warjiri Dadar and Bear Hill Bauxite Block in Village Warjiri Dadar, Tehsil Baihar, District Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh in favour of M/s Nisarg Ispat Pvt. Ltd. (Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464243/2024)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter F-1/904/2025/FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464243/2024/ dated 24.10.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 62.0 ha of reserve forest land for mining lease of Warjiri Dadar and Bear Hill Bauxite Block in Village Warjiri Dadar, Tehsil Baihar, District Balaghat Madhya Pradesh in favour of M/s Nisarg Ispat Pvt. Ltd.
 - ii. The Warjiri Dadar and Bear Hill Bauxite Block, spread over a total area of 117.51 ha, are situated in Katejhiriya Village, Baihar Taluka, Balaghat District, Madhya Pradesh. Out of the total block area of 117.51 ha, a total of 62.00 ha of forest land is proposed for diversion under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - iii. The proposed forest land for diversion i.e. 62.0 ha is having the canopy density of 0.6 with Eco-class III type forest and 16648 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
 - iv. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

S. No.	Component	Forest area in ha.
--------	-----------	--------------------

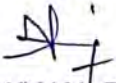
Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

1	Safety Zone	3.69
2	Mining Area	49.50
3	Road	1.81
4	Temporary Dumping Area / overburden	3.85
5	Temp site services / infrastructure	0.25
6	Green belt, garland drain, settling tank etc.	2.90
	Total	62.00

- v. The proposed land for diversion is having the presence of Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Spotted deer, Sambar, Barking deer, Bison, Langur, etc.
- vi. The State Government has submitted that the project site is located at a distance of 21 KM from Kanha- Pench corridor.
- vii. The CA land has been proposed over an area of 62.7 ha of Non-Forest Land in four (4) patches of 50.529 ha, 6.713 ha, 2.407 ha and 3.051 ha. The non-forest land provided for compensatory afforestation over an area of 2.407 ha and 3.051 ha is adjoining to forest boundaries (compartment no 1747 and 1753 of Multai range of South Betul division).
- viii. In response to the justification for opening of a new mine, the State Govt. stated that bauxite, the principal ore of aluminium, is essential to meet rising domestic demand, currently 4.5–6 million tonnes annually and projected to reach 9–10 million tonnes by 2030. The ore is primarily driven by the power, infrastructure, and automobile sectors. As significant bauxite deposits are largely located in forest areas, the proposed mine has been stated to be necessary.
- ix. The State Government submitted that bauxite mining will be undertaken through open-cast method, with mineralization confined to a shallow depth of 7–9 metres. The overburden generated will be backfilled into mined-out pits, and as no separate muck will be produced, no muck disposal plan or additional forest land is required.
- x. The State Government submitted that although the total lease area of the Warjiri Dadar and Bear Hill Bauxite Block is 117.15 ha, only 49.5 ha is mineable. The remaining area is non-mineable and has therefore not been included in the present proposal. In addition to the mineable area, forest land is required for essential mining-related components such as safety zones, approach roads, overburden storage, and supporting infrastructure, bringing the total requirement to 62.00 ha.
- xi. The State Government has submitted that an area of 1.81 ha has been earmarked for construction of a mineral evacuation road. This proposed road will join nearest existing road in non-forest area.
- xii. The Regional Office Bhopal in its Site Inspection Report mentioned that the electricity requirement for mining operations and workers shall be sourced from solar power, and water will be supplied through purchased water tankers.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xiii. The State Government was asked to justify the presence of a transmission line passing through the proposed forest land for diversion, and to submit copies of the approvals granted for its establishment, along with a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the concerned agency and details of any proposed shifting plan, including additional forest land requirement, if applicable. In response, the State Government has informed that the NOC from MP Transco for construction of the road under the transmission line is under process. A request has already been made to the company, and the NOC will be submitted prior to grant of final approval of the proposal.
- xiv. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- The area supports ecologically important wildlife species including Leopard, Tiger, Sloth Bear, Chital, Sambar, Barking Deer, Hanuman Langur, Gaur, and various species of snakes. The presence of such diverse and significant fauna highlights the high conservation value and ecological sensitivity of the region. Night-time mining and transportation should be avoided to minimize disturbance to wildlife.
 - Designated transportation routes shall be followed to prevent vehicular movement through sensitive forest patches or animal trails.
 - A site-specific Wildlife Conservation Plan is recommended to mitigate potential adverse impacts of mining operations and to conserve the ecological integrity of the forest landscape.
 - Garland drains and settling tanks, to intercept surface runoff and collected water are advised to be reused within the mine area for dust suppression and watering of plantations.
- xv. The Committee observed that Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has been proposed over 62.7 ha of non-forest land in four patches measuring 50.529 ha, 6.713 ha, 2.407 ha, and 3.051 ha.
- xvi. The Committee further observed that the proposed land for diversion is situated at a distance of 21 KM from the Kanha- Pench corridor. Further, there is a presence of Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Spotted deer, Sambar, Barking deer, Bison, Langur, etc. in and around the land proposed for diversion.
- xvii. The Committee also observed that there is presence of a transmission line passing through the proposed forest land for diversion.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- i. The State Government has proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over 62.7 ha of non-forest land in four patches measuring 50.529 ha, 6.713 ha, 2.407 ha, and 3.051 ha. The State Government shall consolidate the smaller patches (2.407 ha and 3.051 ha) and provide CA in consolidated and contiguous blocks.
- ii. The proposed land for diversion is situated at a distance of 21 KM from the Kanha- Pench corridor. Further, there is a presence of Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Spotted deer, Sambar, Barking deer, Bison, Langur, etc. in and around the land proposed for diversion. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit the comments of PCCF (WL)/ CWLW.
- iii. The State Government shall submit the copy of the NOC from the concerned authority for the transmission line passing through the proposed forest land for diversion.

Agenda No. 32

Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/462880/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 22.0 ha of reserve forest land for mining lease of Kotpahar Bauxite Block for Bauxite in village Kotpahar, tehsil Baihar, District Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh in favour of M/s Katni Minerals Private Limited (Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/462880/2024)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter F- F-1/905/2025/ FP/MP/MIN/QRY/462880/2024/ dated 24.10.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 22.0 ha of reserved forest land for mining lease of Kotpahar Bauxite Block for Bauxite in village Kotpahar, Tehsil Baihar, District Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh in favour of M/s Katni Minerals Private Limited.

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- ii. The State submitted that out of the total lease area of 35.9 ha, only 15.405 ha is mineable, and the non-mineable area has not been included in the proposal. Further, in addition to the mineable area, forest land is required for essential mining-related components such as the safety zone, approach roads, overburden storage, and supporting infrastructure; accordingly, the proposal has been submitted for diversion of the minimum required area of 22.00 ha for operation of the mine.
- iii. The proposed forest land for diversion i.e. 22.0 ha, is having the canopy density of 0.6 with Eco-class III forest type and 4207 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- iv. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

S. No.	Component	Forest area (in ha)
1.	Safety zone	1.60
2.	Mining area	16.00
3.	Road	0.40
4.	Temporary dumping area / overburden	2.16
5.	Temp site services / infrastructure	0.25
6.	Green belt, garland drain, settling tank etc.	1.29
	Total	22.00

- v. The proposed area for diversion is neither a part of any protected area nor it falls in any notified Tiger Corridor. Proposed area is situated at a distance of approx. 21.50 km from Kanha- Pench Tiger Corridor boundary. The State Govt. has reported that the wildlife present in the area includes Leopard, Tiger, Sloth Bear, Chital, Sambar, Barking Deer, Hanuman Langur, Gaur, and various species of snakes.
- vi. The CA has been proposed over an area of 22.0 ha of Non-Forest Land in single patch in Reusa Village.
- vii. In response to the justification for opening of a new mine, the State submitted that bauxite is the principal ore of aluminium, with India's annual aluminium demand estimated at 4.5–6 million tonnes and projected to reach 9–10 million tonnes by 2030, driven primarily by the power, infrastructure (45–55%), and automobile (20–35%) sectors. It was further stated that, considering the occurrence of bauxite deposits largely within forest areas, the proposed mine is necessary to meet the growing demand.
- viii. As the proposal falls under the High Conservation Zone, the State Government has submitted that the proposal is site-specific in nature.
- ix. The State submitted that bauxite mining will be carried out through open-cast method with shallow mineralization (7–9 m depth), and the overburden generated will be backfilled into exhausted pits as mining progresses. It has been stated that 1.51 ha will be temporarily required for overburden dumping and 0.95 ha for mineral stacking. Further, as no

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

muck will be generated, no muck disposal plan or additional land allocation is required. Further, as per the information submitted by the State Govt. no non forest land is involved in the proposal.

- x. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- a) The forest department has reported the wildlife present in the area includes Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Chital (*Axis axis*), Sambar (*Rusa unicorn*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Hanuman Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*), Gaur (*Bos gaurus*), and various species of snakes. The occurrence of such ecologically significant fauna indicates the high conservation value and ecological sensitivity of the forest area.
 - b) The harvested water from Garland drains and settling tank can be reused for dust suppression and watering of plantations. A connecting approach road is proposed within the forest land forming part of the diversion area.
 - c) This road further connects to another proposed mining road under a separate forest clearance proposal (FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464243/2024). The extracted ore shall be transported from the mine site to the crusher located on non-forest land. Water required for drinking and dust suppression purposes shall be sourced through purchased water transported by tankers.
 - d) Electricity requirements for mining operations and workers shall be met through solar power.
 - e) A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan be prepared and implemented, detailing mitigation and conservation measures to minimize adverse impacts of mining operations and to safeguard the ecological integrity of the forest landscape.
- xi. The Committee further observed that the proposed land for diversion is situated at a distance approx. 21.50 km from Kanha- Pench Tiger Corridor boundary. The wildlife present in the area includes Leopard, Tiger, Sloth Bear, Chital, Sambar, Barking Deer, Hanuman Langur, Gaur, and various species of snakes.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
- i. The proposed land for diversion is situated at a distance of approx. 21.50 km from Kanha- Pench Tiger Corridor boundary. The wildlife present in the area includes Leopard, Tiger, Sloth Bear, Chital, Sambar, Barking Deer, Hanuman Langur, Gaur, and various species of snakes.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Accordingly, the State Government shall submit the comments of PCCF (WL)/ CWLW.

Agenda No. 35

Proposal No. FP/OR/IND/526987/2025

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 60.203 ha of forest land for establishment of Integrated advanced specialty Steel and Auto components complex at Gajamara under Dhenkanal Forest Division in Dhenkanal District by Kalyani Steel Ltd.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Odisha through PARIVESH 2.0 portal has submitted the fresh proposal on the above mentioned subject on 16.08.2025.
 - ii. The State Government submitted that the High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) of Odisha in its 34th meeting held on 16th January 2024, approved "In Principle" the proposal of M/s Kalyani Steels Limited for setting up an Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel & Automotive Components Manufacturing Complex at Gajamara in District Dhenkanal of Odisha. Subsequently, Kalyani Steels Limited has signed a MoU with Government of Odisha on 23rd February 2024 for the following phase of the complex:
 - a) 0.7 MTPA Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel & Automotive Components Manufacturing Complex.
 - b) Phase 1 of Integrated Titanium Metal / Alloy and Aerospace & Defense Components Manufacturing Plant of 10,000 TPA capacity.
 - iii. In view of the above, State Level Facilitation Cell (SLFC) has recommended the allotment of 560 Acres of land for the 0.7 MTPA Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel & Automotive Components Manufacturing Complex including the land requirement for its Ancillary & Vendors in favour of M/s Kalyani Steels Limited. This recommendation was approved in the 260th SLFC meeting held on 03.07.2024.

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- iv. The Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) has considered the recommendation and allotted 560 Acres of land in village Talabarakot & Siaria under Dhenkanal Tahasil to M/s Kalyani Steels Limited for setting up Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel & Automotive Components Manufacturing Complex at Gajamara under Dhenkanal District.
- v. Out of the allocated land, M/s Kalyani Steels Limited is set to acquire 555.328 Acres (224.737 ha) of land for setting up the above project. Thus, the total land involved in the instant proposal is 224.737 ha, of which 60.203 ha is revenue forest land and 164.534 ha is non-forest land. Accordingly, the present proposal pertains to the diversion of 60.203 ha of revenue forest land.
- vi. The 60.203 ha of proposed forest land for diversion is having the canopy density of 0.35 of Eco Class III type forest. The number of trees proposed to be felled is 14379.
- vii. The land-use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Total forest Area (in ha)	Non-forest (in ha)	Total (in ha)
1	Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel Plant Units Area	15.462	94.210	109.672
2	Automotive & Industrial Component Manufacturing Facilities	9.281	14.747	24.028
3	Plant Road & Railway Route	2.893	9.807	12.700
4	Green Cover (Belt)	32.567	42.380	74.947
5	Natural Pond	0	3.390	3.390
	Grand Total	60.203	164.534	224.737

- viii. The State Government submitted that no violation of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 has been done. However, some agricultural activity by nearby villagers was noticed in a portion of the Revenue Forest land. A kachha road passing through the proposed Revenue Forest area and used by local villagers was also observed. Further, a solid structure was found in a demolished condition, and it was informed that a poultry farm previously existed at the site. In addition, one residential house was observed at the corner of the same Revenue Forest patch. It was informed that the Revenue Department has been requested to remove the encroachment. It was also informed that no legal action has yet been taken against the encroachers.
- ix. The State Government has proposed the CA land over 61.327 ha of Non-Forest Government Land in 3 patches (30.351 ha, 10.117 ha and 20.859 ha). Further, to accommodate the balance seedling, 35 ha of degraded forest land has been identified in Ghadaghadimal PRF under Padampur Range of Bargarh Forest Division.

Attested

- x. The State Government submitted that adequate power (220 kV from Neulapoi GIS) and water (Mahanadi intake within 15 km) are available nearby. The layout has been optimized to ensure minimum diversion of scattered revenue forest patches, with no involvement of protected forests, wildlife habitats or displacement of forest-dependent communities. Of the three alternative sites examined by IDCO, DIPA and KSL, Gajamara was found most suitable based on environmental, infrastructural and resource considerations.
- xi. The State Government submitted that the presence of a kachha road and certain structures do not constitute a violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 by the project proponent (KSL). The temporary pathway has long been used by villagers of Talabarakote and Siaria. It has further been stated that the identified structures were constructed by local villagers, and the District Administration, Dhenkanal, has initiated demolition action against the illegal abandoned structures on revenue forest land, as per letters dated 20.09.2025 and 24.09.2025.
- xii. The State Government has informed that the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), as the designated nodal agency, is responsible for development and commissioning of external utility infrastructure for the Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel and Auto Components Complex at Gajamara, Dhenkanal. IDCO is in the process of finalizing alignments for road, power, and water networks, and any requirement of linear forest clearance will be assessed after completion of land acquisition and finalization of the right of way, as confirmed vide letter dated 24.09.2025.
- xiii. The State Government submitted that the project site is located 5.80 km from the Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary, and approximately 3.35 km from its Eco-Sensitive Zone boundary. Accordingly, the proposed project lies outside the Eco-Sensitive Zone. This information has been furnished by the DFO, Dhenkanal Forest Division, vide letter No. 3855-4F/Misc/958/2025 dated 03.06.2025
- xiv. The Regional Office, Bhubaneswar in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- While industrial projects are generally categorised as non-site-specific, the proposed project site offers distinct locational advantages. It is situated in proximity to iron ore mines, the GAIL natural gas pipeline, and key transport networks, including NH-55 and the nearby railhead, which render the project location-specific.
 - Further, the site comprises Revenue Forest situated within the area demarcated by the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO). These forest patches are dispersed in small areas and pose significant challenges for effective forest management, as detailed in Point 19.2 of the Site Inspection Report.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
C/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- c) Considering all these aspects, including the recommendations of the State Government, the proposal is recommended subject to the following conditions:
- i. The forest land earmarked for the "Future Expansion & Auto-Components Plant Area" shall be kept under green cover until the requisite approval for land-use change is obtained from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, as and when necessary.
 - ii. As proposed in the project, 32.567 ha of the diverted forest area shall be strictly maintained as a green cover.
 - iii. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site shall be cleared of all encroachments and fenced prior to the commencement of plantation activities by the State Forest Department.
 - iv. The State Forest Department shall implement Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.
- xv. The Committee observed instances of agricultural activity by nearby villagers within a portion of the Revenue Forest land and a kachha road used by local villagers passes through the proposed area. Further, a demolished solid structure, reportedly a former poultry farm, and one residential house at the corner of the same Revenue Forest patch were also noted. It was informed that the Revenue Department has been requested to remove the encroachments; however, no legal action has yet been initiated against the encroachers.
 - xvi. The Committee also observed that the DFO in part II submitted that the land proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion. Accordingly, the User agency has submitted an undertaking to take the mitigative measures for Soil and Moisture Consecration.
 - xvii. The Committee observed that the industrial projects are generally categorised as non-site-specific in nature.
 - xviii. The Committee observed that the project site is located 5.80 km from the Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary, and approximately 3.35 km from its Eco-Sensitive Zone boundary. Accordingly, the proposed project lies outside the Eco-Sensitive Zone. Further, the occasional/seasonal movement of wild elephant has also been reported in the surrounding area.
 - xix. The Committee observed that against the diversion of 60.203 ha of forest land, compensatory afforestation (CA) has been proposed over 61.327 ha of non-forest land (NFL). The identified NFL (open forest, canopy density <40%) can accommodate 26,616 seedlings, while the remaining requirement of 33,587 seedlings is proposed to be met by raising 35,000 seedlings over 35.00 ha of identified degraded forest land (DFL) in Ghadghadimal PRF of Bargarh Forest Division. However, as per the latest

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 (as amended in 2024 and 2025), there is no provision for additional CA over DFL where CA has already been proposed on suitable non-forest land.

- xx. The Committee further observed that the Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report submitted that a six-lane Capital Region Ring Road (CRRR) is proposed by NHAI, passing close to one corner of the allotted boundary of Kalyani Steels Limited. In that proposal, some forest land has been identified for diversion, and the case is under consideration of the State Government and has been submitted through the PARIVESH Portal (Proposal No.FP/OR/ROAD/539828).
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
- i. The instant proposal is an industrial project, which is generally categorised as non-site-specific in nature. Accordingly, the State Government shall furnish its comments on site specificity of the proposal and as to why the project cannot be taken up in non-forest land.
 - ii. Instances of agricultural activity by nearby villagers were observed within a portion of the Revenue Forest land, and a *kachha* road used by local villagers passes through the proposed area. Further, a demolished solid structure, reportedly a former poultry farm, and one residential house located at the corner of the same Revenue Forest patch were also noted. It was informed that the Revenue Department has been requested to remove the encroachments. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit a detailed Action Taken Report on the violation.
 - iii. The project site is located 5.80 km from the Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary, and approximately 3.35 km from its Eco-Sensitive Zone boundary. Further, the occasional/seasonal movement of wild elephant has also been reported in the surrounding area. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit the comments of the PCCF (WL)/CWLW.
 - iv. The State Government had informed that the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO)
 - v. The State Government has informed that the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), is in the process of finalizing alignments for road, power, and water networks, and any requirement of linear forest clearance will be assessed after completion of land acquisition and finalization of the right of way. The State Government should inform the requirement of additional forest land for such ancillary infrastructure.

Attested

[Signature]

REGIONAL FOREST OFFICER
DISTRICT WL(S) SHIMLA

- vi. A six-lane Capital Region Ring Road proposed by NHAI overlaps with one corner of the proposed forest land in the instant proposal. The State Government shall furnish the factual details in this regard.

Agenda No. 36

Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/501460/2024

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 135.980 ha of forest land (130.603 ha within the mining lease area and 5.377 ha for connecting road, outside lease area) for non-forest purpose in respect of Kendudih North Iron Ore Block of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd under Keonjhar Forest Division of Keonjhar District (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/501460/2024) - reg.

1. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0062-2025-30039/FE&CC dated 25.09.2025 and uploaded on PARIVESH portal on 25.09.2025 submitted above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0062-2025-30039/FE&CC dated 25.09.2025 and uploaded on PARIVESH portal on 25.09.2025 submitted above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - ii. The State Government submitted that the total lease area over 187.862 ha (DGPS area) comprises of 130.603 ha of forest land and 57.259 ha of non-forest land. The forest land over 130.603 ha is involved in the said mining lease, out of which 99.001 ha is revenue forest and 31.602 ha is Sabik forest.
 - iii. The State Government submitted that no suitable transportation road exists outside the mining block for movement of iron ore to various destinations, as the nearby roads are inadequate for heavy traffic. Accordingly, it has proposed construction of a dedicated 39 km connecting road, with an average width of 15 metres, from NH-520 to the Kendudih North Iron Ore Block (outside the mining lease area). Further, as per the


Attested

[Signature]

guidelines dated 23.08.2021 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, linear infrastructure projects ancillary to mining—such as roads, railways, and conveyor belts—are to be included in the main proposal, and only under exceptional circumstances may such proposals be considered as standalone projects.

- iv. Accordingly, outside the lease area forest land over 5.377 ha (2.534 ha revenue forest and 2.843 ha Sabik forest) has been proposed for diversion for construction of connecting road of 4 km in length and 15 metres in width, connecting the mine site to the existing National Highway NH-520.
- v. The proposed forest land for diversion is having the canopy density of 0.5 of Eco Class I forest type. The number of trees proposed to be felled is 11,162 above 30 cm & 41,465 numbers of trees below 30 cm girth.
- vi. The details of the land-use plan of the proposal (other than road of 5.377 ha) is as under:

SL	Item	Forest land (in ha)			Non. Forest Land (in ha)	Grand Total (in ha)	
		Revenue forest	Sabik Forest	Total Forest			
1.	Mining including Mobile Crushing and Screening Unit, Temporary Stack Yard	73.014	13.222	86.236	6.064	92.300	
2	Storage of Top Soil	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	
3	Dumping of Overburden	8.681	0.000	8.681	0.000	8.681	
4	Infrastructure (Temporary Office, Rest Shelter, Workshop, Weigh Bridge etc.)	0.000	0.404	0.404	0.876	1.280	
5	Mine Road	0.000	1.856	1.856	0.199	2.055	
6	Mine Camp Area	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	
7	Area Not To Be Utilized	A) 50 mtr. Along the Nala	9.596	7.843	17.439	13.413	30.852
		B) 10 mtr. Along the road	1.613	1.787	3.400	2.874	6.274
		C) ST, PVT land, Govt. land etc.	0.023	5.596	5.619	32.158	37.777
		D) Elephant Corridor/Green Belt	3.108	0.000	3.108	0.000	3.108
8	15 mtr. Wide	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.094	

Attested

 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

	transporting road					
9	Safety Zone (7.5 mtr, Along M.L. Bounda	2.966	0.800	3.766	0.675	4.441
	Grand Total	99.001	31.60 2	130.60 3	57.25 9	187.86 2

- vii. The State Government has submitted that, as reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, M/s Thriveni Earth Movers Ltd. established a Security Training Institute over 1.680 ha in Village Kendudihi in 2010. Based on historical land-use records and satellite imagery, the DFO has stated that no violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 has occurred within the Kendudihi North Iron Ore Block. However, the DFO, vide letter dated 22.07.2025, has requested the Collector, Keonjhar, to initiate legal action in the matter. The action taken report is awaited.
- viii. Regarding the kachha road, the DFO, Keonjhar Division, has reported that it was constructed temporarily by the Geological Survey of India during the exploration phase prior to auction of the mineral block and was neither constructed nor upgraded by the User Agency without statutory approval. Regarding encroachment, a small portion of land is under temporary subsistence cultivation by a local villager, with no permanent construction. The villager has consented to vacate the land upon commencement of mining operations.
- ix. The State Govt. submitted that the Collector, Keonjhar has been requested by the DFO, Keonjhar Division vide his office letter No.7592 dated 22.07.2025 to take legal action against M/S Triveni Earth Movers Ltd. for the aforesaid violation. The action taken report on the above matter is yet to be received from the Collector, Keonjhar.
- x. The CA has been proposed over an area of 136.603 ha of NFL in a single patch in village Tanginigura and Podapadar in Kalahandi district.
- xi. The State Government submitted that High Conservation Value forest land in the Kendudihi North East Iron Ore Block on the grounds of the strategic importance of iron ore for national development in line with the National Steel Policy and National Mineral Policy, the site-specific and non-relocatable nature of the mineral deposit, absence of viable non-forest alternatives, statutory allocation of the block to Rungta Mines Ltd. through auction, and incorporation of impact-minimization measures including exclusion of sensitive areas, implementation of approved wildlife conservation plans, compensatory afforestation over equivalent non-forest land, and socio-economic benefits to local communities.
- xii. The State Government submitted that, in view of the sloping and erosion-prone terrain, comprehensive soil and erosion control measures will be undertaken during mining operations. These include terracing and contour trenching, construction of retaining/toe walls and check dams, settling

Attested

[Signature]
 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

ponds, use of biodegradable geotextiles and mulching, development of a 7.5 m peripheral green belt and safety zone plantation, vegetative stabilization with native deep-rooted species (including overburden dump stabilization), and scientific topsoil management with phased reclamation, under the supervision of the Forest Department.

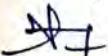
- xiii. Based on the recommendation of the State Government and considering the site-specific nature of the project, the Regional Office Bhubaneswar in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions, in addition to the standard conditions applicable to similar projects:
- a) The user agency has stated that most of the non-forest land within the lease area is protected under the Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1956, and that the project is therefore largely confined to forest land. The State Government shall verify and authenticate this claim.
 - b) The user agency shall conduct a Blast Vibration Study, Slope Stability Study, and Surface Hydrology Study, which are yet to be undertaken. It shall incorporate the findings into the project design to minimise the impact of mining on the surrounding forests and nearby habitations.
 - c) The State Forest Department shall prepare and implement a comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan, at the cost of the user agency, to mitigate the adverse impact of mining on forests and associated flora and fauna in the surrounding area, and to strengthen the elephant corridor within the lease area.
 - d) The user agency shall fund and implement a site-specific soil and moisture conservation plan to prevent the loss of soil, subsurface carbon, and moisture from the dense forest area within the lease.
 - e) The user agency shall ensure the protection of all stream courses within the lease. It shall carefully plan and implement green belt development of approximately 50 metres on both sides of these streams through a comprehensive Catchment Area Treatment Plan to ensure that the water budgeting of the Karo River is not adversely affected by the project.
 - f) The State Government shall initiate appropriate action against encroachments observed in the Revenue forest land, in accordance with the provisions of the V(S&S) Adhiniyam, 1980, and submit an action taken report to MoEF&CC and the Regional Office.
 - g) The user agency shall also examine the possibility of realigning the approach road to the lease area in consultation with the State Forest Department and submit the State Government's recommendation in this regard.

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
C/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- h) The State Government and the user agency shall explore the possibility of shifting non-site-specific activities, such as the overburden dump (10.700 ha) and infrastructure (0.500 ha), outside the forest area. If relocation is not feasible, they shall submit a detailed justification.
- i) The user agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, a restoration schedule, and a timeline for the surrender of forest land.
- j) The user agency shall revisit the cost-benefit analysis of the proposal as per the guidelines issued under V(S&S) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- k) In consultation with the State Forest Department, the user agency shall attempt to translocate trees likely to be affected into designated safety zone areas, wherever feasible.
- l) The user agency shall maintain a contiguous safety zone along the entire project boundary.
- m) The State Government shall ensure that, at Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites with high vegetation density, it prepares and implements a crop improvement scheme and carries out CA works in accordance with the prevailing rules.
- xiv. The Committee observed that the proposed land for diversion does not form a part of the National Park or wildlife Sanctuary. However, out of the total 187.862 ha mining lease, only 4.029 ha at the north-western extremity overlaps with the Karo-Karampada Elephant Corridor. The State Government has submitted to keep this entire portion as an undisturbed green belt with no mining or allied activities, along with construction of an Elephant Proof Trench under Forest Department supervision to safeguard wildlife movement.
- xv. The Committee also observed that Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) has been duly approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha on 16.08.2024 and covering the core area and 10 km zone of influence, with a total outlay of ₹311.888 lakh.
- xvi. The Committee observed that the soil erosion control measures during operations, as per the approved plan and under Forest Department supervision shall be implemented in the proposed area for diversion. These include terracing and contour trenching; construction of retaining/toe walls, check dams, and settling ponds; green belt and 7.5 m safety zone plantation with native species; overburden dump stabilization with deep-rooted plants; and phased reuse of topsoil in accordance with the approved Topsoil Management Plan.
- xvii. The Committee observed that, as the forest diversion proposal exceeds 100 ha, a Site Inspection Report was duly conducted. The proposal was accepted in-principle in the 58th Project Screening Committee meeting held on 02.11.2024. Thereafter, the PCCF (Forest Diversion) & Nodal

Attested



103

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Officer (FCA), Odisha, issued inspection directions under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Rules, 2023, and a joint site inspection was carried out on 16.11.2024 by the Deputy Conservator of Forest (Nodal-I) along with the DFO, Keonjhar and other forest officials and recommended the proposal.

- xviii. The Committee observed that a dry seasonal nala traverses the lease area and joins the Karo Nadi outside the lease. The User Agency has undertaken to retain the nala with a 50-metre buffer on either side as a non-mining green belt to maintain natural drainage. No diversion is proposed; if required in future, prior approval from the competent authority of the Water Resources Department will be obtained.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the proposal for '*In-principle*' approval for the diversion of 135.980 ha of forest land (99.001 ha revenue forest and 31.602 ha Sabik forest), out of which 130.603 ha within the mining lease area and 5.377 ha for connecting road, outside lease area) for non-forest purpose in respect of Kendudihi North Iron Ore Block of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd under Keonjhar Forest Division of Keonjhar District with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The State Government shall implement the Wild Life Conservation Plan duly approved by the CWLW at the cost of the User Agency.
 - ii. The State Govt. shall ensure that 4.029 ha land at the north-western corner of the forest land overlaps with the Karo-Karampada Elephant Corridor shall be kept as an undisturbed green belt with no mining or allied activities, to safeguard wildlife movement.
 - iii. Soil erosion control measures during operations, as per the approved Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan and under the supervision of the Forest Department, shall be implemented in the proposed area for diversion at the cost of the User Agency.
 - iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that a 50-metre buffer on either side shall be maintained on the dry seasonal nala, traversing through the lease area and joins the Karo Nadi outside the lease. No diversion of Nalls shall be done.
 - v. A green belt shall be developed in approximately 50 metres on both sides of the stream through a comprehensive Catchment Area Treatment Plan to ensure that the water budgeting of the Karo River is not adversely affected by the project.

Attested



NODAL FOREST OFFICER
C.O. CFWL(S) SHIMLA

Agenda No. 37

Proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/454474/2023

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 3.378 ha of Forest land including 2.645 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within Tantra Iron Ore Mines under Koira Tahasil and Barsuan Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha within Mining Lease area of 72.56 ha in respect of M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd.

1. The Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0078-2024-22041 dated 14.11.2024, submitted a proposal under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 3.378 ha of Forest land including 2.645 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within Tantra Iron Ore Mines under Koira Tahasil and Barsuan Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District within Mining Lease area of 72.56 ha in respect of M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0078-2024-22041 dated 14.11.2024, submitted a proposal under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 3.378 ha of Forest land including 2.645 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within Tantra Iron Ore Mines under Koira Tahasil and Barsuan Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District within Mining Lease area of 72.56 ha in respect of M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd.
 - ii. The Ministry vide letter No. 8-108/2008-FC dt. 14.06.2010 had accorded Stage-II approval over 69.041 ha of forest land involved in the Mining Lease. Now, as intimated by the PCCF (FD&NO, FC Act), O/o the PCC & HoFF, Odisha, the user agency has applied for diversion of Safety Zone area of 3.378 ha. Out of which 2.645 ha is meant for safety zone and balance 0.733 ha is meant for cluster mining with Jindal Steel and Power Limited and Penguin Trading and agencies in village Tantra and Tensa.
 - iii. The proposed cluster mining exists within the Eastern boundary of M/s Korp Resources Ltd. and the Western boundary of M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Limited and the Northern boundary of M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd. and the Southern boundary of Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. The adjacent lease common boundary of 7.5 m width in each of the Lease area is blocked.
 - iv. In the interest of safe and scientific mining, conservation and utilization of minerals resources over the blocked area and for protection of

Attested

[Signature]

Environment, M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd. has entered into MoU with M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Ltd. and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. to mine out and extract the blocked iron ore along the common boundary area.

- v. The 3.378 Ha of proposed forest land is having the canopy density of 0.6 and Eco-class I type forest. The number of trees proposed to be felled is 516.
- vi. The details of the land-use plan of the total lease area of the proposal is as under:

Existing land Use Pattern:

Sl No.	Pattern of utilisation	Area proposed (in ha)
1	Area under Mining	9.903
2	Top Soil Stacking	0.000
3	Overburden/Waste Dumping	0.996
4	Mineral Storage	4.955
5	Infrastructure (Workshop, administrative building etc.)	1.000
6	Road	4.148
7	Mineral separation plant	3.550
8	Sub-grade stack	3.158
9	Parking area	1.120
10	Safety zone area	3.483
11	Other to specify	40.247
	Total	72.560

Proposed land use pattern:

Sl No.	Pattern of utilisation	Area proposed (in ha)
1	Area under Mining	12.450
2	Top Soil Stacking	0.000
3	Overburden/Waste Dumping	2.061
4	Mineral Storage	4.955
5	Infrastructure (Workshop, administrative building etc.)	1.000
6	Road	4.148
7	Mineral separation plant	3.550
8	Sub-grade stack	3.158
9	Parking area	1.120
10	Safety zone area	2.750
11	Other to specify	37.368
	Total	72.560

- vii. The State Government submitted that the DFO, Bonai Forest Division in his Site Inspection Report has reported the lessee has broken up the area

without forest clearance. The violation has been done during 2023-24. Violation committed by the user agency over the applied forest land within the Safety zone over 3.378 ha. The violation area comes under Revenue and DLC forest category.

- viii. Further, the PCCF (FD&NO, FC Act), O/o the PCC & HoFF, Odisha has stated that violation in the Safety Zone area under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 has been reported by the Range Officer, Barsuan Range vide his Memo No.540 dt.28.7.2024:

Locations of Safety Zone maintained at below of width 7.5 meter from ML boundary			
Pillar No.	Average Width of Safety Zone (in Meter)	Area in ha.	Remarks
ML Pillar	2 to 6.6	0.039	1. Pillars found to be broken and SZ Boundary not maintained properly. 2. Fresh excavations noticed at the stretches.
ML Pillar A to D1	6.5 to 7	0.001 (DLC, Plot No.303)	1. Pillars found to be broken and SZ Boundary not maintained properly. 2. Fresh excavations noticed at the stretches.
ML Pillar D1 to D	6 to 7	0.002 (DLC, Plot No.303)	1. Pillars found to be in intact position but SZ boundary not maintained properly. 2. Old excavations noticed at the stretches.
ML Pillar D to C3	4.6 to 7	0.014 (DLC, Plot No.285)	1. Pillars found to be in intact position but SZ boundary not maintained properly. 2. Old Excavations noticed at the stretches.
Total		0.056	

- ix. The State Government further submitted that the above area comes under the category of DLC and Revenue Forest area, the Collector, Sundargarh has been requested vide DFO, Bonai Forest Division Office Letter No.5610 dt. 1.7.2024 to take necessary legal action under relevant Revenue Laws.
- x. The State Govt. submitted that the applied area does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. However, the wildlife like Elephant, Sloth bear, Hanuman Langur, Indian giant squirrel, Jungle cat, Mongoose, Indian

Attested

Hare, Fox, Rat, Wild pig, Jackal, Indian pangolin, Porcupine, Hyaena, Peacock and different kinds of snakes and birds are noticed in and around the applied area.

- xi. The CA land has been proposed over an area of 3.44 Ha of NFL in village Dandapani under Lephripada Tahasil in Sundargarh District under Sundargarh Forest Division in a single patch.
- xii. The State Government submitted that the adjacent lease common boundary of 7.5 m width in each of the Lease area is blocked. In the interest of safe and scientific mining, conservation and utilization of minerals resources over the blocked area and for protection of Environment, M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd. has entered into MoU with M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Ltd. and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. to mine out and extract the blocked iron ore along the common boundary area.
- xiii. The Regional Office, Bhubaneswar in its Site Inspection Report submitted that the instant proposal is for diversion of 3.378 ha of forest land (including 2.645 ha earmarked for Safety zone) within Tantra Iron Ore Mines under Koira Tahasil and Barsuan Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District within Mining Lease area of 72.56 ha in respect of M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd. The site inspection of the above project was carried out by Smt. Padma Mahanti, Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C). The inspecting officer has reported the following:
 - a) Out of 3.378 ha of forest land, 2.645 ha is earmarked for Safety Zone around the mining lease area and 0.733 Ha is for Safety zone area diversion for cluster mining with TRB Iron Ore Mines of M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd and Tantra Iron Ore Mines of M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Ltd.
 - b) The user agency has violated over 0.056 Ha of forest land in the Safety Zone area for not maintaining safety zone boundary pillars and excavation of minerals.
 - c) Since, the user agency has violated the provisions of Van (Sanarakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, ; the proposal is recommended with imposition of five times Penal NPV over the violated area of 0.056 Ha along with general standard condition and action against the erring official.
- xiv. The Committee observed that DFO, Bonai Forest Division in his Site Inspection Report submitted that violation has been committed by the user agency over the applied forest land within the Safety zone over 3.378 ha. Further, the PCCF (FD&NO, FC Act), O/o the PCC & HoFF, Odisha stated that as per the Memo No.540 dt.28.7.2024 of the Range Officer, Barsuan Range, 0.056 ha violation has been done by the uSer Agency.
- xv. The Committee observed that there are two other adjacent mines of M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Limited and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.

Attested




DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xvi. The Committee further observed that earlier the UA has not maintained the safety zone area as shown earlier land use and proposed land use. Now, 2.75 ha area has been earmarked for safety zone. However, the User Agency has agreed to deposit the Penal NPV and normal NPV with interest if applicable as per the provisions of the consolidated guidelines issued by Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 under Para 7.9 (iv) and (v).
- xvii. The Committee observed that the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Bonai Forest Division, had reported that 37.368 ha of land is classified as barren land and, if utilized in future, would be incorporated in the mining plan with approval of the competent authority. However, as specific details of the proposed land use were not initially provided, the State Government was requested to clearly indicate the purpose of diversion. In compliance, the DFO has reported that the mining plan has since been modified and approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) vide Letter No. MPM-2414/2025-26/IBM_RO_BBS dated 11.12.2025, and the said 37.368 ha area has been included in the approved mining plan.
- xviii. The Committee observed that the DFO, Bonai reported that out of 72.560 ha lease area, 72.419 ha is forest land. Of this, 69.041 ha was earlier diverted (2010 approval), and 3.378 ha (safety zone) is now proposed for fresh diversion, including 0.733 ha for mining use. The total change in land use within the already diverted area is 46.255 ha.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
- There are two other adjacent mines belonging to M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Limited and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. The State Government shall submit the details of earlier approvals granted, if any for the change in safety zone of these two mines along with the combined safety zone for the cluster mining.
 - The DFO, Bonai Forest Division, has reported that out of the total lease area of 72.560 ha, 72.419 ha is forest land. Of this, 69.041 ha was diverted earlier (approved in 2010), and 3.378 ha, comprising the safety zone, is now proposed for fresh diversion, including 0.733 ha for mining use. The State Government should provide a comparative land use change proposed, within forest land and non-forest land, with detailed justification of each component.
 - The State Government should clearly indicate the total area proposed for mining within the overall lease area, covering both forest land and non-forest land.

Attested,

Agenda No. 38


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

F. No. FP/OR/Airport/426096/2023

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 27.887 ha. of DLC forest land for construction of Shree Jagannath International Airport under Puri Forest Division in Puri District, Odisha. (FP/OR/Airport/426096/2023)- regarding.

1. The Govt. of Odisha vide letter dated 02.09.2023 has submitted the above subject mentioned proposal to the RO Bhubaneswar and thereafter forwarded to the Ministry for prior approval of the Central Government.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Odisha vide letter dated 02.09.2023 has submitted the above subject mentioned proposal to the RO Bhubaneswar and thereafter forwarded to the Ministry for prior approval of the Central Government
 - ii. The proposal envisage use of 27.887 ha of DLC forest land for construction of Shree Jagannath International Airport (SJIA), Puri in Puri (Wildlife) Division, Odisha.
 - iii. The legal status of the forest land is DLC Forest. Vegetation density of 0.5 (Eco Class III) with 13,504 number of project affected trees, has been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Trees numeration detail has been submitted at S. No. 4.1 of the Part-II. Approximate forest area as revealed by the KML file is 26.982 ha against the diversion of 27.887 ha. KML files needs to be rectified depicting the correct area and various project components. As per the Sol toposheet, most of project area falls on the open mixed jungle. Forest Cover belongs to the MDF (1 ha) and Non-wooded (27 ha) forest land moderately Dense Forest and 27 ha is Non-forest/ Non-wooded in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019.
 - iv. Total land involved in this project is 471.401 ha comprising of 27.887 ha of DLC forest land and 443.514 ha of non-forest land (Govt non-forest 353.882 ha + Private non-forest 89.632 ha). The purpose-wise break up of total land involved in this project is furnished below:

Sl. No.	Component	DLC forest (In ha)	Non-Forest area (in ha)			Grand Total (in ha)
			Govt.	Private	Total	

Attested


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

1	Admin Office	0	0	1.445	1.445	1.445
2	Airside	16.003	85.169	15.276	100.445	116.448
3	Apron	4.814	67.444	19.465	86.909	91.723
4	Cargo Terminal	0	3.959	1.185	5.144	5.144
5	Mix use Commercial	0	0.197	15.493	15.690	15.690
6	Open space	0	7.964	3.996	11.960	11.960
7	Passenger Terminal Building	0.037	23.747	0.028	23.775	23.812
8	Transport use	1.956	38.781	15.106	53.887	55.843
9	Runway	3.427	109.834	1.700	111.534	114.961
10	Utility	1.650	16.787	15.938	32.725	34.375
	Total	27.887	353.882	89.632	443.514	471.401

- iv. Compensatory afforestation over 29.939 ha of non-forest land in Anipatia and Banabarada village of Kakatpur Tahasil of Puri (WL) Division has been proposed in lieu of 27.887 ha forest land. Scheme for undertaking compensatory afforestation involving financial provisions of ₹2,22,87,500/- has been submitted online. The DFO, Puri (WL) Division has furnished land suitability certificate with the proposal.
- v. The DFO, Puri (WL) has reported that the applied area does not come under any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. But the area is coming under the Coast Regulation Zone.
- vi. The DFO, Puri (WL) has reported that no rare and endangered or unique species of flora and fauna area found in the applied area. The forest types of the applied area are Tropical Dry Deciduous Moderate Forest covered with mostly Casuarina, Cashew & Acacia species which were initially planted during 1970-1980. The sporadic movements of wild animals like Hyena, Porcupine, Spotted deer, Jackals are often noticed inside the applied area. Besides this, the reptiles like Snakes, Common Chameleon and birds like fly catchers and Brahamani kites etc. are found moving in the applied area.
- vii. The DFO has reported that proposed site is over 80 KM away from the Devi River mouth, a previously identified mass nesting site of Olive Ridley turtle.
- viii. Earlier, the proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee in meeting held on 07.06.2024.
- ix. The DFO, Puri (WL) Division, has reported that temporary fencing of 1,370 m was erected over DLC forest land and 9,950 m over non-forest land, with 2,001 m incomplete. The work (June–September 2023) was stopped, and the fencing over forest land has been dismantled. No tree felling or

ecological damage was reported, and no work was found ongoing during inspection dated 13.08.2024.

- x. The RO, in its Site Inspection Report, further observed construction of an additional boundary wall outside the proposed airport boundary up to the inter-tidal zone, not reflected in the land-use plan on PARIVESH, constituting a violation of CRZ norms. The State Government shall verify whether the violation involves forest land and ensure its removal.
- xi. An FIR was lodged vide IDCO letter No. 602 dated 22.03.2024 with the IIC, Sadar Police Station. Out of the total 13.3 km boundary, 1,370 m of temporary fencing was erected over DLC forest land, 9,950 m over non-forest land using removable materials, and 2,001 m remained incomplete.
- xii. The proposal was examined by the Regional Empowered Committee in its meeting held on 16.10.2023 and REC recommended the proposal subject to conditions i.e. (i) During landing and taking off flights, flying over the Balukhanda WL Sanctuary shall be avoided. (ii) The user agency shall obtain clearance from OCZMA for the area coming under CRZ-III before submission of compliance of 'in-principle' approval, if it is granted.
- xiii. The Regional Empowered Committee that the may be submitted to the Ministry for approval in view the non-site specific nature of the proposal.
- xiv. The MoEF&CC, after examination of the proposal sought additional information from the Regional Office on 09.03.2024. The Regional Office, after obtaining the same from the State Government, forwarded the additional information to the Ministry on 29.04.2024.
- xv. The proposal along with the additional information was placed before the Advisory Committee meeting held on 07.06.2024. The Committee, after deliberations and discussion with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office and Nodal Officer, Odisha observed that in order to take a well informed decision on the proposal, additional information on the following may be obtained from the State Government and the same may be submitted before the Advisory Committee for its examination:
 - Construction of airport in the vicinity of sea coast may have impact on the breeding activity of the olive ridley turtle reported in the area, it will, therefore, be appropriate that comments of the Chief Warden of the State on the likely impact of the proposed non-forestry activity on the breeding activity of the olive ridley turtle may be obtained and submitted by the State for further consideration of the Committee.
 - Examination of the area proposed for diversion using DSS tools and Google Satellite Imagery revealed that the user agency seems to has already started the construction of boundary wall in the forest as well as in the non-forest land which is a violations of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The State Government may therefore submit the following:

AHesteeel


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 GROUP OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- Name of the erring officers responsible for allowing or not stopping the unauthorized construction in the forest land and status of action taken against the erring officials.
- A detail violation report indicating the date and time of the commencement of construction of boundary wall along with present status of work of the construction of boundary wall along with efforts by the officers concerned in the State Government to stop the work relating to construction of boundary wall.
- Details of the authority/agency issuing work order for construction of boundary wall and the entity bearing the expenditure incurred on the said alleged construction.
- A detailed inspection of the area may be conducted by the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC and a report on the same, along with violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 committed by the user agency and remedial action taken by the State authorities, may be submitted for further consideration of the Committee.

xvi. The recommendation of the AC was communicated to the RO Bhubaneswar. The RO has asked the information from the State Govt. vide letter dated 19.07.2024. The Nodal Officer, Odisha vide letter No.21733/9F (Airport)-357/2023 dated 30.10.2024 has furnished the point-wise reply of observation made in EDS dated 19.07.2024 to RO office. Reply of the State Government is as under:

- a) The State Government has reported that the proposed project area is more than 80 Km from Devi River mouth which has been marked as mass nesting area and no mass nesting has occurred at Devi River mouth for more than two decades. In the report, it is highlighted that this coast line is not used as a mass nesting site, it remains an active area for wildlife, supporting sporadic and secondary nesting by Olive Ridley Turtles. The construction and operation of Greenfield airport at the site could have the potential impacts on the Turtles. He has submitted a detailed report on the impact of this project and suggested mitigative measures.
- b) The State Government has reported that being a DLC forest land under the administrative and management control of the Revenue Department, necessary action will be taken to ensure the removal of encroachment by the concerned revenue authority after inquiry. No action has been taken over the person and inquiry is under process.
- c) The State Government has reported that Out of the total 13.3 Km length of the project boundary, a length of 1370 metre of temporary fence has been constructed over the DLC forest land and about

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

9950 meters over the non-forest land using removable materials and the work was left incomplete after 2001 metre.

- d) The State Government has reported that the Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO and the Divisional Head, BCD-II, IDCO had issued the work order for the temporary fence construction over the non-forest land in the year 2023.
- xvii. The RO Bhubaneswar has submitted Site Inspection Report in the instant proposal. The RO has mentioned that the proposal cannot be recommended without satisfactory reply from the State Govt. on certain information as noted by the DIGF (Central) in her SIR. The information desired by the RO from the State Govt. are as follows:
- a) Proposed project site is close to the nesting ground of olive ridley turtles, a Schedule I species.
 - b) The sea which abounds this project area has been close and contiguous with the Dolphin habitat and hence further study, documentation and conservation of this area is mandated before taking any further decision regarding this mega development project.
 - c) The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) in Chilika lake appears to be close to the airspace where this project is envisaged to be operated. This too needs further study and impact analysis and protection needs to be accorded to this CAF.
 - d) This proposal has not been presented as an integrated project. The six lane express way which will link Bhubaneswar airport to Puri airport supposedly to be built along the coast line is not part of this project proposal. The approach road to the airport is also not a part of the current proposal. It appears that facts are not presented in actuality in a bid to break the integrated proposal into many parts for obtaining easy clearance.
 - e) At present the proposed airport at Brahmagiri is neither connected by any express way or high way to either Ganjam or Khurda or Jagatsinghpur. Hence, justification for having the project to connect Puri, to cities like Jagatsinghpur is not correct. In fact, the proposed airport at Brahmagiri is at an approximate distance of 29 km from Puri town itself and hence defeats the very purpose cited for having this project in an ecologically fragile area like Brahmagiri (Puri).
 - f) The expansion of Biju Pattnaik airport can be taken up in other locations, with better connectivity like Jagarsinghpur, Khurda or Berhampur and not at the cost of huge environmental loss and at the same time exposing the area to various vagaries like tidal influence, cyclones and which is being frequent in both number as well as severity by cutting down 13000 trees which now act as bio-shield and coastal shelter belt. The VDF and MDF crown density in

Attested

At

DEPUTY DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O C.F. WL(S) SHIMLA

non-forest land has not been taken into account in the current proposal.

- g) The INS Chilika, which is a naval base is at a close distance to the proposed airport site. Whether the opinion of the Defence Ministry has been taken into consideration by the State Government before proposing this project. The site needs to be ascertained and evaluated from Defence point of view.
- h) The user agency has already violated the provision of the Adhiniyam by constructing a 1400 meter boundary wall which extends up to sea line. Action needs to be initiated for violation of V(S&S) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xviii. Further, the RO in its SIR reported that there is violation of CRZ norms since the boundary wall is now seen constructed up to the sea line. The violations need to be removed immediately. Long term studies on habitat of olive ridley turtles close to the proposed airport site as well as the Dolphin migration path needs to be studied and documented, and this proposed airport site needs to be conserved as a fragile coastal habitat and afforested to serve as a bio-shield and coastal shelter belt. Because of the aforesaid reasons, such mega development project in the fragile coastal ecosystem of Brahmagiri (Puri) is not an environment and conservation conducive proposal and will have detrimental impacts on both for coastal ecology and wildlife therein. The Puri pilgrimage tourism can be very well boosted by envisaging a sky train/metro from Bhubaneswar airport to Puri as is seen in tourism friendly countries like Thailand so that the travel time from Bhubaneswar to Puri can be considerably reduced, which even is now only 60-70 minutes. The travel time can be further reduced through innovative environmentally friendly and sustainable solutions.
- xix. Further, the RO in its SIR has also reported that during site inspection, the user agency has informed that an express way is proposed along the coastline to cater to the traffic from Bhubaneswar airport to proposed Puri airport. Though, this is an ancillary project of the airport, there is no mention of 6 lane the express way (road) along with the airport project.
- xx. A detailed study on the habitat and migration route of olive ridley turtles as well as Irrawaddy Dolphin along the entire coast of Puri needs to be observed for a stipulated period of at least one year and after ascertaining their number, presence and migration pathway of dolphin. A detailed action plan needs to be drafted for their conservation and protection. Systematic information on population trends, distribution and space use of both Irrawaddy dolphin and olive ridley turtles needs to be started at an early date all along the Puri coast up to Satpada, Konark and Astarang (the usual migration path of dolphin and nesting shelter of olive ridley turtle). Shelter belt plantation available in the project site needs to be protected and enriched to provide a bio-shield along the coast and in no

Attested

[Signature]
 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

circumstances it should be removed or cut as the cutting of trees will have detrimental impact on the coastal ecology.

- xxi. DPR of proposed airport project, land use map, DPR of the 6 lane express way from Bhubaneswar airport to Puri airport and approach road to airport (to be constructed by Transport Department of Odisha as informed by the user agency) which is also an ancillary activity, and other allied construction are not found submitted along with the project proposal. Strict action needs to be initiated against erring officials for gross violation of the Adhiniyam by construction of boundary wall. Action needs to be initiated against revenue officials for purposefully allowing the illegal construction to happen on DLC forest land.
- xxii. Since a part of the proposed site (approximately 15 ha) falls under 200-500 meters of NDZ of CRZ (CRZ III B), the applicability of CRZ regulations to the project needs to be ascertained and CRZ clearance obtained. The extent and magnitude of CRZ violation needs to be enquired into and adequately addressed. The project site being located at places between 200-500 meters of the HTL, applicability of CRZ rules to the project site, whether permissible as per rule. The Chilika Lake is a Ramsar wetland of International importance and migratory bird habitat and part of Central Asian Flyway (CAF). Hence, the proposed airport project which is adjacent to Chilika lake and is bound to impact the airspace with air traffic, sound, light and air pollution, needs to be studied for its impact on Chilika Lake, migratory bird species visiting Chilika, its zone of influence, vis-à-vis the regulation in the Wetland Conservation and Management Rules, 2017.
- xxiii. The above facts were considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 28.11.2024 and after thorough deliberation and discussion with DDGF (Central), RO Bhubaneshwar and CCF Nodal Officer, Govt. of Odisha, the Committee decided to defer the proposal for want of following information from the State Govt. The RO has raised the following serious observations, which shall be examined by the State Govt. and a detailed justification/clarification shall be submitted for further consideration of the matter:
- a) Proposed project site is close to the nesting ground of olive ridley turtles, a Schedule I species.
 - b) The sea which abounds this project area has been close and contiguous with the Dolphin habitat and hence further study, documentation and conservation of this area is mandated before taking any further decision regarding this mega development project.
 - c) The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) in Chilika lake appears to be close to the airspace where this project is envisaged to be operated. This too needs further study and impact analysis and protection needs to be accorded to this CAF.

Attested

X

PROVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- d) This proposal has not been presented as an integrated project. The six lane express way which will link Bhubaneswar airport to Puri airport supposedly to be built along the coast line is not a part of this project proposal. Nor is the approach road to the airport is a part of the current proposal. It appears that facts are not presented in an integrated manner.
- e) At present the proposed airport at Brahmagiri is neither connected by any express way or high way to either Ganjam or Khurda or Jagatsinghpur. Hence, justification for having the project to connect Puri, to cities like Jagatsinghpur is not correct, as per the report submitted by the Regional Office. In fact, the proposed airport at Brahmagiri is at an approximate distance of 29 km from Puri town itself and hence defeats the very purpose cited for having this project in an ecologically fragile area like Brahmagiri (Puri).
- f) The expansion of Biju Pattnaik airport can be taken up in other locations, with better connectivity like Jagatsinghpur, Khurda or Berhampur and not at the cost of huge environmental loss and at the same time exposing the area to various vagaries like tidal influence, cyclones and which is being frequent in both number as well as severity by cutting down 13000 trees which now act as bio-shield and coastal shelter belt. The VDF and MDF crown density in non forest land having the appearance of forest as per Writ Petition 202/1995 and having high density of vegetation, has not been taken into account in the current proposal.
- g) The INS Chilika, which is a naval base is at a close distance to the proposed airport site. Whether the opinion of the Defence Ministry has been taken into consideration by the State Government before proposing this project site needs to be ascertained and evaluated from Defence point of view.
- h) The User Agency has already violated the provision of Adhiniyam by constructing a 1400 meter boundary wall which extends up to sea line. Action needs to be initiated for violation of V(S&S) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- i) A detailed study on the habitat and migration route of olive ridley turtles as well as Irrawaddy Dolphin along the entire coast of Puri needs to be observed for a stipulated period of at least one year and after ascertaining their number, presence and migration pathway of dolphin. A detailed action plan needs to be drafted for their conservation and protection.

xxiv. The above decision of the Advisory Committee was conveyed to the RO Bhubaneswar and State Govt. The State Nodal Officer vide letter No.11499/9F(Airport)-357/2023 dated 27.05.2025 has replied the observations of the Advisory Committee which has also been analysed by the RO. The detailed reply are as below:

- a) In view of the sporadic nesting of the Schedule I species Olive Ridley turtles along the Puri coast near the proposed project site, as reported by the DFO, Puri (WL) Division and endorsed by the PCCF(WL) & CWLW, a site-specific Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be formulated with detailed mitigation measures—such as establishment and strengthening of protection camps, hatchery units, nest monitoring, and turtle protection initiatives—with financial support from the project proponent, and shall be implemented after obtaining approval from the PCCF(WL) & CWLW, prior to the final forest clearance of the project.

"In response to concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed project site to dolphin habitats along the Puri coast, it is confirmed that dolphins, particularly the Bottlenose species, have been sighted in the Brahmagiri (WL) Range as per the annual dolphin census conducted by the Forest Department, with notable counts in recent years. In compliance with the recommendation of the Appraisal Committee, a detailed study on dolphin habitats is being undertaken by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Regional Office, Gopalpur, as requested by the Commerce and Transport Department vide letter no. TRN-AV-GEN-0001-2021/3787/T dated 18.03.2025. The findings of this study, along with the recommended conservation measures, will be incorporated into the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project.

- b) In response to concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed project to the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) over Chilika Lake, it is submitted that the airspace in this region is already being used by regular commercial flight operations between major cities such as Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Vizag, with no reported adverse impacts on migratory bird movements. Furthermore, the Chief Conservator of Forests (WL-III), based on the assessment of DFO (WL), Puri Division, has reported that the proposed project is expected to have minimal impact on bird migration and wildlife in general. However, in line with the recommendations of the Appraisal Committee, a detailed study and impact analysis on migratory birds along the CAF is being undertaken by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Regional Office, Gopalpur, as requested by the project authority. The outcomes and recommended conservation measures from this study will be duly incorporated into the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project.
- c) In response to the observation that the proposal has not been presented as an integrated project, it is clarified that the six-lane expressway connecting Bhubaneswar to Puri is a separate infrastructure initiative and does not form part of the present airport project proposal, as it will be executed by a different agency.

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Therefore, its exclusion from the Forest Diversion Proposal (FDP) for the airport project is appropriate. Additionally, there is an existing road connecting the proposed airport site to the Nabakalebara Road near Sipasarubali in Puri town, which will be suitably upgraded to serve as the approach road. Hence, no new approach road is proposed, and its exclusion from the current FDP is also justified."

- d) In response to the suggestion that the airport could be located in alternative areas such as Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, or Berhampur to avoid environmental impacts, it is clarified that the selection of the Puri site was based on a detailed assessment conducted by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and approved by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Government of India, as reflected in the pre-feasibility report. The justification for the location has already been submitted by the PCCF (Nodal) vide letter no. 19133 dated 25.09.2023, in compliance with MoEF&CC communication dated 18.09.2023.
- e) Regarding environmental concerns, all anticipated impacts will be mitigated through measures prescribed under the Environmental Clearance (EC), Forest Clearance conditions, and findings from expert studies by agencies such as the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). It is important to note that the majority of trees to be felled—approximately 9151 out of 12,213—comprise planted species such as Cashew, Jhaun (Casuarina), Acacia, and Noni (Great Morinda), which are largely in moribund condition due to biotic pressure and lack of natural regeneration, as reported by the DFO (WL), Puri Division.
- f) The trees are located on 353.833 hectares of non-forest land, which is not recorded as forest in the DLC report. The tree density is approximately 35 trees per hectare, and the phenological characteristics of cashew trees can visually exaggerate canopy coverage despite relatively low density. Hence, in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Godavarman case (WP 202/1995) and definitions under the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the area does not qualify as deemed forest.
- g) Accordingly, the proposed airport site at Brahmagiri has been appropriately selected with due consideration to ecological, regulatory, and connectivity factors, and necessary environmental safeguards are being integrated into the project planning."
- h) In response to concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed airport site to INS Chilika naval base, it is confirmed that a No Objection Certificate (NOC) has already been obtained from the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, vide letter no. 2(11)/2022/D(IAF) dated 01.01.2025. The NOC ensures that the

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

project has been duly evaluated and found acceptable from the defence and strategic standpoint. A copy of the NOC is enclosed with the reply."

- i) In response to the observation regarding the alleged violation of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 due to the construction of a 1400-meter boundary wall extending to the sea line, it is clarified that the said boundary wall was a temporary structure constructed by the contractor of IDCO solely to prevent encroachment on the project site, which is prone to unauthorized occupation. The wall was linear in nature and only partially enclosed the area, leaving other sides open. As reported by the DFO (Wildlife), Puri Division, the structure has already been dismantled, and no damage to vegetation occurred during its construction or removal. A detailed report from the DFO has been submitted and enclosed with the reply.
- j) Furthermore, the DFO (WL), Puri has also submitted a report to the Collector, Puri, under intimation to the concerned Tehsildar, requesting necessary action under the relevant provisions of Revenue Law, as the DLC land in question is classified as revenue land. The communication is documented under letter no. 2000/3F-18/2025 dated 12.03.2025. The temporary boundary wall was constructed in good faith for safeguarding government land and does not constitute a permanent structure or wilful violation of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980."

xxv. In response to the recommendation for a detailed one-year study on the habitat and migration routes of Olive Ridley turtles and Irrawaddy dolphins along the Puri coast, the State Government submitted that extensive research on the migration and nesting behaviour of Olive Ridley turtles in the Odisha coastal region has already been conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). A notable study by Dr. Bivash Pandav and Dr. B.C. Choudhury of WII, detailing migration patterns and nesting activities, has been enclosed with the reply. Additionally, specific nesting data from the Brahmagiri Wildlife Range of Puri Division over the past several years has been provided.

xxvi. With regard to the presence of Irrawaddy dolphins in the project area, as per the Dolphin census data from the past six years, there has been no recorded presence of Irrawaddy dolphins in the coastal waters adjacent to the Brahmagiri Wildlife Range, where the project is proposed.

xxvii. Nonetheless, in accordance with the recommendation, a comprehensive study is being undertaken by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Regional Office, Gopalpur. This study—initiated at the request of the project authority (Commerce and Transport Department)—will assess the habitat, migration routes, threats, and conservation requirements for both Olive Ridley turtles and Irrawaddy dolphins along the Puri coast. The

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

findings and conservation measures from this study will be integrated into the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project."

- xxviii. Further, it is submitted that the observations of the Advisory Committee were communicated to the RO and the file was also sent to them. Accordingly, the EDS was raised by RO and the State has replied to the RO. The RO after the examination of the reply of the State Govt. following have been observed. After the examination of the above, the DIGF (Central), RO Bhubaneswar has mentioned the following observations:
- a) The presence of Dolphins and Olive Ridley turtles has been acknowledged in the compliance report by the State Govt. which was not mentioned in the original proposal submitted by the State govt. on this proposal. Although the presence of dolphins and olive ridley turtles has been acknowledged there needs to be long term study before suggesting mitigation measures and impact of this project on the habitat of these scheduled species needs to be studied in depth. Such study reports were not found attached with the compliance, though, it has been mentioned that studies have been initiated.
 - b) BNHS has conducted certain study on bird migration in Chilika lake and on the Central Asian flyway. Such a study report should be collated and whether there is any impact of the project on the migratory birds.
 - c) Eventhough, a six lane road is being constructed by another agency, the environmental impact of the six lane road as well as the airport project on the pristine and delicate marine ecosystem and fragile coast line of Puri should have been studied in entirety.
 - d) Regarding the proposed airport project has not been presented as an integrated project, as the six-lane coastal expressway linking Bhubaneswar and Puri—being executed by a separate agency—is not part of the current proposal, nor is a new approach road included, the State Govt. has mentioned that an existing road connecting the site to the Nabakalebara road near Sipasarubali in Puri town will be suitably developed to serve as the airport's access route.
 - e) The planted trees of Cashew, Jhaun (Casuarina) and others to the tune of 12213 are planted and developed as coastal shelterbelts and bio-shields which stand formidable against the cyclones that are repeated in the Puri coast. Eventhough, these are plantation vegetation removal these trees will result in exposing the area to vagaries of climate eventualities and frequent cyclones that may affect life and property of nearby villages. A detailed study on removal of such coastal shelterbelts and ecological evaluation of the ecosystem services should have been undertaken before

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

proposing cutting down huge numbers of trees in the coastal shelter belt.

- f) Contrary to the compliance, report which says that "the trees are in the non-forest land in scattered patches, and considering the density of trees/Ha., it may not be taken as forest for application of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and in the light of definition of forest in 202 Godavarman Cases". The DSS analysis report in PARIVESH web portal shows MDF of 89 ha and Open Forest of 83.01 ha total 171.01 ha of vegetated area over non-forest land having the nature and character of forest which should have been included in the diversion proposal.
- g) The DDGF (Central) has mentioned that with reference to observations of DIGF above, the EDS reply on the observations of the AC has been furnished by the State. The DIG's observations are largely reiterations of the AC's observations, along with a few additional suggestions, which may be taken into consideration by the competent authority while examining the EDS reply.
- xxix. The IGF(FC) informed that as per information submitted by the state the Olive Ridley Turtle nesting sites are sporadic in nature. The Committee observed that, a precautionary approach should be taken and the matter may be referred to WII to address the concerns raised. The ADG(FC) mentioned that the Advisory committee which is a highly competent body, might scrutinise the concerns, before referring to WII. However, the Committee opined that WII is an expert organization in the relevant domain and it would be proper to seek their opinion before taking a decision on the matter.
- xxx. The Proposal was again considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.06.2025 and the Committee deferred the proposal for the want of the following:
- a) Keeping in view the concerns raised with regard to the migration routes, threats, and conservation requirements of Olive Ridley turtles, Irrawaddy dolphins along the Puri coast and migratory birds coming to Chilka Lake, the state shall seek the comments/recommendations of WII on the subject matter. The conservation measures and mitigation activities so identified will be integrated into a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation/ Management Plan for the project which shall be approved by the CWLW, Odisha. A copy of the approved plan shall be submitted.
 - b) As per RO in its SIR, the planted trees of Cashew, Jhaun (Casuarina) and others to the tune of 12,213 are planted and developed as coastal shelterbelts and bio shields which stand formidable against the cyclones that are repeated in the Puri coast. Even though these are plantations, the removal of the vegetation/ trees will result in exposing the area to vagaries of climate

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
C/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

eventualities and frequent cyclones that may affect life and property of nearby villages. The State Government shall provide detailed justification on the matter and submit a mitigation plan for climate eventualities.

- c) The Regional Office has mentioned that the DSS analysis report in PARIVESH web portal shows MDF of 89 ha and Open Forest of 83.01 ha and total 171.01 ha of vegetated area over non-forest land having the nature and character of forest which should have been included in the diversion proposal. The State shall give report in the matter.
- xxxi. The State Government vide its letter dated 07.02.2026 submitted the reply to the Ministry on the observations raised by the Advisory Committee.
- xxxii. The State Government submitted that in light of concerns regarding the migration routes, threats, and conservation needs of Olive Ridley turtles, Irrawaddy dolphins along the Puri coast, and migratory birds visiting Chilika Lake, the Government of Odisha sought recommendations from Wildlife Institute of India, incorporated its 10-point suggestions following a July 2025 field inspection into the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation/Management Plan, and obtained approval from the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha on 17.01.2026.
- xxxiii. The State Govt. submitted that the 12,213 trees over 353.882 ha of non-forest land comprise mainly planted Cashew, Casuarina and Acacia species, with no natural regeneration. The trees are scattered (average density ~35 trees/ha), about 5 m in height, and largely top-broken; over 50% being Cashew, many are ground-leaning and do not function as an effective multi-layered coastal shelterbelt. To mitigate potential impacts of tree felling, a coastal shelterbelt plantation over 20 ha with Casuarina and other wind-resistant species (₹232.5614 lakhs) has been approved under the SSWLC Plan for habitat management. Additional plantation in nearby coastal villages will be undertaken by the User Agency in consultation with the Forest Department to strengthen the marine ecosystem and reduce cyclone-related vulnerabilities, as incorporated in the approved SSWLC Plan and stipulated under the conditional EC clearance (Condition No. 3.1.6.1.4). It is submitted that these measures will adequately address climate and cyclone-related concerns.
- xxxiv. The State Government further submitted that although 12,213 scattered, low-density (35 trees/ha) planted Cashew, Casuarina, and Acacia trees over 353.882 ha of non-forest land—many top-broken and functionally ineffective as shelterbelts—are proposed to be felled, the approved Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan provides for compensatory afforestation and development of a 20 ha coastal shelterbelt plantation of wind-resistant species, along with additional village-level coastal plantations by the User Agency in consultation with the Forest

Attested

A

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICE
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

Department, to mitigate cyclone impacts and climate vulnerabilities in nearby areas.

- xxxv. With reference to the DSS analysis on the PARIVESH portal indicating 171.01 ha (89 ha MDF and 83.01 ha Open Forest) over non-forest land, the State Government submitted that the issue was duly clarified by the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act), Bhubaneswar vide letter dated 27.05.2025, stating that the 12,213 trees over 353.882 ha of non-forest Government and private land are predominantly planted Cashew, Acacia, and Casuarina species, scattered with an average density of 35 trees per hectare (less than 0.1 canopy density), many being old and top-broken, and that the apparent canopy spread—largely due to the phenology of approximately 6,004 Cashew trees—led to satellite-based classification under ISFR 2021 (based on 2019 imagery), but as per field verification, actual density, and ecological characteristics, the land does not qualify as “deemed forest” under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
- xxxvi. The Committee observed that the WII has submitted the following recommendations:

Keeping interests of wildlife and wetland ecosystems integrity as paramount: *The planned greenfield airport proposal may be rejected as it is quite near to the existing Bhubaneswar Airport (65 km) and is in close proximity to the Chilka Ramsar Site (16 km) a wetland of International Importance. Existing evidence indicates a high risk of bird strikes near Ramsar Sites, as seen in the Muan International Airport, located 9 km from the Muan Tideland (Ramsar Site), which reported 179 human casualties on December 29, 2024, due to a collision with a flock of migratory Baikal Teals, and another incident at Bahir Dar International Airport, just 4 km from Lake Tana (Ramsar Site).*

Balancing state's development requirement with wildlife conservation values: *If in any case the project is unavoidable and should this proposal be approved, then mitigation measures and other important recommendations derived from impact assessment studies as highlighted earlier (i to x) must be binding on the user agency, coupled with regular and transparent monitoring mechanism of such compliance conditions. In a best-case scenario, all such studies must be commissioned at earlier stages, prior to the grant of statutory clearances*

- xxxvii. The Committee further observed that the ZSI has submitted the following interim report to the Ministry:
- a) *Already a stretch of 6-7 KM of stretch is disturbed by the tourism activities and there is negligible chance of sporadic nesting at the tourism beach. Further, in other area and the sporadic nesting can be managed by the Airport Light Management, which will be proposed after the completion of the study.*

Attested

XX

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
C/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

b) *There is no significant nesting/breeding ground and roosting ground reported in the proposed project area and if any also found to be at a lower scale in the proposed project area*

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the proposal for '*In-principle*' approval for the diversion of 27.887 ha. of DLC forest land for construction of Shree Jagannath International Airport under Puri Forest Division in Puri District, Odisha with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall implement mitigation measures and other important recommendations derived from the impact assessment studies and Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan developed as per the recommendations made by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

Agenda No. 39

Proposal No. FP/OR/TRANS/414722/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 12.2765 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV LILO line from existing 220 KV TTPS-Joda DC line to existing 220/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Ranki, Keonjhar under Keonjhar Forest Division by OPTC. (Proposal No. FP/OR/TRANS/414722/2023)- reg.

1. The State Government vide letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0024-6296/FE&CC dated 30.03.2024 submitted the above-mentioned proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 to Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under the Van (Sanraksan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The State Government vide letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0024-6296/FE&CC dated 30.03.2024 submitted the above-mentioned proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 to Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.

Attested

[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- ii. The State Government informed that recently there are many mining based industries coming in the district of Keonjhar, particularly in Joda & Barbil command area of OPTCL. Subsequently, there is high demand for power in these areas. To meet this rising demand of power, OPTCL is constructing this 220KV transmission line which will connect to 400/220KV PGCIL Grid S/s at Naranpur, Keonjhar.
- iii. In order to reduce voltage fluctuation problem and to improve stability of the system particularly in Joda & Barbil area as well as in the district H.Q. of Keonjhar district of the State Odisha, it is felt essential to go for construction of a new 220 KV LILO line from existing 220KV TTPS-JODA D/C line to existing 220/33KV GIS S/s at Ranki, Keonjhar. This will help in minimizing power interruption, improvement in voltage profile and to meet the future load demand in this area besides minimizing losses in the existing system.
- iv. The construction of the above mentioned line is essential to provide an alternate source for 220/33KV Gas Insulated Sub-station at Ranki & 220/132/33KV Grid sub-station, Joda and to meet the future load growth in Keonjhar district. Accordingly, the User Agency has applied for the proposal for diversion of 12.2765 ha forest land for construction of 220 KV LILO Line from existing 220 KV TTPS-JODA DC line to existing 220/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Ranki, Keonjhar.
- v. The proposed 12.2765 ha of forest land (7.8410 ha Revenue Forest and 4.4355 ha DLC/DPF) for diversion is having the canopy density of 0.3 and Eco-class I forest type. The number of trees proposed to be felled is 263.
- vi. The details of the land-use plan of the proposal is as under:

Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non-Forest land (Ha)	Total Land (Ha)
Transmission Line	12.2765	28.424	40.7005

- vii. The State Government has submitted that the violation has been committed by the User Agency under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 to the extent that 14 Nos. of Transmission Line towers have been constructed by the User Agency over the Revenue Forest land and DLC forest land over 0.1623 ha without prior approval from the GoI, MoEF&CC. It was informed that the 14 towers were constructed in the year 2021 along with other towers in non-forest land. After issuing a memo by the concerned Tahasilders, constructed towers have been removed and land has been vacated by the User Agency. During the site visit, removal of towers within the proposed forest land has been observed except the base of the towers.
- viii. Tahasildar, Banspal and Keonjhar, at the request of the concerned DFO, booked an encroachment case against OPTCL and conducted an inquiry. Pursuant to the inquiry, a penalty was imposed for the encroachment,

Attested

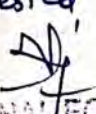


DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

which was paid by OPTCL. It was further informed that OPTCL has initiated disciplinary action against the erring officer, Shri Nirmal Kumar Naik, Ex-SDO, EHT (C) Sub-Division, Turumunga, under Clause 29(3) of the GRIDCO Officers' Service Regulations, as adopted by OPTCL, for gross misconduct, including failure to discharge duties with utmost integrity, honesty, devotion, and diligence, and for violation of rules unbecoming of a Company official.

- ix. Further, the DFO, Keonjhar has reported that as per letter No.3036 dated 30.11.2023 of the ADM, Keonjhar, the concerned Tahasildars i.e. Tahasildar, Banspal and the Tahasildar, Keonjhar have booked the Encroachment Case against the OPTCL and conducted the enquiry and imposed the fine for the aforesaid encroachment. The user Agency, GM (EI-ECT, EHT, Const) Division, OPTCL has paid Rs.4,430/- towards the fine imposed by the Tahasildar, Banspal and Rs.11,500/- towards the fine imposed by Tahasildar, Keonjhar.
- x. Subsequently, the Tahasildar, Banspal has intimated to the ADM, Keonjhar vide his Memo No.359 dated 09.02.2024 regarding removal of electric transmission towers from the above encroached land. Similarly, the Tahasildar, Keonjhar has also intimated vide his letter No.916 dated 09.02.2024 regarding demolition of towers from the said encroached land and get it free from the encroachment.
- xi. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division at present the aforesaid encroached land over 0.1623 ha are free from encroachment. However, the DFO, Keonjhar has stated that the above case may be considered in view of the larger interest of the public.
- xii. The State Government submitted that the proposed area for diversion does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, or Elephant Corridor. No rare or unique species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Wildlife species recorded in the area include elephant, leopard, bear, barking deer, hyena, and porcupine. The Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar, has reported occasional movement of wild elephants in the proposed forest area, particularly along the Judiaghati-Ranki stretch.
- xiii. The State Government submitted that in lieu of 12.2765 ha of forest land proposed for diversions, State Govt. has identified 12.2765 ha of Non-forest land in Village Ketanga under Patna Tahasil of Keonjhar District for raising Compensatory Afforestation.
- xiv. **Recommendations of Regional Office Bhubaneswar:** Based on the State Government's recommendation and considering the nature of the project as a public utility, the proposal is recommended subject to the following conditions:
 - a) The User Agency, in consultation with the State Forest Department, shall ensure that adequate ground clearance is maintained at all

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

locations to facilitate the safe movement of wild elephants beneath the transmission line.

- b) The User Agency shall install bird deflectors on the upper conductor of the transmission line at suitable intervals to prevent bird collisions.
 - c) The base of the towers located within the forest area shall be fenced with barbed wire to prevent the electrocution of elephants and other wild animals.
 - d) The State Government shall take action for violations of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in accordance with Sections 3A and 3B of the Act and Paragraph 1.16(ii)(a), (b), and (d) of the relevant Consolidated Guidelines.
- xv. The Committee observed that a total of 18 towers is proposed within the forest land falling under the Right of Way (Row) of the transmission line. However, the separate land requirement for these towers was not furnished by the User Agency during the site visit of the RO Bhubaneswar.
 - xvi. The Committee further observed that the Tahasildar, Banspal, vide Memo No. 359 dated 09.02.2024, intimated the Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Keonjhar, regarding removal of the electric transmission towers from the encroached land. Similarly, the Tahasildar, Keonjhar, vide Letter No. 916 dated 09.02.2024, informed about demolition of the transmission towers from the said encroached land to restore it free from encroachment.
 - xvii. The Committee further observed that as reported by the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Division, the aforesaid encroached land measuring 0.1623 ha is presently free from encroachment. However, the DFO has submitted that the matter may be considered in view of the larger public interest.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the proposal for '*In-principle*' approval for the diversion of 12.2765 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV LILO line from existing 220 KV TTPS-Joda DC line to existing 220/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Ranki, Keonjhar under Keonjhar Forest Division by OPTCL with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
 - ii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Nagpur, as applicable.

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- iv. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- v. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency, in consultation with the State Forest Department, shall ensure maintenance of adequate ground clearance at all locations to facilitate the safe movement of wild elephants beneath the transmission line.
- vi. The State Government shall ensure that the base of the towers located within the forest area shall be fenced with barbed wire to prevent the electrocution of elephants and other wild animals.

Agenda No. 40

Proposal No: FP/OR/MINI/QRY/512746/2024

Sub: Proposal for seeking ex-post facto approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 8.846 ha of forest land for mining purpose in respect of Kalasahi Manganese Mines under Keonjhar Forest Division by M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd (FACOR) (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MINI/QRY/512746/2024) - reg.

1. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0057-2025-26818/FE&CC dated 09.09.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanraksan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0057-2025-26818/FE&CC dated 09.09.2025 submitted above subject proposal

Attested

129

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- ii. The State Government submitted that through application dated 25/09/1975, M/s FACOR Ltd. applied to the State Govt. (Odisha) seeking grant of a mining lease for manganese ore over an area of 23.674 ha in village Katasahi, Keonjhar District, Odisha. The lease involved some forest areas too.
- iii. The Hon'ble High court of Odisha in their order dated 05/11/1993 (in M/s FACOR Ltd V/s State of Odisha & others) & dated 14/03/1996 did direct the state govt. to consider grant of the mining lease in favour of M/s FACOR Ltd over the non-forest land included in the applied area.
- iv. Therefore, the State Government granted mining lease for 20 years over 14.123 ha non-forest land vide its letter dated 08/09/1997 excluding 9.551 ha forest area from the original applied area of 23.674 ha.
- v. This area (of 14.123 ha) was revised to 13.674 ha vide State Govt's letter dated 04/05/1998. Revised lease was granted on 01/08/1998 for 20 Years. Mining lease was valid upto 31/07/2018, which was extended upto 31/07/2048 as per amended MMDR Act.
- vi. Mining operation continued till 2009, and was stopped by Dy. Director Mines, Joda for want of Environment Clearance (EC). While trying to revive the mining operation, user agency was informed by the Tehsildar, Keonjhar (in 2016) that out of total 13.674 ha of lease area, 8.725 ha was classified as forest land as per Sabik records (i.e. status as on 25/10/1980).
- vii. Latest land schedule certificate from tehsildar (dated 11/09/2024) indicates presence of 8.846 ha of Sabik forest in the lease of 13.674 ha. Therefore, the user agency has applied for the present forest diversion proposal to seek ex-post facto diversion of 8.846 ha forest land within mining lease and already utilized for mining till 2009.
- viii. The Steel & Mines Department Government of Odisha vide Proceeding Order dtd. 17.08.2015 declared the mining lease as lapsed due to discontinuation of mining operation for more than two years from the year 2009. Considering the livelihood of the people working directly and indirectly in addition to the stockholders, FACOR challenged the said order before the Revision Authority, New Delhi. Thereafter, Revisional Authority set aside the lapsing order dt. 17.08.2015 vide a common order dt. 11.05.2016 and remanded to State Govt. for suitable reconsideration in-line with the Hon'ble Apex court's direction on the provision of lapsing, expeditiously.
- ix. The APCCF (FD&NO, FCA) has reported that Government of Odisha vide Proceeding Order dtd. 23.08.2023, declared the Mining lease to be subsisting and not to have lapsed in terms of Rule 20(6) of Mineral subject

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

to the conditions that the Petitioner shall commence production and dispatch by obtaining all Statutory Clearance.

- x. As reported by APCCF (FD&NO, FCA), during the year 2016, Tahsildar Barbil intimated DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division and FACOR that out of total lease area of 13.674 ha., 8.725 ha. was classified as forest land as per Sabik Records as on 25.10.1980 and subsequently Tahsildar Barbil vide his letter no 384/RK dated 11.09.2024 has issued Land schedule certificate that 8.846 ha. is coming under Forest Kisam as per Sabik record as on 25.10.1980.
- xi. After receiving of ORSAC vetted DGPS Surveyed map, Land Suitability certificate with respect to Compensatory Afforestation, tree enumeration list duly countersigned by all concerned and other relevant documents required in lieu of diversion of Forest Area of 8.846 ha. The user agency has submitted the application for diversion of Forest Land over 8.846 ha. (Sabik Forest as on 25.10.1980) in respect of Katasahi Manganese Mines over an area of 13.674 Ha. in Katasahi village of Keonjhar District, of M/s. FACOR Ltd.
- xii. The proposed 8.846 ha of Sabik Forest land is having the canopy density of 0.5 with forest types of Eco-class I. The number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is 515.
- xiii. The details of the land-use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No	Purpose	Proposed land use pattern (in ha)				Non-Forest (Private) in ha	Total (in ha)
		PRF	DLC	Sabik Forest	Total Forest		
1	Mining	0	0	3.4658	3.4658	1.334	4.800
2	Dumping	0	0	1.2804	1.2804	0.000	1.280
3	Road	0	0	0.0230	0.0230	0.243	0.266
4	Top soil	0	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.095	0.950
5	Stack	0	0	0.7505	0.7505	0.041	0.792
6	Mineral & Reject	0	0	0.0156	0.0156	0.264	0.279
7	Office & other infrastructure	0	0	1.5570	1.5570	1.892	3.449
	Sub-Total	0	0	7.0923	7.0923	3.869	10.9513
8	Safety Zone along boundary	0	0	1.7540	1.7540	0.959	2.713
	Grand Total	0	0	8.8463	8.8463	4.828	13.6643

- xiv. The State Government submitted that the lease deed was executed on 01.08.1998 by the Collector, Keonjhar in favour of M/s Ferro Alloys


Attested

[Signature]

Corporation Ltd. At the time of execution of the lease deed, the area was recorded as non-forest kism in the revenue records. Mining operations commenced in the year 2001-02, but were discontinued in 2008-09 pursuant to the directive of the Deputy Director of Mines, Joda Circle, on account of non-availability of Environmental Clearance. Subsequent to this order, the lease has remained non-operational, and no mining activity has taken place thereafter. Further, the DFO in its SIR submitted that it was noticed that mining operation has been carried out over 4.14 ha Sabik forest land without obtaining the Forest Clearance from the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi under section 2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. As per Google Time Series data, the aforesaid mining operation was done before 2015.

- xv. The State Government submitted that DFO, Keonjhar has requested the Collector, Keonjhar vide letter No 3907 dated 08.04.2025 to take legal action against User Agency under Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment (OPLE) Act for the above violations.
- xvi. The DFO, Keonjhar Division reported that the 4.14 ha of area in question had been broken prior to 2015, and specifically before the year 2009, and therefore does not constitute a violation of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. This has been reported vide his office Memo No. 7116 dated 10.07.2025.
- xvii. The State Government submitted that proposed area does not form part of any part of any national park, Wildlife sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor and also does not involve any eco-sensitive zone or any protected area, but the Karo-Karpada Elephant Corridor is located at a distance of around 7.5 Km from the project site.
- xviii. The State Government submitted that the Hon'ble High court of Odisha in their order dated 05/11/1993 (in M/s FACOR Ltd Vs State of Odisha & others) & dated 14/03/1996 directed the state govt. to consider grant of the mining lease in favour of M/s FACOR Ltd over the non-forest land included in the applied area. Therefore, the State Government granted mining lease for 20 years over 14.123 ha non-forest land vide its letter dated 08/09/1997 excluding 9.551 ha forest area from the original applied area of 23.674 ha.
- xix. The State Government has proposed the 9.1126 Ha of NFL in a single patch for undertaking CA.
- xx. The State Govt. submitted that the mine is well-connected by an existing road network, ensuring smooth and efficient logistics. Further, for water requirements, the user agency has already obtained permission from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), New Delhi, vide NOC No. CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2023/19644 dated 06.12.2023. The electricity requirements shall be fulfilled by diesel-operated mining machineries will be deployed.

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xxi. The Regional Office Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- a) The State Government shall take action against violations of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in accordance with Sections 3A and 3B of the Act and Paragraph 1.16 (ii) (a), (b), and (d) of the relevant Consolidated Guidelines. The State Government shall enquire into the procedural lapse that led to mining in the forest area and take necessary measures to prevent its recurrence.
 - b) All ancillary activities that are non-site-specific, such as overburden dumping, ore stacking, mineral reject storage, road construction, etc., shall be shifted to the non-forest area of the lease. The non-mineral bearing forest patches within the lease shall be retained as green cover.
 - c) The User Agency shall bear the cost of preparation and implementation of a site-specific Wildlife Management Plan and a Catchment Area Treatment Plan to mitigate the impact of mining on the surrounding flora and fauna, as well as on the seasonal stream flowing near the lease area.
 - d) The User Agency, in consultation with the State Government, shall also explore the possibility of maintaining a wider green belt of 20 m along the lease boundary adjoining the seasonal river, in addition to the mandatory safety zone for the project.
 - e) The User Agency shall maintain a green belt/safety zone not only along the lease boundary, but also around inhabited areas, including school premises, located within the lease area where the User Agency intends to maintain status quo.
 - f) The State Government shall assess and confirm the suitability of the proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) non-forest land from a management perspective, considering its location within a predominantly agricultural region.
 - g) The User Agency shall submit the progressive reclamation plan, restoration schedule, and the schedule for surrender of forest land, as specified under Standard Condition 2(1) of the standard conditions applicable to such projects
- xxii. The Committee observed that the lease area has been under mining till 2009 without statutory clearances related with forest and environment regulations. It was observed that around 4-5 ha of forest land in the lease is already broken for mining without prior approval of the central government. User agency apprised that at the time of lease execution, the status of the land was informed to be non-forest and therefore, the violation is unintentional. The forest land is under jurisdiction of state revenue department.

Attested,



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- xxiii. The Committee observed that the proposed forest land will be utilized for 1.28 ha of overburden dumping, 1.557 ha for office infrastructure, and 0.75 ha for mineral stacking due to certain constraints. The total mining lease area is 13.674 ha and is highly irregular in shape, and is further divided into two separate blocks, thereby significantly restricting the space available for essential mining operations, including dumping and infrastructure development. The non-forest land within the lease measures only 4.828 ha, which is insufficient to accommodate all mining-related activities. Moreover, as mandated under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, a safety zone of 2.713 ha is required to be maintained within the lease area, further reducing the usable area.
- xxiv. The Committee observed that in accordance with MoEF guidelines of 2015, any land recorded as forest kism in the Sabik revenue records (pre-1980), specifically prior to 25.10.1980, requires Forest Clearance under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, irrespective of its subsequent classification.
- xxv. The Committee further observed that the Karo-Karmpada Elephant Corridor is located at a distance of around 7.5 Km from the project site.
- xxvi. The Committee observed that there is a presence of the seasonal stream near the lease area.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the proposal for '***In-principle***' approval for the diversion of 8.846 ha of forest land for mining purpose in respect of Kalasahi Manganese Mines under Keonjhar Forest Division by M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd (FACOR) with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
 - ii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 shall be initiated by the State Forest Department, as applicable.
 - iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhinyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- iv. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval
 - v. The Karo-Karpada Elephant Corridor is located at a distance of around 7.5 Km from the project site. Accordingly, the State Government shall implement the site-specific Wildlife Management Plan duly approved by the CWLW at the cost of the User Agency.
 - vi. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency bears the cost of preparation and implementation of a duly approved Catchment Area Treatment Plan by the competent authority to mitigate the impact of mining on surrounding flora, fauna, and the seasonal stream near the lease area.

Agenda No. 41

Proposal No. FP/OR/HYD/IRRIG/500690/2024

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 107.596 ha (including 0.99 ha forest land diverted earlier) of forest land for construction of Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project (600 MW) at mukhiguda in Kalahandi District under Kalahand: (South) forest Division by M/s Odisha Hydropower Corporation Ltd (OHPCL) (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/HYD/IRRIG/500690/2024) -reg.

1. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0027-2025-11482/FE&CC dated 20.05.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0027-2025-11482/FE&CC dated 20.05.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

Attested
[Signature]

135

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

- ii. The Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd. (OHPC), a Government of Odisha undertaking, proposes to establish the Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project (UIPSP) of 600 MW (4×150 MW) — a new pumped storage power project to be located adjacent to the existing Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project (UIHEP). The existing Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project (UIHEP) is a major multipurpose project (Construction started in the year 1978 & operation started in the year 1999) on the Indravati River, covering the districts of Kalahandi, Koraput, and Nabarangpur in south-western Odisha.
- iii. The project site is situated near Mukhiguda village in Kalahandi District and comprises a powerhouse with an installed capacity of 4×150 MW. The project diverts the water of the Indravati River in its upper reaches into the Mahanadi valley for power generation and irrigation purposes. The proposed Pumped Storage Project is based on a mature and proven technology capable of addressing grid balancing challenges and facilitating the integration of variable renewable energy sources. Under the present proposal, the existing reservoir of the UIHEP will serve as the Upper Reservoir, while a new Lower Reservoir will be constructed. The lower reservoir will store water to be pumped back to the upper reservoir in a closed-cycle operation. The project will include an underground powerhouse located near the lower reservoir, equipped with four vertical-axis reversible hydroelectric units of 150 MW capacity each.
- iv. The existing Upper Indravati Project envisages diversion of water of the Indravati river in its upper reaches for power generation and irrigation. The project involves construction of 4 dams across the Indravati and its tributaries, 8 dykes and 2 interlinking channels to form a single reservoir, tunnel, a power house with installation of 4 units of 150 MW each, 9 km tail race channel etc.
- v. The proposed land for diversion i.e. 107.596 ha (106.822 ha Revenue Forest and 0.774 ha RF) is having the canopy density of the 0.6 and forest type of Eco Class III. Total 8,279 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- vi. The land-use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sr. No.	COMPONENT TYPE	PROJECT COMPONENTS	Area in ha.					
			RF	Forest Block	Revenue Forest	Total forest	Non forest (in ha)	Total (in ha)
1.		AREA FOR PROPOSED ROAD	0.000	10.518	0.000	10.518	0.000	10.518
2.		DRAIN, CONSTRUCTION	0.000	4.502	0.000	4.502	0.000	4.502

Attested



312


11-91/2012FC

1/166312/2026

		FACILITY, EMERGENC Y ESCAPE, CAT etc.							
3.	Grand Activity Compo nents	MAT, POT HEAD YARD, DISTRIBUTI ON SUB- STATION, etc.	0.000	10.900	0.000	10.900	0.000	10.900	
4.		ADDITIONAL HRT & FEC	0.000	0.247	0.000	0.247	0.000	0.247	
5.		BORROW AREA	0.774	0.058	0.000	0.832	5.290	6.122	
6.		CONSTRUC TION FACILITY	0.000	1.038	0.378	1.416	5.035	6.451	
7.		MUCK DISPOSAL	0.000	7.000	0.000	7.000	1.210	8.210	
8.		LABOUR COLONY	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.020	1.020	
9.		LOWER RESERVOIR	0.000	21.139	2.191	23.330	23.288	46.618	
10.		MUCK DISPOAL	0.000	4.036	0.000	4.036	6.958	10.994	
11.		PROPOSED ROAD	0.000	1.473	0.000	1.473	1.530	3.003	
12.		ROCK QUARRY	0.000	13.349	0.000	13.349	0.000	13.349	
13.		PLANTATIO N/GREEN BELT	0.000	9.306	0.000	9.306	0.000	9.306	
Sub-Total (A)			0.774	83.556	2.569	86.909	44.331	131.24 0	
14.		Under Ground Compo nents	HEAD RACE TUNNEL	0.000	2.751	0.000	2.751	0.000	2.751
15.	PH,TC, DRAFT TUBE & OTHERS STRUCTURE S		0.000	4.569	0.000	4.569	0.000	4.569	
16.	POWER INTAKE		0.000	0.798	0.000	0.798	0.000	0.798	
17.	PS,BVC,FEC ,SS AREA		0.000	11.772	0.000	11.772	0.000	11.772	

Attested,

137


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

18.	TRT	0.000	0.797	0.000	0.797	0.000	0.797
	Sub-Total(B)	0.000	20.687	0.000	20.687	0.000	20.687
	TOTAL (A+B)	0.774	104.25	2.569	107.59	44.331	151.92
			3		6		7

- vii. The DFO in Site Inspection report mentioned that one permanent black topped road from Mukhiguda to Mahulpatna under the Water Resources Department is existing within the applied forest area. Besides, some temporary roads, transmission lines, few encroachments like temporary brick making unit, labour shed, temporary habitation, one RCC building, check dam over a permanent nala, seasonal cultivation are existing within the applied forest area. The said encroachments are located over revenue forest land.
- viii. Further, the State Government has reported that the Project Proponent, i.e., Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC), has not violated any legal clause of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Based on field verification and satellite imagery analysis, it has been observed that the encroachments existed prior to the submission of the forest diversion proposal by the Project Proponent.
- ix. The said encroachments are located over revenue forest land. In this regard, the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi South Division, has intimated the Tehsildar, Jaipatna vide Letter No. 6101, dated 10.10.2025, to initiate appropriate action against the encroachment under the provisions of the Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment (OPLE) Act, 1972 and the same is intimated to the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act), vide Memo No.6326, dated.24.10.2025.
- x. The State Government submitted that there is a presence of the movement of wild animals like Leopard, Sloth bear, Wild boar, Langur, Porcupine, Pangolin in the applied area. Accordingly, the DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division has forwarded the Site Specific Wildlife Management plan to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, for examination and approval vide his Memo No. 6094, dated 10.10.2025.
- xi. The State Government has reported that OHPC already has a 600 MW Hydro Electric Project at Mukhiguda, Kalahandi District on the Indrāvati reservoir. Upper Indrāvati PSP will utilize the existing Upper Indrāvati reservoir. The CAT plan has already been approved in the past for the same reservoir of "Upper Indrāvati Multipurpose Project".
- xii. With regard to the lower reservoir, the State Government has stated that it is a confined storage pond of 4 MCM capacity with embankments and has no independent catchment area contributing runoff. The system operates in a closed-loop cycle, wherein water is drawn from the upper reservoir during peak hours for power generation and pumped back during off-peak hours. As there is no natural inflow or catchment contributing sediment


Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

18.	TRT	0.000	0.797	0.000	0.797	0.000	0.797
	Sub-Total(B)	0.000	20.687	0.000	20.687	0.000	20.687
	TOTAL (A+B)	0.774	104.25	2.569	107.59	44.331	151.92
			3		6		7

- vii. The DFO in Site Inspection report mentioned that one permanent black topped road from Mukhiguda to Mahulpatna under the Water Resources Department is existing within the applied forest area. Besides, some temporary roads, transmission lines, few encroachments like temporary brick making unit, labour shed, temporary habitation, one RCC building, check dam over a permanent nala, seasonal cultivation are existing within the applied forest area. The said encroachments are located over revenue forest land.
- viii. Further, the State Government has reported that the Project Proponent, i.e., Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC), has not violated any legal clause of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Based on field verification and satellite imagery analysis, it has been observed that the encroachments existed prior to the submission of the forest diversion proposal by the Project Proponent.
- ix. The said encroachments are located over revenue forest land. In this regard, the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi South Division, has intimated the Tehsildar, Jaipatna vide Letter No. 6101, dated 10.10.2025, to initiate appropriate action against the encroachment under the provisions of the Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment (OPLE) Act, 1972 and the same is intimated to the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act), vide Memo No.6326, dated.24.10.2025.
- x. The State Government submitted that there is a presence of the movement of wild animals like Leopard, Sloth bear, Wild boar, Langur, Porcupine, Pangolin in the applied area. Accordingly, the DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division has forwarded the Site Specific Wildlife Management plan to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, for examination and approval vide his Memo No. 6094, dated 10.10.2025.
- xi. The State Government has reported that OHPC already has a 600 MW Hydro Electric Project at Mukhiguda, Kalahandi District on the Indrāvati reservoir. Upper Indrāvati PSP will utilize the existing Upper Indrāvati reservoir. The CAT plan has already been approved in the past for the same reservoir of "Upper Indrāvati Multipurpose Project".
- xii. With regard to the lower reservoir, the State Government has stated that it is a confined storage pond of 4 MCM capacity with embankments and has no independent catchment area contributing runoff. The system operates in a closed-loop cycle, wherein water is drawn from the upper reservoir during peak hours for power generation and pumped back during off-peak hours. As there is no natural inflow or catchment contributing sediment


Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- load to the lower reservoir, preparation of a separate CAT Plan for the lower reservoir is not considered necessary.
- xiii. The State Government further submitted that the Upper Indravati PSP will be made functional using the existing reservoir of Upper Indravati Hydro Electric Project. Hence, there will not be any new dam construction. Only one new intake point on the reservoir near existing intake point will be constructed for drawl of water away from existing dam.
 - xiv. The State Government further submitted that Soil and Moisture Conservation Works has been included in the proposed CA scheme.
 - xv. The State Government has submitted that the CA land has been proposed over an area of 112.007 Ha of Non Forest Land in two Patches (40.47 and 71.537 Ha) in village Dengafarsi village under Thuamul Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandi district in Kalahandi South Forest division. Further, 63 ha Degraded Forest Land in Kandul Reserved Forest under Patnagarh Forest Range of Bolangir Forest Division and 58 ha Degraded Forest Land in Pipalpani PRF under Khariar Range of Khariar Forest Division have been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation.
 - xvi. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal subject to the following:
 - a) Out of the total proposed forest area of 107.596 hectares, 34.323 hectares (for borrow areas, construction facilities, muck disposal, and rock quarry) are proposed for temporary use. This area shall be biologically reclaimed and handed back to the State Forest Department (SFD) upon completion of the activities within a defined time frame. The User Agency (UA) shall submit a definite timeline for this purpose, and the State Government shall ensure its implementation.
 - b) The State Government shall ensure compliance with all provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021, and adhere to the stipulations of the State Dam Safety Authority/National Dam Safety Authority regarding the addition of a new intake point to the existing upper reservoir.
 - c) The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site shall be made free from all encroachments and properly fenced before the commencement of any plantation activity, at the cost of the User Agency.
 - d) The State Forest Department shall implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.
 - e) The State Government shall take necessary action to remove encroachments from the proposed diversion site, as detailed in Point No. 9 of the Site Inspection Report, in accordance with the existing rules.


AHested

139


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- f) The User Agency shall re-examine the cost-benefit ratio, taking into account all relevant parameters in monetary terms, and resubmit the same.
- g) The User Agency shall carry out the required soil and moisture conservation works and stabilisation measures at the proposed road construction site, and the State Government shall ensure compliance.
- h) While the User Agency has stated that a separate Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan is not required for the lower reservoir, the State Government shall assess its necessity, impose additional CAT measures if required, and ensure implementation at the cost of the User Agency.
- xvii. The proposal was considered in the AC meeting held on 02.12.2025 and the committee after detailed discussion and deliberation *deferred* the proposal for the want of the following:
- i. The State Government shall revisit the non-site-specific components like contractor colony and the dumping site proposed over the forest land and shift them to non-forest land.
 - ii. The state shall ensure that the component wise breakup given in the proposal is commensurate with the approved layout as per the DPR/approval of the CEA/competent authority. The details in this regard shall be submitted.
 - iii. The State Government has reported that in order to accommodate the balance seedlings. 58 ha and 63.00 ha of degraded forest land have been identified. In this regard the Additional degraded forest land (DFL) is required only when the non-forest area is not fit for raising the compensatory afforestation of a specified density. The state shall examine the matter and do the needful accordingly.
 - iv. The user agency has stated that a separate CAT plan is not required for the lower reservoir. In this regard, the Regional Office in the site inspection report has recommended that the state government shall assess the necessity of the CAT Plan. The State is accordingly requested to furnish comments and justification for the same.
- xviii. The State Government has furnished the point wise reply to the observations of the AC vide its letter dated 03.02.2026 and 19.02.2026.
- xix. The State Government has submitted the detailed justification for proposing of 11.036 ha of forest land proposed for muck disposal.
- xx. The State Govt. further submitted that Post-construction, the 11.036 ha of forest land will be handed back to the Forest Department with adequate restoration measures to facilitate ecological regeneration. The Divisional

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Forest Officer has inspected the site and confirmed that the forest loss is minimal, supporting the proposed temporary use of the area

- xxi. The Committee observed that there is a presence of the movement of wild animals like Leopard, Sloth bear, Wild boar, Langur, Porcupine, Pangolin in the applied area. Accordingly, the DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division has forwarded the Site Specific Wildlife Management plan to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, for examination and approval vide his Memo No. 6094, dated 10.10.2025.
 - xxii. The Committee observed that Upper Indravati PSP will be made functional using the existing reservoir of Upper Indravati Hydro Electric Project. Hence, there will not be any new dam construction. Only one new intake point on the reservoir near existing intake point will be constructed for drawl of water away from existing dam.
 - xxiii. The Committee further observed that the lower reservoir, has confined storage pond of 4 MCM capacity with embankments and has no independent catchment area contributing runoff. The system operates in a closed-loop cycle, wherein water is drawn from the upper reservoir during peak hours for power generation and pumped back during off-peak hours. As, there is no natural inflow or catchment contributing sediment load to the lower reservoir, preparation of a separate CAT Plan for the lower reservoir is not considered necessary.
 - xxiv. The Committee further observed that the original proposal is for 107.596 ha. As per the directions of the Advisory Committee, the area requirement was re-examined by the OHPC and it is finalised that, out of 107.596 ha of forest land 98.290 ha. shall be used for project construction work/ activities and 9.306 ha. of forest land meant for contractor's colony shall be developed as a "green belt" by adequate plantation.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the proposal for '*In-principle*' approval for the diversion of 107.596 ha of forest land for construction of Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project (600 MW) at mukhiguda in Kalahandi District under Kalahandi: (South) forest Division by M/s Odisha Hydropower Corporation Ltd (OHPCL) with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. There is a presence of the movement of wild animals like Leopard, Sloth bear, Wild boar, Langur, Porcupine, Pangolin in the forest land proposed for diversion. Accordingly, the State Government shall implement the site-specific Wildlife Management Plan duly approved by the CWLW at the cost of the User Agency.

Attested

141

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
DFO OF WL(S) SHIMLA

- ii. The State Government shall ensure that out of 107.596 ha of forest land 98.290 ha. shall be used for project construction work/ activities and 9.306 ha. of forest land meant for contractor's colony shall be developed as a "green belt" by adequate plantation.
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure that post-construction, an area of 11.036 ha of forest land earmarked for muck disposal shall be handed back to the Forest Department with adequate restoration measures to facilitate ecological regeneration.

Additional Agenda No. 1

Proposal. No. FP/AS/MIN/QRY/562031/2025

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 21.0 Ha of reserved forest land for opencast Jagiroad Stone Mining Area No. F (6) in the Nagaon Forest Division in District Morigaon in Assam by M/s Dipan Deka, Range Officer, Forest Division, Nagaon (Proposal No. FP/AS/MIN/QRY/562031/2025)- reg.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (C), Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 22.01.2026, wherein the Committee, had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam. The Committee, after considering the various facts of the case '**deferred**' the proposal for obtaining the following information from the State Government:
 - i. The State Government shall provide its comments as to whether the extant mine is in consonance with the provisions of the District Survey Report prepared by the State Government for the Morigaon District.
 - ii. There are mining leases approved in the area in the past which were observed with unexplained broken up areas which appears to be broken without the prior approval of the Central Government. The State Government, therefore, clearly bring out the fact that whether the mining operation were carried out within the forest area approved under the Adhinyam or otherwise.
 - iii. The canopy density of the area proposed for diversion is 0.7 while the number of project affected trees have been reported only 284 which appears to be underestimated. Accordingly, the State Government shall re-visit the number of

Attested


142

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

project affected trees and canopy density reported and the same shall be informed to the Ministry.

- iv. The area proposed for mining has been reported to be susceptible soil erosion, especially along the slopes of hilly area, the State Government shall therefore submit the details of mitigation measures proposed to minimise the soil erosion and protection of nearby waterbodies from the proposed mining activities.
 - v. Analysis of the CA land using DSS tools and Google Satellite Imagery revealed the signs of settlement, cultivation land and kachha road are visible in the proposed CA site. The State Government may re-visit the suitability of CA land and inform the Ministry accordingly.
 - vi. The State Government may provide a justification on submission of the proposal by the State Forest Department while the lease is subsequently will be assigned to mine developers for carrying out the mining operations.
4. The decision of the Committee was communicated to the State Government on 08.02.2026. The State Government submitted its reply online on 25.02.2026 and informed following:
- i. Concerned mine is duly included in DSR of Morigaon District as per recommendations made by the SEIAA, Assam in its meeting held on 22.09.2025.
 - ii. Said broken area is not part of proposed mining area and it is substantial away from present mine. The proposed mine is a separate mine, without any previous operation. The details of broken up area in the other mines of the area along with justification is worked by the State and a report on the same, including violation of the Adhinyam, if any observed, shall be submitted separately by the State
 - iii. As regards to tree estimation in the area, the Divisional Forest officer has confirmed after re-visiting the area that canopy density of the area is on higher side due to shrubs and bamboo culms present in the area. The details of shrubs and bamboos has been included and updated in the proposal.
 - iv. Soil and Moisture conservation mitigation measures, required in the area will be prepared and submitted along with compliance of In-principle approval. Concerned mitigation plan will include all suitable measures to maintain proper health of nearby wetlands.
 - v. Concerned CA site has been freed from all encroachment in Nov, 2025 and suitable for plantation now. Also, proposed CA site is in compliance of State Govt. Notification of degraded land. E-670293/25 dtd. 26.12.2025.
 - vi. In accordance with the guideline of the State Forest Department, it was decided that to avoid delays, better revenue augmentation through e-auction after receiving such clearances, the statutory clearance may be pursued by the Forest Department. Accordingly, the proposal was submitted by the State Forest Department. Further, the applicability of compensatory measures viz. compensatory afforestation, net present value and other compensatory afforestation will be similar to private entities. Hence, after obtaining approval and

Attested


 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

its subsequent transfer to lessee will not impact the regime of compensatory afforestation and other mitigation measures.

5. The Nodal Officer, further informed the following:

- i. District Level Committees have been constituted across the State for preparation, monitoring and oversight of the District Survey Reports (DSRs). The Committee, headed by the District Commissioner and comprising officers from the Water Resources Department, Revenue and Land Department, Directorate of Geology and Mining, and Assam Pollution Control Board, prepares the DSRs. The DSRs are recommended by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee and subsequently approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority.
- ii. The approved DSRs provide a comprehensive scientific assessment of minor mineral resources, including stone and sand, covering reserve estimation, annual production capacity, replenishment characteristics, environmentally sensitive areas and No-Go zones. Mining operations in the State are regulated in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the respective approved DSRs to ensure sustainable mining.
- iii. The Nodal Officer has also referred to the order dated 23.07.2024 of the Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 86/2024 (*Pradeep Singh Shekhawat vs. Union of India & Ors.*), wherein it was noted that as per the *Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining*, preparation of a District Survey Report is mandatory prior to auction/e-auction or grant of mining lease/Letter of Intent by the State authorities.
- iv. An I.A. No. 218391/2024 in W.P. (C) No. 202/1995 has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court alleging illegal mining (stone quarrying) in certain districts of Assam. In this regard, the State Government has constituted a Committee, and a report has been submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. There is no court case or other litigation pending in respect of the extant mine. However, any binding directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its final decision in the aforesaid I.A. shall be duly complied with by the user agency in respect of the extant mining lease.

6. The Nodal Officer further submitted that Committee that many developmental projects area being implemented in the State and more developmental projects have been proposed. To cater to the requirement of construction material for these projects, stone quarries are essential for the State.

7. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussions and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval subject to fulfilment of general, standard and following additional conditions:

- i. A site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared by the State Government, for the conservation and protection of wildlife in the area. The

Adhered



- said plan will be approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State and a copy of the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval. The cost of preparation and implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan shall be borne by the user agency and deposited into the account of State CAMPA through PARIVESH Portal.
- ii. A plan on the soil and moisture conservation mitigation measures, required in the area will be prepared and submitted along with compliance of In-principle approval. The cost of preparation and implementation of the soil and moisture conservation plan shall be borne by the user agency and deposited into the account of State CAMPA through PARIVESH Portal.
 - iii. There are mining leases approved in the area in the past which were observed to be broken without the prior approval of the Central Government. The State Government, therefore, clearly bring out the fact that whether the mining operation were carried out within the forest area approved under the Adhinyam or otherwise. A detailed report on the same shall be submitted separately by the State Government to the Ministry and its Regional Office.
 - iv. The State Government shall ensure that the extant mine is in conformity with, and within the mining potential assessed in, the approved District Survey Report prepared by the State Government. A copy of the DSR report will be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval.
 - v. An I.A. No. 218391/2024 in W.P. (C) No. 202/1995 has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court alleging illegal mining (stone quarrying) in certain districts of Assam. Any binding directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its final decision in the aforesaid I.A. shall be duly complied with by the user agency in respect of the extant mining lease.

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Dr. K R Sree Harsha
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Shri Nityanand Srivastava
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Shri Manoj Pant
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed on file)

Shri Santosh Tiwari

Additional Director General of Forests (FC) (Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey

Additional Director General of Forests (WL)
(Member)

(Confirmed on file)

Shri R. Raghu Prasad
Inspector General of Forests
(Member Secretary)

Attested

[Signature]



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICE
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA



(Approved)
Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi
(Director General of Forests and Special Secretary)
(Chairperson)

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

[Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

	OFFICE OF DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS WILDLIFE DIVISION SPLIT AT KAZA Email: head-forest-wildlife@moef.gov.in Ph. 01906-292024	
---	---	---

No. WL Split/FCA/ 3697

Dated: Kazn the, 07/03/2026

From: Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Split Wildlife Division at Kazn.

To: Executive Engineer
HPPWD, Split at Kazn.

Subject: Online Proposal No.FP/HPP/ROAD/514215/2024, Titled:- Construction of road from Poh Maldan to Dankhar Hillpad km 0/00 to 12/460.


Memo:

With reference to Forest Advisory Committee meeting of MoEFCC at New Delhi held on 27.02.2026 pertaining to FCA clearance vide which the Chairmen made the observation that the user agency shall provide the non forest land to a tune of 28.7516 Ha for creation of Compensatory Afforestation as per the Hon'ble National green tribunal Order passed dated 11th December 2025, Point No. 30 (Copy enclosed).

Therefore, you are requested to comply with the above mentioned directions at the earliest so that the higher ups and Hon'ble NGT may be apprised accordingly.

This is for your kind information and early action in this matter please.

Encl: As above.


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Split Wildlife Division at Kazn.

Attended



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

**HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

No:-PW-SD-CB-WA-F.C.A /2026- 7811

Dated:-13/3/26

To

The Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Spiti Wildlife Division at Kaza.

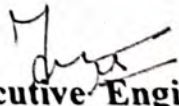

Subject:- Online Proposal No FP/HP/ROADS/514215/2024,titled:-
Construction of road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad km 0/00
to 12/460.

Reference:- Your office letter No WL Spiti/FCA/3697 dated 07.03.2026.
Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, it is submitted that as per the certificate issued on behalf of the Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh, vide Notification No Rev-D(G)6-1/2020-loose dated 26.07.2024(copy enclosed), there is no non-forest land available for creation of Compensatory Afforestation in the entire State of Himachal Pradesh.

This is for your kind information and necessary action in the matter please.

Encl:- As above.


Executive Engineer,
Spiti B&R Division,
HP.PWD., Kaza. 

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

SCHEDULE-III**CERTIFICATE OF NON-AVAILABILITY OF LAND FOR COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION IN THE STATE/UNION TERRITORY TO BE ISSUED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT//UNION TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION [Suo rulo 13(4)]**

No... 10378.....Dated... 10-00-2024.....

I, Ritika, Director Land Records, Government of Himachal Pradesh (Notified Nodal Officer to Issue such Certificate on behalf of the Hon'ble Chief Secretary Himachal Pradesh Vide Notification No. Rev- D (G) 6 -1/2020- 10000 Dated 20/07/2024), do hereby certify that :-

iii. Relevant records pertaining to non-forest land, revenue lands, *zudpi junglo*, *chhole jhar ka junglo*, *bade jhar ka junglo*, *junglo jhari land*, *civil-soyam lands* and all other such categories of forest lands (except the forest land under the management and administrative control of the Forest Department) on which the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 are applicable, available in each District of Himachal Pradesh have been examined; and

iv. I have also conducted such further enquiry as is required to satisfy myself for issue of this certificate.

On the basis of examination of relevant records and such further enquiry, as was required for issue of this Certificate, I do hereby certify that non-forest land, revenue lands, *zudpi junglo*, *chhole jhar ka junglo*, *bade jhar ka junglo*, *jungle-jhari land*, *civil-soyam lands* and all other such categories of forest lands (except the forest land under management and administrative control of the Forest Department) on which the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 are applicable, which as per the extent guidelines of the Central Government may be utilized for creation of compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land diverted for non-forest purpose, is not available in the entire Himachal Pradesh.

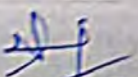
Issued under my hand and seal on this 19th, September, day of 2024



(Ritika) IAS
Director Land Record
Himachal Pradesh

Signature & Official Seal

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
D/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

325

Annexure A-9

OFFICE OF DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
WILDLIFE DIVISION SPITI AT KAZA
 Email: head-fordivwlspl-hp@hp.gov.in
 Ph.01906-299024



117

No. WL Spiti /FCA/ 3035

Dated: Kaza the, 2/1/26

From:- Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Spiti Wildlife Division.

To:- Deputy Superintendent of Police,
Spiti at Kaza, Distt. L & S, H.P.

Subject: Request for current status of FIR No. 0026 dated 16.09.2025 regarding illegal construction of road from Gecha to Dhankhar Helipad.

Memo:

With reference to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal pronounced order dated 11.12.2025, compliance need to be submitted within next two months. For the compliance status of FIR No. 0026 dated 16.09.2025 need to be given to this office, so that action against the user agency could be uploaded in submission of compliance report.

You are, therefore, kindly requested to intimate the present status of investigation/action taken in the above-mentioned FIR at the earliest, along with any relevant developments, if any, so that the Hon,ble NGT and higher ups could be apprised accordingly well in time please..

[Signature]
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Spiti Wildlife Division, Kaza. *[Initials]*

Endst. No. ^{3036 & 3038} Dated 3/1/26

Copy forwarded to:

1. Conservator of Forests Wildlife (South), Shimla for the favour of kind information please.
2. Superintendent of Police, District Lahaul & Spiti for information please.

[Signature]
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Spiti Wildlife Division, Kaza. *[Initials]*

new attested
[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA



OFFICE OF THE,
SUB-DIVISIONAL POLICE OFFICER,
KAZA DISTRICT LAHAUL & SPITI (HP).
e-mail: sdpo-kaz-hp@nic.in

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

No: - 09/Rdr

Dated: -05.01.2026

To,

The Deputy Conservator of Forest,
Spiti Wildlife Division Kaza,
District Lahaul & Spiti(HP).

Subject: - Request for current status of FIR No.26/25 dt 16.09.2025 regarding illegal construction of Road from Gecha to Dhankhar Helipad.

Sir,

Kindly refer to your office letter No. WL Spiti /FCA/3035 dt.02.012026 on the subject cited above. In this regard the requisite information enclosed herewith.

With Regards.

Yours Sincerely,

Sd/-

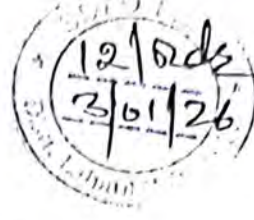
Sub-Divisional Police Officer,
Kaza, District Lahaul & Spiti (H.P.).

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

327

सेवा में,



उपमण्डलीय पुलिस अधिकारी,

उपमण्डल काजा, जिला लाहौल स्पिति(हि0प्र0)

विषय:- अभियोग संख्या 26/25 दिनांक 16-09-2025 जेर धारा 329(3)BNS & 32,33
Indian Forest Act के संदर्भ में status report.

महोदय,

निवेदन इस प्रकार से है कि आपके कार्यालय से प्राप्त पत्र संख्या 08/R दिनांक 03-01-2026 विषय उपरोक्त के संदर्भ में निवेदन इस प्रकार से है कि दिनांक 11-09-2025 को कार्यालय पुलिस अधीक्षक जिला लाहौल स्पिति से मुताबिक पत्र संख्या 12064-65 Dated 09.09.2025 के पुलिस थाना काजा में बजरिया E-MAIL एक शिकायतपत्र थाना में मौसूल हुआ। जिसका मजबुन जैल है :- No. WL. Spiti/FCA/1222 Dated: Kaza 09/09/2025 From Deputy Conservator of forest Spiti Wildlife Division , To The Superintendent of Police, District Lahaul & Spiti. H.P. Subject Registration of FIR regarding illegal road construction from Gecha to Dankhar Helipad. Kindly refer to your office letter No. 813 dated 09/01/2025 in response to this office letter No. 3281 dated 24/12/2024 and Letter no. 3410 dated 08/01/2025 vide which your office has been requested to register FIR against the illegal road construction activity from Gecha Dankhar Helipad by HP PWD Kaza. Instant matter it is brought to your kind attention that the user agency without seeking any prior approval from the competent authority i.e. MoEFCC under the provisions contained in Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has indulged in an illegal act . As the matter is sub judice and necessary directions stands issued to the user agency by the Hon'ble NGT for processing the case for getting ex post facto approval under the provisions of FCA-1980. The user agency has accordingly processed the case through online Parivesh Portal and a meeting of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) was held on 30.07.2025, to review the ex post facto approval for the said road i.e. Poh maidan to Dankhar Helipad The matter has been deliberated upon and it is well established that the said construction is blatant

Accepted
[Signature]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

violations of FCA, 1980 and FRA 2006 thus to conclude the matter the following is hereby communicated by FAC State Government shall complete the action taken against the user agency under IFA 1927 submission updated action taken report. The matter is listed periodically before the principal bench of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and is next listed on 15.09.2025. Therefore, the directions of Hon' ble NGT to user agency of getting in-principle approval of the already divined band can only be sought following. The compliance of the stipulation raised by the FAC it is farther brought to ~~your~~ your kind knowledge that the Range Forest Officer Tabo, , while exercising his powers under sections 32 and 33 of IFA 1927, has assessed the damages caused due to such act and accordingly raised damage report bill amounting to Rs 1,49,10,000/- to the user agency however said amount has not yet been deposited till date. Your kind attention is also solicited to the HP State notification number FFF-B-A(3)-3/2010- which mandates the damages amounting to Rs. 10 lakh or more if area encroached is more than 10 bighas, an FIR need to be registered in such cases. The registration of an FIR constitutes a vital procedural step in the instant matter, and will ensure the compliance of the statutory requirements. It will facilitate the process of ex post facto in principle approval of FCA as pursued by the user agency as per the directions of Hon'ble NGT principal bench. Therefore, it is hereby requested that an FIR to be registered without further delay against the user agency i.e. H PWD Kaza for illegal construction of the road from , Poh maidan to Dankhar Helipad under the relevant provisions of The Forest Conservation Act 1980, Indian Forest Act 1927 and Prevention of damages to public property act, 1984 An early action is solicited from your end being the Court matter SD/- ENGLISH Deputy Conservator of forest Spiti Wildlife Division, Kaza कार्यवाही थाना:- उपरोक्त शिकायतपत्र को शब्द व शब्द तैहरीर अमल में लाया गया। मजबूत शिकायतपत्र से मामला गेच्छा से दुंखर हैलीपैड तक HPPWD विभाग काजा द्वारा वर्ष 2021 में विना अनुमति के वन भूमि पर

Attested



DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

सड़क निर्माण का पाया जा रहा है। जो जुर्म जेर धारा 329(3) BNS व 32,33 Indian Forest Act का सरजद होने पर मुकदमा नं0 26/25 दिनांक 16-09-2025 दर्ज थाना किया गया।

अभियोग हजा की तपतीश मन ASI/SHO द्वारा अमल में लाई जा रही है। दौराने तपतीश मुकदमा हजा में उप वन संरक्षक Wild Life काजा से गेच्छा से डंखर हैलीपैड तक वन भूमी में वनाई गई सड़क के संदर्भ में नकल जमाबंदी व अकस ततीमा हेतू पत्राचार किया गया तथा नकल जमाबंदी व ततीमा हासिल किया गया। उप वन संरक्षक Wild Life काजा से पोह मैदान से डंखर हालीपैड तक वन भूमि में वनाई गई सड़क के संबंध में आवश्यक दस्तावेज हेतू पत्राचार किया गया तथा दस्तावेज प्राप्त होने पर पाया गया कि पोह मैदान से सुमन, सुमन से न्युपर, न्युपर से गेच्छा, निपटी से तकचेन तक सड़क बनाने हेतू DFO स्पिति Wild Life Division काजा से अनुमति मिली थी लेकिन गेच्छा से डंखर हैलीपैड तक सड़क बनाने की अनुमति नहीं दी गई थी। अधिशायी अभीयंता हि0प्र0लो0नि0 विभाग काजा से पोह मैदान से डंखर हैलीपैड तक वन भूमि में वनाई गई सड़क के संबंध में दस्तावेज हेतू पत्राचार किया गया तथा दस्तावेज प्राप्त हुए तथा मुकदमा से संबंधित अन्य कागजात भी उप वन संरक्षक Wild Life काजा से प्राप्त किए गए हैं। मुकदमा हजा में व्यानात कलमबंद किए गए।

अभियोग हजा में गेच्छा से डंखर हैलीपैड तक वनाई गई सड़क की निशानदेही राजस्व विभाग से करवाना शेष है तथा वर्ष 2021-22 में घटना के समय तैनात वन विभाग के कर्मचारी व अधिकारी से पूछताछ व व्यान कलमबंद करना शेष है तथा सड़क बनाने वाले ठेकेदार से पूछताछ व व लोक निर्माण विभाग से गेच्छा से डंखर हैलीपैड तक वनाई गई सड़क के संदर्भ में टैंडर व अन्य प्रक्रिया से संबंधित दस्तावेज लेने शेष हैं। अभियोग हजा में तपतीश जारी है।

अतः status report सेवा में प्रेषित है।

भवदीय

S. प्रखरी
Police Station, Kaza
Distt. Lahoul & Spiti (H.P.)
जिला लाहौल स्पिति (हि0प्र0)।

Advised
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O CF WL(S) SHIMLA

**OFFICE OF DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
WILDLIFE DIVISION SPITI AT KAZA**
Email: head-fordlwlspl-hp@hp.gov.in
Ph.01906-299024

No./WL Splt// 4118

Dated, Kaza the

27/3/26

From:- Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Spiti Wildlife Division at Kaza.

To:- Sub Divisional Officer (C)
Spiti at Kaza.

Subject:- Regarding illegal Road construction from Gecha to Dankhar Helipad.

Reference:- Station House Officer, Kaza office letter No./994/5A dated 27/03/2026
(copy enclosed).


Memo

With reference to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal MA No. 113/2024 in Original Application No. 173/2022, and with reference to the above cited SHO, Kaza office letter.

In this regard, it is requested to kindly depute the concerned officer/official for demarcation of the said site at the earliest. The matter may be treated as urgent and necessary action may be taken to ensure timely compliance of the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 11.12.2025.

This may be accorded priority so that compliance report is submitted within the stipulated time and the higher authorities are apprised accordingly.

This is for your kind information and further necessary action please.


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Spiti Wildlife Division at Kaza.

JL

Attested

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/G OF WL(S) SHIMLA

331

OFFICE OF DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
WILDLIFE DIVISION SPITI AT KAZA
 Email: head.fordllywspi-hp@hp.gov.in
 Ph.01906-299024

No. WL Spiti /FCA/ 3017

Dated: Kaza the, 16/3/26

From:- Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Spiti Wildlife Division.

To:- Superintendent of Police,
Distt. Lahaul & Spiti, H.P.

Subject: Request for current status of FIR No. 0026 dated 16.09.2025
regarding illegal construction of road from Gecha to Dhankhar
Helipad in wake of listing of case on 08/04/2026.

Memo:

In continuation of this office letter endst. No. 3033 dated 03/01/2026 on the subject cited above, it is submitted that the case pertaining to illegal road construction from Gecha to Dhankhar Helipad is listed for hearing before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) on 08/04/2026 and the compliance report for the same need to be sent in the last week of March, 2026

You are, therefore, kindly requested to intimate the present status of investigation/action taken in the above-mentioned FIR at the earliest, along with any relevant developments, if any, so that the Hon'ble NGT and higher ups could be apprised accordingly well in time please.

[Signature]
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Spiti Wildlife Division, Kaza.

Encl. No. 3018-19 Dated 16/3/26

Copy forwarded to:

1. Conservator of Forests Wildlife (South), Shimla for the favour of kind information please.
2. Deputy Superintendent of Police, District Lahaul & Spiti with this office letter No 3033 dated 03/01/2026 for information and further necessary action please.

[Signature]
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Spiti Wildlife Division, Kaza.

[Handwritten initials]

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
O/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Spiti Wildlife Division, Kaza.



STATION HOUSE OFFICER
POLICE STATION KAZA DISTRICT LAHAUL
& SPITI (H.P.)
CONTACT NUMBER:- +91-94599-00399
EMAIL ID:-police.kaza-hp@nic.in

आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



सेवा में,

उप-वन संरक्षक,
स्पीति वाइल्ड लाइफ डिवीजन, काजा,
जिला लाहौल एवं स्पीति (हि.प्र.)

विषय:- अभियोग संख्या 26/25 दिनांक 16-09-2025 जेर धारा 329(3)BNS & 32,33
Indian Forest Act के संदर्भ में स्टेटस रिपोर्ट।

श्रीमान जी,

निवेदन है कि दिनांक 11.09.2025 को कार्यालय पुलिस अधीक्षक जिला लाहौल स्पिति से मुताबिक पत्र संख्या 12064-65 Dated 09.09.2025 के पुलिस थाना काजा में बजरिया E-MAIL एक शिकायतपत्र थाना में मौसूल हुआ जिसका मजबुन जैल है, "No. WL. Spiti/FCA/1222 Dated: Kaza 09/09/2025 From Deputy Conservator of forest Spiti Wildlife Division, To The Superintendent of Police, District Lahaul & Spiti. H.P. Subject Registration of FIR regarding illegal road construction from Gecha to Dankhar Helipad. Kindly refer to your office letter No. 813 dated 09/01/2025 in response to this office letter No. 3281 dated 24/12/2024 and Lct no. 3410 dated 08/01/2025 vide which your office has been requested to register FIR against the illegal road construction activity from Gecha Dankhar Helipad by HP PWD Kaza. Instant matter it is brought to your kind attention that the user agency without seeking any prior approval from the competent authority i.e. MoEFCC under the provisions contained in Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has indulged in an illegal act . As the matter is sub judice and necessary directions stands issued to the user agency by the Hon'ble NGT for processing the case for getting ex post facto approval under the provisions of FCA-1980. The user agency has accordingly processed the case through online Parivesh Portal and a meeting of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) was

Attended

REGIONAL FOREST OFFICER
D/O OF WL(S) SHIMLA

held on 30.07.2025, to review the ex post facto approval for the said road i.e. Poh maidan to Dankhar Helipad. The matter has been deliberated upon and it is well established that the said construction is blatant violations of FCA, 1980 and FRA 2006 thus to conclude the matter the following is hereby communicated by FAC State Government shall complete the action taken against the user agency under IFA 1927 submission updated action taken report. The matter is listed periodically before the principal bench of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and is next listed on 15.09.2025. Therefore, the directions of Hon'ble NGT to user agency of getting in-principle approval of the already divined band can only be sought following. The compliance of the stipulation raised by the FAC it is farther brought to your kind knowledge that the Range Forest Officer Tabo, while exercising his powers under sections 32 and 33 of IFA 1927, has assessed the damages caused due to such act and accordingly raised damage report bill amounting to Rs 1,49,10,000/- to the user agency however said amount has not yet been deposited till date. Your kind attention is also solicited to the IIP State notification number FFF-B-A(3)-3/2010- which mandates the damages amounting to Rs. 10 lakh or more if area encroached is more than 10 bighas, an FIR need to be registered in such cases. The registration of an FIR constitutes a vital procedural step in the instant matter and will ensure the compliance of the statutory requirements. It will facilitate the process of ex post facto in principle approval of FCA as pursued by the user agency as per the directions of Hon'ble NGT principal bench. Therefore, it is hereby requested that an FIR to be registered without further delay against the user agency i.e. IIPWD Kaza for illegal construction of the road from , Poh maidan to Dankhar Helipad under the relevant provisions of The Forest Conservation Act 1980, Indian Forest Act 1927 and Prevention of damages to public property act, 1984. An early action is solicited from your end being the Court matter." Sd/- English Deputy Conservator of Forest Spiti Wildlife Division, Kaza जो उपरोक्त दरखास्त से जुर्म जेर धारा 32(3) BNS व 32,33 Indian Forest Act का सरजद होने पर मुकद्दमा नं0 26/25 दिनांक 16-09-2025 दर्ज थाना किया गया।

Admitted
4



अभियोग हजा की प्रारंभिक तपतीश ASI लाल चंद द्वारा अगल में लाई गई दौराने तपतीश मुकदमा हजा में उप वन संरक्षक Wild Life काजा से गेच्छा से डंखर हैलीपैड तक वन भूमि में वनाई गई सड़क के संदर्भ में नकल जमाबंदी व अकस ततीमा हेतू पत्राचार किया गया तथा नकल जमाबंदी व ततीमा हासिल किया गया। उप वन संरक्षक Wild Life काजा से पोह मैदान से डंखर हालीपैड तक वन भूमि में वनाई गई सड़क के संबंध में आवश्यक दस्तावेज हेतू पत्राचार किया गया तथा दस्तावेज प्राप्त होने पर पाया गया कि पोह मैदान से सुमन, सुमन से न्युपर, न्युपर से गेच्छा, निपटी से तकचेन तक सड़क बनाने हेतू DFO स्पिति Wild Life Division काजा से अनुमति मिली थी लेकिन गेच्छा से डंखर हैलीपैड तक सड़क बनाने की अनुमति नहीं दी गई थी।

अधिशायी अभीयंता हि0प्र0लो0नि0 विभाग काजा से पोह मैदान से डंखर हैलीपैड तक वन भूमि में वनाई गई सड़क के संबंध में दस्तावेज हेतू पत्राचार किया गया तथा दस्तावेज प्राप्त हुए तथा मुकदमा से संबंधित अन्य कागजात भी उप वन संरक्षक Wild Life काजा से प्राप्त किए गए हैं। मुकदमा हजा में व्यानात गवाहन जेर धारा 180 BNSS कलमबंद कर दिए गए हैं।

अभियोग हजा में गेच्छा से डंखर हैलीपैड तक वनाई गई सड़क की निशानदेही हेतू राजस्व विभाग से पत्राचार किया गया है तथा निशानदेही शेष है तथा वर्ष 2021-22 में घटना के समय तैनात वन विभाग के कर्मचारी व अधिकारी से पूछताछ व व्यान कलमबंद करना शेष है तथा सड़क बनाने वाले ठेकेदार से पूछताछ करना शेष है लोक निर्माण विभाग से वर्ष 2021-22 में HPPWD उपमण्डल काजा SUB. DIVISION शिचलिंग में तैनात तत्कालीन अधिकारियों के पुरा विवरण हेतू पत्राचार किया गया है कि जिस वर्ष उपरोक्त सड़क का निर्माण किया गया उस समय लोक निर्माण विभाग में कौन-कौन कर्मचारी कार्यरत थे तथा मुकदमा हजा में जो सड़क निर्माण हुआ है उसमें टेंडर प्रक्रिया में किस-किस कर्मचारी द्वारा कार्य किया गया है। दस्तावेज प्राप्त होने पर आगामी कार्यवाही अमल में लाई जायेगी। अभियोग हजा में तपतीश जारी है।

अतः स्टेटस रिपोर्ट सेवा में प्रेषित है।

भवदीय

S.H.O. (Signature)
Police Station, Kaza
Distt. Lahaul & Spiti (i)
जिला लाहौल स्पिति (हि0प्र0)

Noted.
[Signature]