



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय/
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, देहरादून/
Regional Office, Dehradun



25, सुभाष रोड, देहरादून-248001/25, SUBHASH ROAD, DEHRADUN-248001,
दूरभाष / PHONE - 0135-2650809, ईमेल/E-mail-moef.ddn@gov.in

पत्र सं- NGT/05/2024/1097

Dated: 08/04/2026

To,

✓ Shri Somesh Chandra Jha,
Advocate, Address- 405, Nilgiri Apartments,
Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001,
Mob No. 9999374946 & 8287878396,
E-mail- advocatescjha@gmail.com

Sub: 1st Quarterly Action Taken Report (ATR) of the Committee of Experts in compliance of the order/judgment dated 18.12.2025 passed by the Hon'ble NGT, New Delhi in OA No. 44/2024 in the matter of Jot Singh Bist vs. State of Uttarakhand & Ors.-reg.

Sir,

As you are aware that the Hon'ble NGT, New Delhi vide its order/judgment dated 18.12.2025 passed in the above captioned O.A., has directed to the Committee of Experts to submit Action Taken Report (ATR) to the Hon'ble Tribunal on quarterly basis.

In compliance of the order/judgment dated 18.12.2025, 1st Quarterly Action Taken Report of the Committee of Experts is attached herewith (copy enclosed).

It is requested to file the 1st Quarterly ATR before the Hon'ble tribunal.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,

(Neelima Shah, IFS)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (C)

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

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 44/2024

IN THE MATTER OF :

JOT SINGH BISHT

-----Applicant

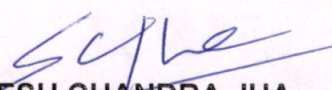
Versus

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, REGIONAL
OFFICE, 25, SUBHASH ROAD, DEHRADUN AND ORS. -----Respondents

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Filed by


SOMESH CHANDRA JHA

(COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO. 1)

NEW DELHI:

DATED:

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

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 44/2024

IN THE MATTER OF :

JOT SINGH BISHT

-----Applicant

Versus

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, REGIONAL
OFFICE, 25, SUBHASH ROAD, DEHRADUN AND ORS. -----Respondents

**1st Quarterly Action Taken Report of the Committee of Experts in
compliance of the final order/judgment dated 18.12.2025.**

1. The background of the case is that one Mr. Jot Singh Bist, Adhyaksh, Gram Vikas Samiti Utyasu (Jawadi) Bhardar, District Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand had sent a Letter Petition dated 10.08.2023 to the Hon'ble Tribunal in which the grievance was made that the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), which is executing a railroad project from Rishikesh to Karnaprayag, has created a dumping area on Chopra Gadhera without obtaining statutory permissions/NOC/Clearance from the concerned authorities.
2. The Tribunal had taken cognizance in the matter and several orders have been passed during the pendency of the case. Before going into the final order dated 18.12.2025, it is pertinent to mention here that a detailed order was passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal on 30.05.2025 with following directions;
 17. (i) That respondents no. 4 and 5 shall deposit the penalty amount of Rs. 2,03,96,111/- by taking the requisite steps as per the Uttarakhand Mineral (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2021 (as amended vide notification dated 18.09.2024) including filing of relevant challans;
 - (ii) That the de-sealing of the excavated muck dumping site and the road in question shall be effected immediately on deposit of the amount of penalty by respondents no. 4 and 5;

- (iii) That respondents no. 4 and 5 shall reuse the excavated muck and relocate the excess muck as per approved Environment Management Plan and environmental norms;
 - (iv) That such relocation of the excess muck shall be to site duly approved by the competent authorities and the competent authorities shall ensure that excess muck is not relocated and dumped at some other place in violation of the environmental laws/norms;
 - (v) That respondents no. 4 and 5 shall, in consultation with respondents no. 1 to 3 and such Committee of Experts as may be constituted by respondent no. 1, prepare and execute action plan for restoration/rejuvenation of Chopra Gadera of village Jawadi and remediation of the environmental damage caused;
 - (vi) That the amount of penalty amount of Rs. 2,03,96,111/- deposited may not be treated as revenue generated and may be utilized for restoration/rejuvenation of Chopra Gadera of village Jawadi and remediation of the environmental damage caused;
 - (vii) That the cost of restoration/rejuvenation of Chopra Gadera of village Jawadi and remediation of the environmental damage caused may be assessed by the Committee of Experts constituted by respondent no. 1 expeditiously preferably within three months; and
 - (viii) That respondents no. 4 and 5 shall also be liable to pay the costs so assessed by the Committee of Experts for restoration/rejuvenation of Chopra Gadera of village Jawadi and remediation of the environmental damage caused.
3. In compliance of the above and as per the directions issued under para 17 (v) of the order dated 30.05.2025, the Respondent No. 1 (RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun) vide order dated 11.06.2025 has constituted a Committee of Experts comprising of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun, SDM, Rudraprayag, Dy. Director, Mining, Rudraprayag, Regional Officer, UKPCB, Representative of Director, FRI, Dehradun, Conservator of Forest (CF) Garhwaland DFO, Rudraprayag. The copy of committee constitution order dt. 11.06.2025 is annexed herewith as **Annexure-1**.
4. To deliberate the matter, the first meeting of above committee was held on 07.07.2025 in the conference room of RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun. The directions issued vide order dated 30.05.2025 by the Hon'ble Tribunal were discussed in the meeting. The RVNL was requested to follow the directions of Tribunal. The Committee emphasized the need for restoration of Chopra Gadera, directing RVNL to submit a muck disposal plan and conduct geological and hydrological assessments through Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun (WIHG)

and National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee (NIH). It was decided that one expert from each institute will be co-opted and a joint site visit had to be undertaken shortly. The copy of MoM dt. 07.07.2025 is annex herewith as **Annexure-2.**

5. Following the decision taken in the first meeting, the WIHG, Dehradun and NIH Roorkee has nominated their representative in the Committee of Experts and a joint site inspection was carried out on 13.10.2025.



Figure 1:-An overview of landscape of the Site



Figure 2:- The photographs of the Inspecting site



Figure 3 :- Meeting at DFO Office

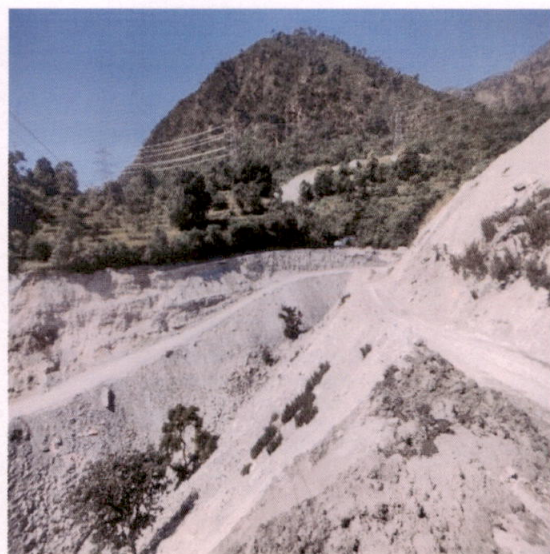


Figure 4:- Muck Dumping Site

On the basis of site visit, the user agency was directed to submit/present the tentative Restoration/Reclamation plan consisting of measures/parameters, timeline, component and financial outlay. It was decided that, a review meeting will

be held on 14.11.2025 in RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun. The copy of MoM dt. 04.11.2025 of site visit is annex herewith as **Annexure-3**.

6. On 14.11.2025, review meeting was conducted in the conference room of RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun in compliance of the directions issued and following the joint site inspection conducted on 13.10.2025. The meeting concluded with a decision that an expert from a reputed institution such as the Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Dehradun having specialization in soil conservation may be co-opted into the Expert Committee to support both preparation and execution of a scientifically robust Restoration Plan. Additionally, it was directed that RVNL shall present a comprehensive and detailed restoration plan, along with complete baseline data of the site in the next review meeting. The copy of MoM dt. 14.11.2025 is annexed herewith as **Annexure-4**.
7. As decided above, the Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Dehradun has nominated their representative in the Committee of Experts. It was also decided that the DPR would be based on a detailed site inspection and field assessment. This would include an analysis of the current condition of the site, the level of degradation and associated environmental risks; scientifically designed remedial measures in accordance with the site's topography and ecology; a phased implementation timeline; and a comprehensive financial estimate of all proposed interventions. It was further decided that in the upcoming meeting, RVNL would present the progress of site inspection, ground truthing, and compliance.
8. In the meantime, the final order in the matter was passed on 18.12.2025, stipulating that until the muck is completely removed and the restoration plan is fully implemented, a status report shall be submitted to the Hon'ble NGT on a quarterly basis. In this regard, a review meeting was convened on 23.02.2026 at the Regional Office, Dehradun, to present the comprehensive and detailed restoration plan along with the complete baseline data and the DPR.
9. During the meeting, RVNL delivered a presentation on the Comprehensive Restoration Plan, which included the integrated restoration approach, technical specifications and key components, the detailed restoration plan for the dump yard, proposed check dams and gabion layouts, and the implementation timeline. In the same session, the DFO also presented and incorporated the mitigation plan for Chopra Nalla in the upper adjoining forest area pertaining to Ratanpur S. No.-2 and S. No.-3B, along with the proposed check dams. Thereafter, the physio-geological and biological measures proposed by RVNL and the DFO, Rudraprayag, were presented.
10. The tentative financial outlay was also showcased, amounting to approximately ₹1,55,42,423.00, which comprises the estimated cost of the Comprehensive and Detailed Restoration Plan proposed by RVNL as well as the estimated cost of the

Mitigation Plan of Chopra Nalla proposed by the DFO, Rudraprayag. The copy of PPT of Comprehensive Restoration Plan is annexed herewith as **Annexure- 5**.

After the culmination of the entire presentation, the Committee of Experts raised concerns on a few points, which are as follows:

- i. During the meeting the Committee of expert desired to know the Status of the proposal (FP/UK/RAIL/148808/2021). In this connection, it was noted that the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, had pointed out certain shortcomings vide their letter dated 16.08.2024, to which RVNL has not yet submitted the reply. The Committee of Experts therefore directed RVNL to ensure the submission of the response at the earliest, so that the process of the forest land diversion involving forest land of 0.8511 ha may be given well in time.
- ii. The Committee members also raised a query regarding the status of muck clearance, specifically whether it has been fully removed or not. In this regard, RVNL submitted that the muck has not been completely cleared, as the route remained closed for 20 days due to a landslide. They further added that it would take approximately one month to clear the entire muck from the dumping zone. Upon this, the members of the Expert Committee suggested to remove the muck by the end of March, 2026 and the restoration work will be executed from April 2026 onwards. Accordingly, timeline shall be indicate in the DPR report.
- iii. The Committee of Experts also observed shortcomings in the layout of the restoration plan, noting that it lacked details of morphological features of the watershed which should include the details of first order and second order of the catchment area and complete pan picture of watershed shall be illustrated and included in the final DPR.
- iv. The committee of experts recommended site inspection shall be carried out, in which forest scientists/experts nominated by IISWC shall assess the suitability of the biological measures as proposed in the Restoration plan in consultation with DFO, Rudraprayag..
- v. RVNL also sought clarification and directions regarding the revenue already submitted to the Mining Department whether it should be utilized for the restoration/rejuvenation of Chopra Gadhera or treated solely as a penalty. In this context, the committee of experts referred to Para 79 (IV) of the final order of the Hon'ble NGT dated 18.12.2025, which states:

"The penalty amount of Rs. 2,03,96,111/- deposited may not be treated as revenue generated and may be utilized for restoration/rejuvenation of Chopra Gadhera of Village Jawari and remediation of the environmental damage caused."

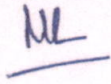
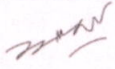
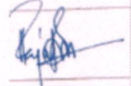



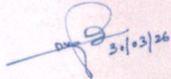
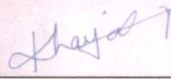
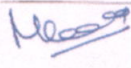
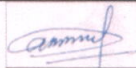
Accordingly, RVNL was advised to consult the State Secretary (Mining Department) regarding the funds for the execution of restoration/rejuvenation works at Chopra Gadhera/Nalla. Further, the Department of Geology and Mining shall take the necessary actions as per the directions referred in Pare 79 (IV) of

the final order of the Hon'ble NGT dated 18.12.2025. The copy of MoM dt. 23.02.2026 is annexed herewith as **Annexure-6**.

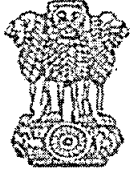
After thorough discussion and review of the presentation by RVNL and the DFO, Rudraprayag, it was directed that RVNL shall submit the DPR report by 10.03.2026, following the site visit.

11. However, the RVNL vide its letter dated 16.03.2026 has requested to extend the date of DPR submission till 30.03.2026 as RVNL has mentioned in their letter that it may take 10-15 days to finalize the DPR Report. The copy of letter dt. 16.03.2026 is annexed herewith as **Annexure-7**.

Submitted by Committee of Expert:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Signature
1.	Smt. Neelima Shah, I.F.S.	AIFG (C), MoEF&CC, RO, Dehradun	
2.	Sh. Akash Verma, I.F.S.	CF, Garhwal	
3.	Shri Rajat Suman, I.F.S.	DFO, Rudraprayag	
4.	Shri Naresh Goshwami	Regional Officer, RO, UKPCB	
5.	Shri Sohan Singh Saini	SDM, Rudraprayag	
6.	Shri Birendra Kumar Singh	Dept. of Geology & Mining, Rudraprayag	
7.	Dr. D.V. Singh	Head, IISWC, Dehradun	 31/03/26
8.	Dr. K. Luirei	Scientist-F, WIHG, Dehradun	
9.	Dr. M.K. Sharma	Scientist-F, NIH Roorkee	
10.	Dr. Parmanand Kumar	Scientist-E, FRI, Dehradun	

Dated: 07.04.2026



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moef.ddn@gov.in

पत्र सं 0-NGT/05/2024/201

Dated: 11/06/2025

आदेश

विषय:- माननीय एन 0 जी0 टी0, नई दिल्ली द्वारा O.A. No. 44/2024 में दिये गए निर्देश दिनांक 30.05.2025 के अनुपालन में एक्सपर्ट कमेटी गठित करने के संबंध में।

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषय के संबंध में अधोहस्ताक्षरी को यह अवगत कराने का निर्देश हुआ है कि प्रकरण रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड (आरवीएनएल) द्वारा संबंधित अधिकारियों से वैधानिक अनुमति/एनओसी/मंजूरी प्राप्त किए बिना जनपद रुद्रप्रयाग के चोपड़ा गदरे में मलबा डालने और इस प्रकार पर्यावरण को नुकसान पहुंचाने विषयक एन 0 जी0 टी0, नई दिल्ली के समक्ष दाखिल किया गया है।

2. प्रकरण में पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, देहरादून, राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, डी0 एम 0, रुद्रप्रयाग, रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड तथा मेघा इंजीनियरिंग लिमिटेड को क्रमश प्रतिवादी संख्या 1, 2, 3, 4 और 5 के तौर पर जोड़ा गया है।

3. प्रकरण में आरवीएनएल द्वारा एक I.A. No. 216/2025 इस अनुरोध के साथ एन 0 जी0 टी0 में दाखिल किया गया था कि उन्हें डंपिंग साइट से निकाले गए मलबे के पुनः उपयोग करने तथा डंपिंग स्थल तक जाने वाली सड़क तक पहुंच की अनुमति दी जाए।

4. उपरोक्त प्रार्थना पर गौर करने के पश्चात दिनांक 30.05.2025 को माननीय एन 0 जी0 टी0 द्वारा एक विस्तृत आदेश पारित किया गया है, जिसके पैरा संख्या 17 (v) में जारी किए गए निर्देशों के अनुपालन में प्रतिवादी संख्या 1 (RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun) के द्वारा निम्नलिखित विशेषज्ञों की समिति गठित की जाती है:-

S/No.	Name	Designation
1.	Neelima Shah, IFS, AIGF, RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun. Mob No. 7579200907 (E-mail- moef.ddn@gov.in)	Chairman
2.	Representative of DM, Rudraprayag	Member
3.	Representative of UKPCB	Member
4.	Representative of Director, FRI, Dehradun (special invitee for Technical input)	Member
5.	CF, Garhwal (special invitee for Technical input)	Member
6.	DFO, Rudraprayag Forest Division (special invitee for Technical input)	Member

सारणी के क्र 0 सं 0 2, 3 एवं 4 में उल्लिखित प्राधिकारियों से अनुरोध है कि कृपया अपने स्तर से विशेषज्ञ समिति में प्रतिनिधि नामित कर अचलंब इस कार्यालय को अवगत कराने का कष्ट करें, ताकि आदेश के पैरा संख्या 17 (vii) में जारी किए गए निर्देशों के अनुपालन में विशेषज्ञों की समिति अग्रिम कार्यवाही कर सके।

संलग्न-यथोपरि।

Digitally signed by

Neelima Shah

Date: 11-06-2025

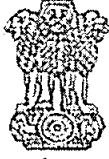
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भवदीया,

(नीलिमा शाह, भा0 व 0 से0)
सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक (के0)

0/1





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Regional Office, Dehradun



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9

फाइल संख्या: NGT/05/2024/ 375

दिनांक: As per E-sign

**Minutes of Meeting of the Committee of Experts dated 07.07.2025
held at conference room of MoEF&CC, Regional Office, 25,
Subhash Road, Dehradun in compliance of the Hon'ble NGT's order
dt. 30.05.2025 passed in OA No. 44/2024**

1. In compliance of the directions issued under para 17 (v) of the order dated 30.05.2025, the Respondent No. 1 (RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun) vide order dated 11.06.2025 has constituted a Committee of Experts comprising of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun, Representative of DM, Rudraprayag, Representative of UKPCB, Representative of Director, FRI, Dehradun, Conservator of Forest (CF), Garhwal and DFO, Rudraprayag (Annexure-I).
2. In response thereof, ADM, Rudraprayag vide letter dated 12.06.2025 has nominated SDM, Rudraprayag and Deputy Director, Mining Rudraprayag as a member of Committee of Experts. The Member Secretary, UKPCB vide its letter dated 19.06.2025 has nominated Regional Officer, UKPCB, Dehradun as a member of Committee of Experts and vide e-mail dated 02.07.2025, the FRI, Dehradun has nominated Dr. Parmanand Kumar, Scientist-E as a member of Committee of Experts (Annexure-II).
3. To deliberate the matter, a meeting of above committee was held on 07.07.2025 at 11:00 AM onwards in the conference room of Regional Office, Dehradun wherein following were present;

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Sl.No.	Name	Designation
2.	Smt. Neelima Shah, IFS	Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun.
4.	Sh. Akash Verma, IFS	CF, Garhwal circle (Through VC)
6.	Smt. Kalyani, IFS	DFO, Rudraprayag Forest Division (Through VC)
8.	Sh. Amit Pokhriyal	Regional Officer, UKPCB, Dehradun. (Through VC)
10.	Smt. Yakshi Arora	SDM, District Rudraprayag (Through VC)
12.	Sh. Birendra Kumar	Deputy Director, Mining Department, Rudraprayag (Through VC)
14.	Dr. Parmanand Kumar	Scientist-E, FRI, Dehradun (Through VC)
16.	Representatives of the RVNL.	

At the outset, Mrs. Neelima Shah, AIGF, welcomed all participants in the meeting and thereafter, the detailed order dated 30.05.2025 and directions issued under para No. 17 of the order dated 30.05.2025 was discussed with the committee of experts.

2. During the meeting, it was submitted by the representative present on behalf of RVNL that as per the directions of Hon'ble NGT, the RVNL will deposit the penalty amount of Rs. 2,03,96,111/- to the Mining Department, Rudraprayag within a week. Further, it was apprised before the committee that as per the Hon'ble NGT's directions, this amount has to be utilized for restoration/rejuvenation of Chopra Gadera of village Jawadi.
3. It was apprised by the representative of RVNL that during the last hearing of the matter, the Hon'ble NGT has also suggested RVNL to conduct Geological and Hydrological assessment of Chopra Gadera respectively through Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) and National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) with respect to damage, if any, took place due to dumping of muck and adopt remedial measures as suggested by the experts of these institution.
4. The Committee of Experts has taken note of the submission of RVNL and is of the view that the committee co-opts one expert from each institute i.e. National

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Institute of Hydrology (NIH) and Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG). RO, MoEFCC, Dehradun will issue a letter to the Head of these institutions for further necessary action in the matter in due course.

5. As per the directions given under para 17 (vii) of the order dated 30.05.2025, the committee has been assigned the task that the cost of restoration/rejuvenation of Chopra Gadera of village Jawadi and remediation of the environment damage caused may be assessed by the Committee of Experts constituted by respondent No. 1 (RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun) expeditiously preferably within three months, therefore, a joint site visit of the committee in the matter is necessary and will be carried out shortly. All the arrangement of the site visit of the committee will be borne by the RVNL.
6. A reclamation plan for the site will be formulated for remedial measures as per the suggestions of the above committee.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Digitally signed by
Neelima Shah
Date: 09-07-2025
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(नीलिमा शाह, भा०व०से०)
सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक (केन्द्रीय)

वितरण:-

1. उप-जिलाधिकारी, रुद्रप्रयाग।
2. उप निदेशक/ज्येष्ठ खान अधिकारी, भूतत्व एवं खनिकर्म विभाग, रुद्रप्रयाग।
3. डॉ० अमित पोखरियाल, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, देहरादून।
4. वन संरक्षक, गढ़वाल वृत्त, पौड़ी गढ़वाल।
5. डॉ० परमानंद कुमार, वैज्ञानिक-ई, (एफ 0 ई 0 & सी0 सी0 प्रभाग), वन अनुसंधान संस्थान, देहरादून।
6. प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी, रुद्रप्रयाग वन प्रभाग, रुद्रप्रयाग।
7. प्रयोक्ता एजेंसी (रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड)
8. मेघा इंजीनियरिंग लिमिटेड।

Meeting of Committee of Experts in compliance of the Hon'ble
NGT's order dated 30.05.2025 passed in OA No. 44/2024 at
MoEF&CC, REGIONAL OFFICE, DEHRADUN
ON 07th July, 2025

ATTENDANCE SHEET

S.No.	Name	Designation & Contact No.	Mail ID	Signature
1.	Shri. Santosh Tewari, IFS	DDGF- cum- Chairman, REC		
2.	Smt. Neelima Shah, IFS	AIGF(C), MoEF&CC, RO, Dehradun		
3.	M.K. Bahukhanti	Forest Consultant RVNL	mkbahukhanti@ gmail.com	
4.	Ajay Kumar	Add. General Manager, RVNL-9258296419	OASIS.AK@ gmail.com	
5.	Vijay Darnwal	AGM/RVNL 9412026908	jangwalvijay @yahoo.co.in	
6.	Shri Anant Lokhiya	RO, SPCB, Dehradun		Through VC
7.	S. Kalyan Negi			"
8.	Sh. Akash Verma IFS	CF, Garhwal.		"
9.	DFO, Rudrapur	Smt. Kalyani Bhatt		"
10.	Sh. Akshi Arora	SDM, Rudrapur		"
11.	Dr. Parmanand Kumar	Scientist, FRI		"
12.	Shr Sachin Shende	Megha Engg Private limited.		"
13.	Deputy Directors (Mining)			"
14.	Birender Singh			"

15. Ram Kishor Dhyani

"

16. DM office, Rudrapur

"

"

**In compliance of the Hon'ble NGT's order dt. 30.05.2025 passed in
OA No. 44/2024 Site Inspection was carried out on 13.10.2025**

1. As per the directions issued under para 17 (v) of the order dated 30.05.2025, the Respondent No. 1 (RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun) vide order dated 11.06.2025 has constituted a Committee of Experts comprising of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun, Representative of DM, Rudraprayag, Representative of UKPCB, Representative of Director, FRI, Dehradun, Conservator of Forest (CF), Garhwal and DFO, Rudraprayag.
2. In response thereof, ADM, Rudraprayag vide letter dated 12.06.2025 has nominated SDM, Rudraprayag and Deputy Director, Mining Rudraprayag as a member of Committee of Experts. The Member Secretary, UKPCB vide its letter dated 19.06.2025 has nominated Regional Officer, UKPCB, Dehradun as a member of Committee of Experts and vide e-mail dated 02.07.2025, the FRI, Dehradun has nominated Dr. Parmanand Kumar, Scientist-E as a member of Committee of Experts.
3. To deliberate the matter, a meeting of above committee was held on 07.07.2025 at MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Dehradun. The RVNL was requested to follow the direction of NGT dated- 30.05.2025. The Committee emphasized the need for restoration of Chopra Gadera, directing RVNL to submit a muck disposal plan and conduct geological and hydrological assessments through WIHG and NIH. One expert from each institute will be co-opted, and a joint site visit had to be undertaken shortly.

So, in compliance to the above, joint site inspection was done and on the basis of it, a following report is prepared:

Name of the Inspecting Officer – Smt. Neelima Shah (IFS) Assistant Inspector General of Forest (C), Regional Office, Dehradun, MoEF&CC, GoI along with the members of Expert Committee mentioned below:

Officers/Representative of the Expert Committee members:

- Sub-district Magistrate, SDM, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand
- Shri. Amit Pokhriyal, Regional Officer, UKPCB, Dehradun
- Dr. Parmanand Kumar, Scientist 'E', Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun
- Dr. M. K. Sharma, Scientist 'F', National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee
- Dr. K. Luirei, Scientist 'F', Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun

The site inspection of 0.8511 ha of forest land in Javeri for development of 126 km long broad-gauge rail link in favour of Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) within the jurisdiction of Rudraprayag Forest Division, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/RAIL/148808/2021) was carried out on 13.10.2025. The following Officers/Staff of the concerned departments were present during the inspection

along with the inspecting officer and committee members:

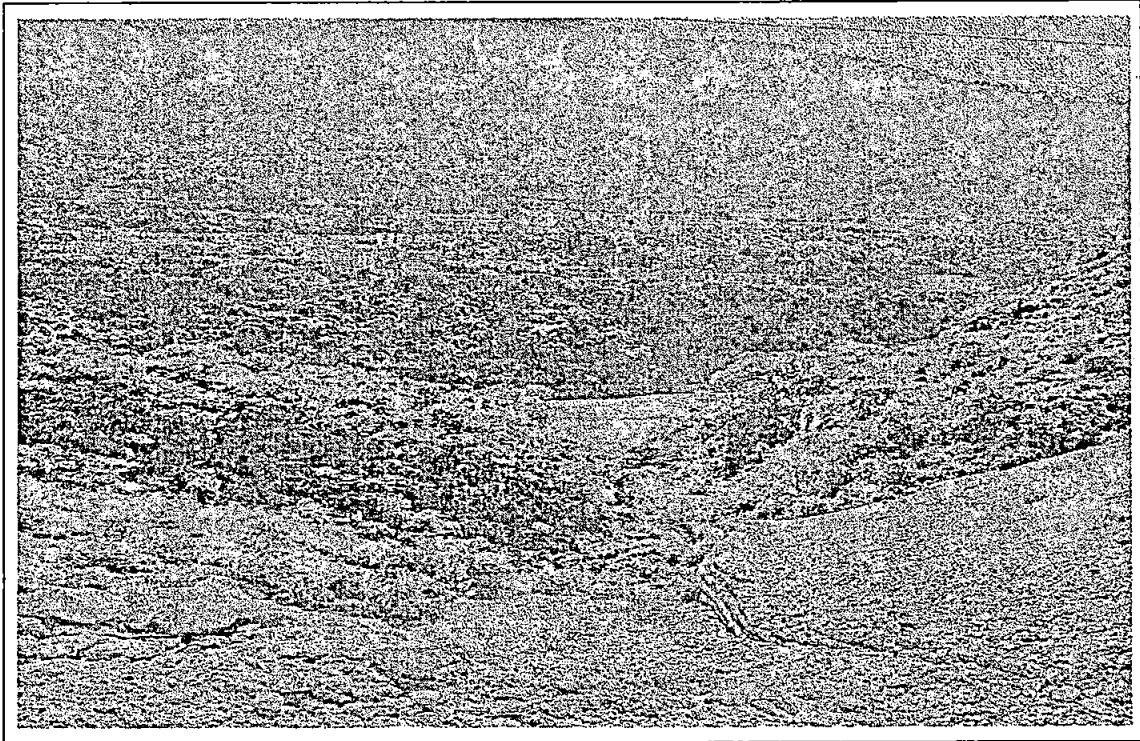
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Officers/Staff from the State Forest Department

- Shri Rajat Suman, DFO, Rudraprayag Forest Division, Uttarakhand
- Shri Diwakar Pant, SDO, Jakholi, Rudraprayag Forest Department, Uttarakhand
- Shri Harish Thapliyal, RO, South Jakholi, Rudraprayag Forest Department, Uttarakhand

Officers/Staff from the User Agency/RVNL

- Sh. Vijay Dangwal Additional General Manager RVNL
- Shri Mahesh Bhatt, Deputy Manager (Liaisoning Company- Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited)
- Shri M.K. Bakhundi, Forest Consultant RVNL
- Shri Mohan Singh Bisht, Executive Assistant RVNL

Field Observations:

i. The Committee visited the site and observed that, in the present scenario, muck has been deposited within and around the designated area. The User Agency (RVNL) informed that, as per the directions of the Hon'ble NGT, a penalty amount of ₹2,03,96,111/- has already been deposited in favor of the Mining Department, Rudraprayag. Subsequently, the User Agency/RVNL has commenced the removal

of muck from the site and is utilizing the same for their ongoing project activities. Further, RVNL assured that the complete removal of muck from the dumping site will be accomplished by 31.01.2026.

ii. It was directed that old (pre-dumping) and recent (post-dumping) photographs of the site shall be presented using Remote Sensing and GIS tools to facilitate comparative analysis and assess the extent of dumping and restoration.

iii. After inspecting the site, the Committee members held a detailed discussion on the necessary remedial measures to be undertaken, particularly focusing on ecological restoration of the site and the appropriate methodology to be adopted for effective reclamation and stabilization of the affected area.

iv. The Committee directed the User Agency (RVNL) to prepare a comprehensive Ecological Restoration/Reclamation Plan in consultation with DFO Rudraprayag for the site in accordance with the following objectives and methodological guidelines:

Main Objectives of the Restoration: -

- i. To stabilize the muck dumping site and prevent any kind of soil erosion and landslides.
- ii. To restore the ecological and aesthetic value of the affected area.
- iii. To promote natural generation and vegetation cover of the area.
- iv. To minimize the negative impact on nearby water resources and habitat.

Methodology: -

- I. **Site Preparation: -**
 - a) **Slope grading** After removing the muck, reshape the site into gentle gradients by adopting contour mapping and engineering to ensure stability and ease of vegetation establishment and also carry out the geological assessment of the dumping site and slope correction.
 - b) **Toe wall and retain structure-** To plan and design toe wall/gabion wall or dry-stone wall to prevent the frequent sliding of loose debris.
 - c) **Drainage Management-** To prevent water-logging and to rejuvenate the raala. The water treatment shall also be done in the exceeded area of the Chopra gadhera including hydrological analysis or KRD Petrographical analysis.
- II. **Soil improvement:**
 - a) **Top soil application** – To create the fertile layer of the top soil to support plant growth.
 - b) **Mulching-** To retain moisture and to control the surface erosion.
- III. **Vegetative measures**
Plantation- Planting of grass, shrubs and native tree species within and around the site.
- IV. **Bioengineering Measures:** To construct the series of check dams based on slopes within and adjacent to the site area to avoid any leaching of minerals/pollutants.

- V. **Maintenance and Monitoring-** After carrying out the above-mentioned methodology, it was directed to maintain and monitor the site to ensure the proper implementation of the adopted measures.

Expected Outcomes

- i. To stabilise muck dumping slopes with reduced erosion.
- ii. Restoration of vegetation and improvement in soil fertility.
- iii. To enhance the landscape aesthetics and biodiversity of the area.
- iv. To achieve the long-term slope stability and to reduce the downstream sedimentation rate.

Review/Conclusion

The User Agency (RVNL) was directed to prepare and submit a tentative Restoration/Reclamation Plan for the muck dumping site by 10.11.2025 to the Regional Office, Dehradun. The plan shall comprehensively incorporate the following aspects:

1. **Adoption of Recommended Measures and Parameters:**

The plan must detail all restoration and reclamation measures as discussed and recommended by the Committee, including slope stabilization, drainage management, soil improvement, vegetative and bioengineering interventions, and long-term monitoring mechanisms.

2. **Timeline for Implementation:**

A clear **phase-wise implementation schedule** should be provided, indicating specific timelines for each activity—such as muck removal, slope reshaping, structural works, soil enrichment, and plantation—so as to ensure completion of all activities within the stipulated period.

3. **Component-wise Details:**

The plan should distinctly outline various components of restoration, such as site preparation, engineering interventions, soil improvement measures, plantation activities, maintenance, and monitoring. Each component shall be supported by technical specifications, proposed methodology, and responsible implementing agency.

4. **Financial Outlay:**

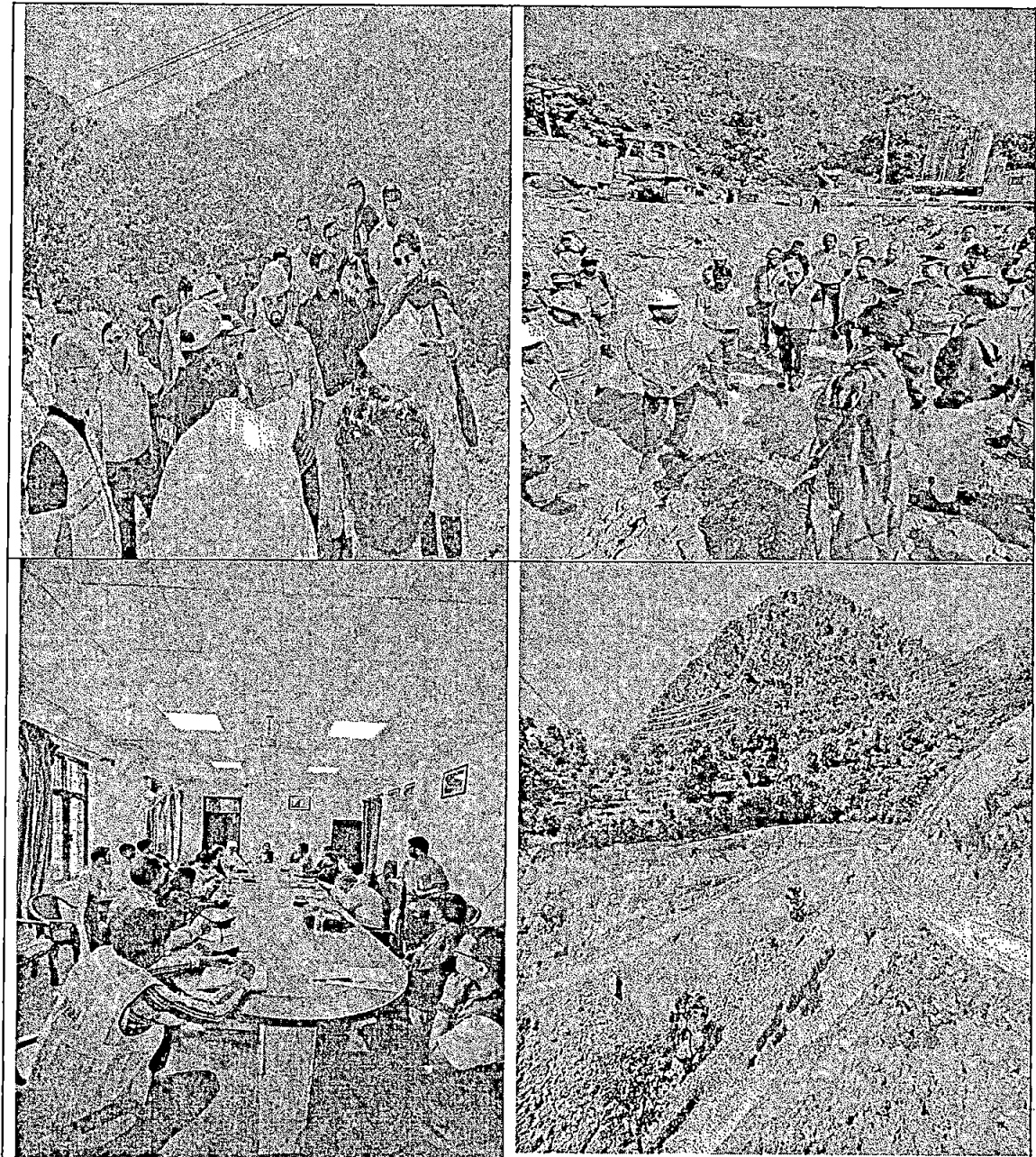
A detailed **cost estimate** for each component of the restoration plan shall be included, covering material, labor, maintenance, and monitoring costs. The financial outlay should be realistic, justifiable, and in accordance with standard norms for ecological restoration works in hilly terrain.

5. **Monitoring and Reporting Framework:**

The plan should propose a monitoring and evaluation framework, including measurable indicators of progress, responsible officers, frequency of field inspections, and mechanism for submission of periodic progress reports.

It was further decided that a Review meeting shall be convened on 14.11.2025 at the Regional Office, Dehradun, to examine the submitted Restoration/Reclamation Plan in detail. During the meeting, the Committee will assess the adequacy, feasibility, and scientific soundness of the proposed measures and, if required, suggest necessary modifications or improvements before final implementation.

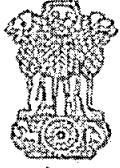
The photographs of the Inspecting site:



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Smt. Neelima Shah (IFS)
Assistant Inspector General of Forest (C),
Regional Office, Dehradun,
MoEF&CC, Gol.



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय /
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, देहरादून /
Regional Office, Dehradun



25 सुभाष रोड, देहरादून-248001/ 25 SUBHASH ROAD, DEHRADUN-248001

दूरभाष/ PHONE-0135-2650809, ई-मेल/ E-mail-moef.ddn@gov.in

फाइल संख्या: NGT/05/2024/

दिनांक: As per E-sign

**Minutes of Meeting of the Committee of Experts dated 14.11.2025
held at conference room of MoEF&CC, Regional Office, 25,
Subhash Road, Dehradun in compliance of the Hon'ble NGT's order
dt. 30.05.2025 passed in OA No. 44/2024**

1. As per the directions issued under para 17 (v) of the order dated 30.05.2025, the Respondent No. 1 (RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun) vide order dated 11.06.2025 has constituted a Committee of Experts comprising of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun, Representative of DM, Rudraprayag, Representative of UKPCB, Representative of Director, FRI, Dehradun, Conservator of Forest (CF), Garhwal and DFO, Rudraprayag.
2. In response thereof, ADM, Rudraprayag vide letter dated 12.06.2025 has nominated SDM, Rudraprayag and Deputy Director, Mining Rudraprayag as a member of Committee of Experts. The Member Secretary, UKPCB vide its letter dated 19.06.2025 has nominated Regional Officer, UKPCB, Dehradun as a member of Committee of Experts and vide e-mail dated 02.07.2025, the FRI, Dehradun has nominated Dr. Parmanand Kumar, Scientist-E as a member of Committee of Experts.
3. To deliberate the matter, a meeting of above committee was held on 07.07.2025 at MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Dehradun. The RVNL was requested to follow the direction of NGT dated- 30.05.2025. The Committee emphasized the need for restoration of Chopra Gadera, directing RVNL to submit a muck disposal plan and conduct geological and hydrological assessments through WIHG and NIH. One expert from each institute will be co-opted, and a joint site visit had to be undertaken shortly.
4. So, in compliance to the above, joint site inspection was done on 13.10.2025 and on the basis of it the user agency was directed to submit/present the tentative Restoration/Reclamation plan consisting of measures/parameters, timeline, component and financial outlay. In this regard, a review meeting was proposed to be scheduled on 14.11.2025 in RO, Dehradun.
5. A review meeting was convened on 14.11.2025 at the Regional Office, Dehradun, in compliance with the directions issued, following the joint site inspection

conducted on 13.10. 2025, The meeting was attended by the following officials and representatives:

Sl.No.	Name	Designation
2.	Smt. Neelima Shah, IFS	Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun.
4.	Shri Akash Verma, IFS	CF, Garhwal circle (<i>Through VC</i>)
6.	Shri Rajat Suman, IFS	DFO, Rudraprayag Forest Division
8.	Shri Diwakar Pant	ACF, Rudraprayag Forest Division
10.	Dr. M. K. Sharma	Scientist 'F', NIH, Roorkee
12.	Dr. K. Luirei	Scientist 'F', WIHG, Dehradun
14.	Dr. Parmanand Kumar	Scientist 'E', FRI, Dehradun
16.	Shri Amit Pokhriyal	Regional Officer, UKPCB, Dehradun (<i>Through VC</i>)
18.	Shri Vijay Dangwal	AGM, RVNL
20.	Shri M. K. Bahukhandi	Forest Consultant, RVNL
22.	Representative of RVNL.	

At the outset, Mrs. Neelima Shah, AIGF, welcomed all members of the Committee of Experts and DFO, Rudraprayag, other Forest officials and the officers from RVNL present in the meeting. Subsequently, the directions issued under Para No. 17 of the Hon'ble NGT's order dated 30.05.2025 were taken up for discussion with the Committee of Experts.

1. During the meeting, RVNL was requested to present the tentative Reclamation/Eco-restoration Plan. RVNL presented a brief mitigation and reclamation proposal for the Jawadi dumping site at Chopra Naala, which included tentative cost estimates, proposed check dams, ANR works, plantation as ASW activities at different patches, and maps with GPS coordinates. However, after reviewing the plan, the Committee of Experts

expressed dissatisfaction, noting that several issues identified during the joint site inspection dated 13.10.2025 had not been addressed in the submitted plan.

2. The Committee emphasized the need for preliminary site preparation through appropriate engineering interventions. These include contour mapping, followed by the construction of gabion structures, toe walls, and/or retaining walls to stabilize the slope based on the site's elevation and gradient. RVNL was also asked to present detailed gradient and elevation calculations to define the slope angle of the dumping site after complete removal of muck. RVNL agreed to conduct a detailed slope assessment of the area.
3. The Committee of Experts advised RVNL to incorporate proven vegetative restoration techniques after site preparation, particularly hydroseeding and geo-jute application, as part of the ecological restoration strategy.
4. Further, CF, Garhwal Circle, highlighted that the plan submitted by RVNL lacked essential baseline data of the site, which is critical for designing an effective reclamation strategy.
5. The Committee recommended that a detailed baseline data which reflects characterization of the site to be carried out at the initial stage. Further, the treatment plan should be designed elevation-wise, incorporating necessary drainage interventions and aligning with natural ecological succession processes.
6. It was proposed that an expert from a reputed institution such as the Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Kaulagarh Road, Dehradun—having specialization in soil conservation—may be co-opted into the Expert Committee to support both preparation and execution of a scientifically robust Restoration Plan.
7. The meeting concluded with a decision that the next meeting will be convened on 28 November 2025, during which RVNL shall present a comprehensive and detailed restoration plan, along with complete baseline data of the site.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Digitally signed by
Neelima Shah
Date: 18-11-2025
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(नीलिमा शाह, भा०व०से०)
सहायक महानिरीक्षक वन (केन्द्रीय)

वितरण:

- i. प्रमुख सचिव (वन) उत्तराखण्ड शासन, सुभाष रोड, देहरादून।
- ii. प्रमुख वन संरक्षक एवं नोडल अधिकारी, वनसंरक्षण, इन्दिरानगर फारेस्ट कालोनी, उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून।

Meeting of Committee of Expert in compliance of the Hon'ble NGT's
Order dt. 30.05.2025 passed in OA No. 44/2024 at
MoEF&CC, REGIONAL OFFICE, DEHRADUN
on 14th November, 2025

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ATTENDANCE SHEET

S.No.	Name	Designation	Contact No. & Mail ID	Signature
1.	Smt. Neelima Shah, IFS	AIGF(C), MoEF&CC, RO, Dehradun		ML
2.	Akash Verma, IFS	CF, Garhwal		Through - VC -
3.	Rajat Suman	DFO	2017091720	
4.	Dr. Divaker Pant	A.C.F.	8006904438	
5.	Vijay Dangwal	AGM/RUNL	9812026908	v. of
6.	M.K. Balakaurti	Forest Consultant RUNL	9458192289	
7.	Rupesh Pokhriyal	Dy. Sgs/RUNL	8868907798	
8.	Dr. Parmanand Kumar	Scientist - E	7579210296	
9.	Dr. M.K. Sharma	Scientist F	9927221049	
10.	DR. K. LUIREI	Scientist F WIHG, Dehradun	9412054244	
11.	Shri. Amit Pokhriyal	Regional officer, UK PCB		Through - VC -
12.				

S.No.	Name	Designation	Contact No. & Mail ID	Signature
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Chopra Naala

Comprehensive Restoration Plan

Jawadi Dumping Site, Rudraprayag Forest Division

● GPS: 30°16'21.88" N, 78°57'1.82" E

Area: 0.8511 hectares

Submitted for Ministry Approval

1. Executive Summary
2. Background & Need for Restoration
3. Project Location & Site Details
4. Integrated Restoration Strategy
5. Technical Specifications & Design Details
6. Detailed Restoration Plan of Dump Yard
7. Implementation Timeline - 12 Months
8. Mitigation Plan by Forest Department
9. Existing Site Condition & Photographs
10. Cost Estimates & Financial Details
11. Investment & Budget Allocation
12. Key Technical Innovations
13. Risk Assessment & Mitigation
14. Monitoring & Success Indicators
15. Environmental Benefits
16. Stakeholder Coordination
19. Conclusion & Approval Request
20. Annexures (Maps, Drawings, Estimates)

Executive Summary

- **Problem:** Dumping site at Jawadi has caused environmental degradation, slope instability, and stream channel erosion in Chopra Naala (tributary)
- **Solution:** Integrated mechanical and biological restoration combining gabion walls, check dams, box culverts, and native plantation
- **Investment:** ₹1.55 crore with phased 12-month implementation
- **Impact:** Stabilized slopes, restored water quality, restored biodiversity, prevented further erosion
- **Stakeholders:** RVNL/MEIL (infrastructure), DFO Rudraprayag (biological restoration), Ministry approval

Project Location & Scope

Primary Dumping Site

- Location: Jawadi, Rudraprayag
- Area: 0.8511 hectares
- Coordinates: 30°16'21.88" N, 78°57'1.82" E
- Affected Stream: Chopra Naala

Mitigation Areas (DFO)

- Ratanpur-S.No.2: 5 hectares
- Ratanpur-S.No.3B: 6 hectares
- Total intervention: 11 hectares
- Check dam structures planned

Integrated approach across upper and lower watershed zones for comprehensive restoration

Integrated Restoration Approach



Mechanical Works

- Gabion walls for slope stabilization
- Box culvert for water management
- Check dams (gabion & RR)
- Backfill for slope easing



Biological Works

- Native species plantation
- Miyawaki accelerated method
- 2-year maintenance period
- Soil enrichment & fertilizers



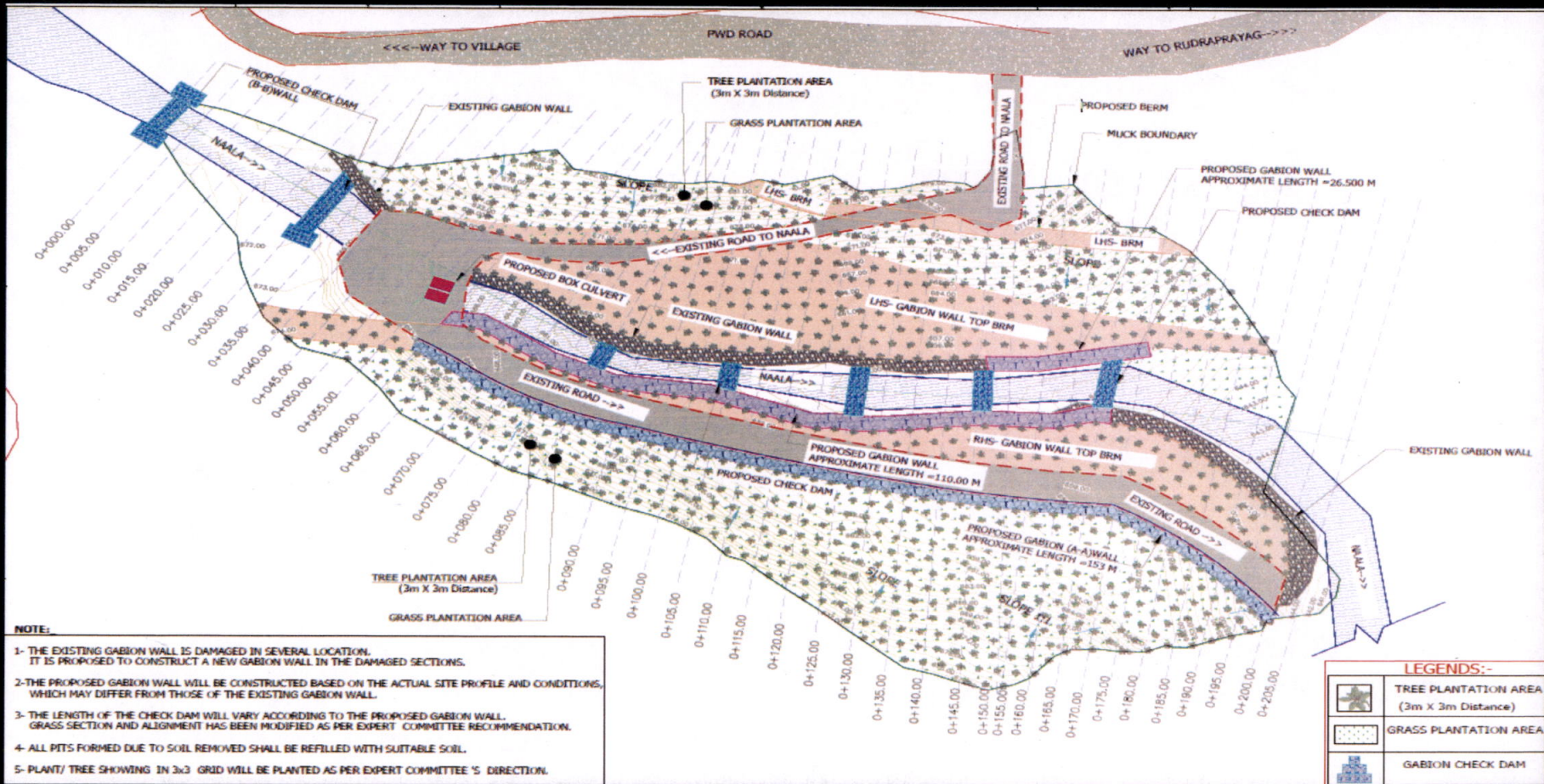
Hydrological Works

- Stream channel stabilization
- Water conservation ponds
- Erosion control measures
- Sediment management

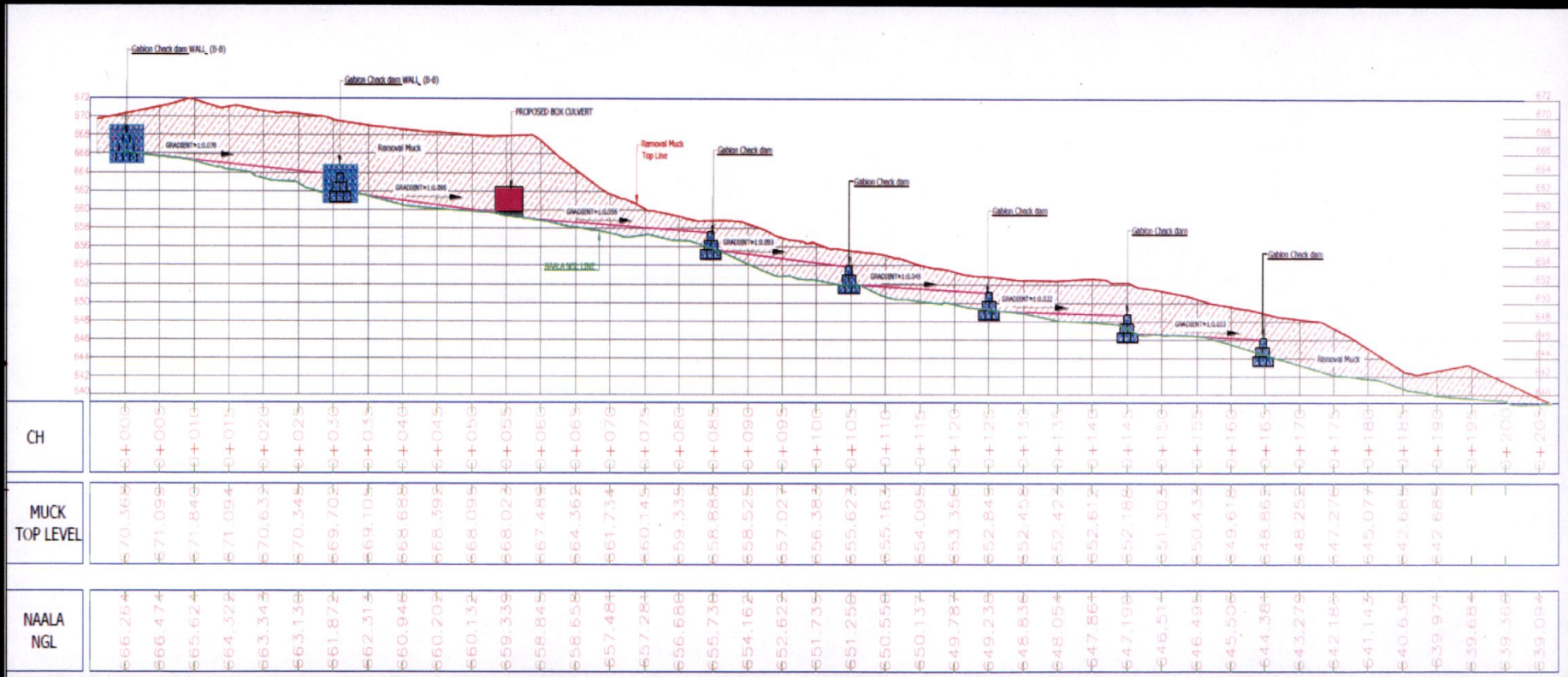
Technical Specifications - Key Components

Component	Quantity	Specifications
Gabion Check Dam Wall (B-B)	252 cum	Rock-filled gabion baskets for slope stability
Gabion Check Dams	228 cum	Stream channel structures with drainage
Proposed Gabion Wall	459 cum	Additional stabilization works
Box Culvert (PCC)	3.76 cum	Portland cement concrete base
Miyawaki Plantation	1 unit	Dense native plantation over 2 years
Check Dams (Various)	20 nos.	Gabion & RR construction at mitigation zones

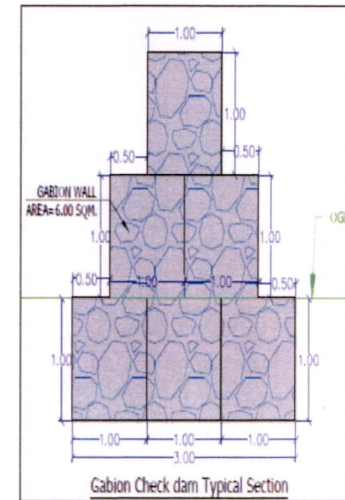
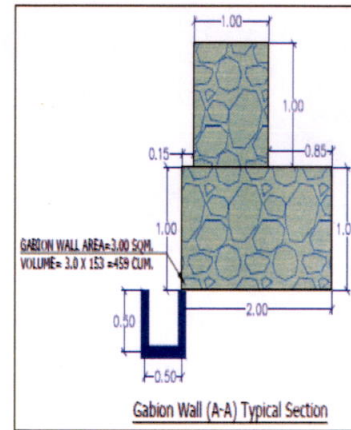
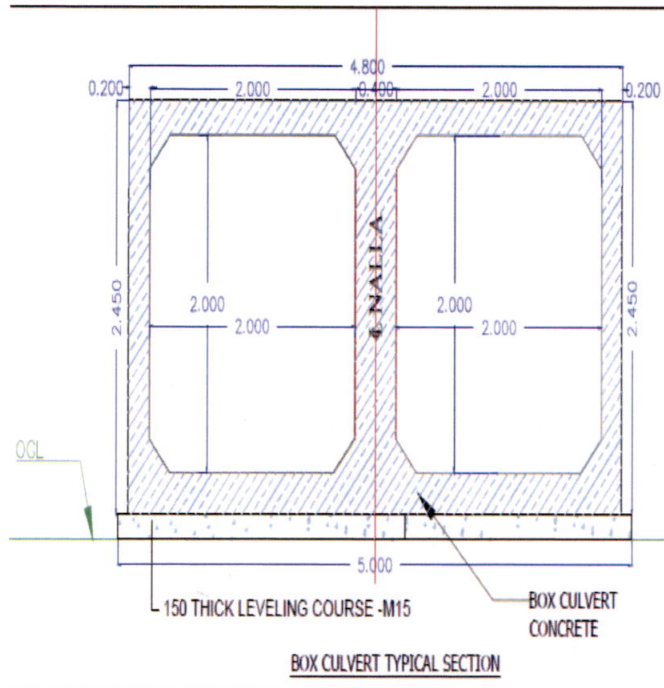
Detailed Restoration Plan of Dump Yard



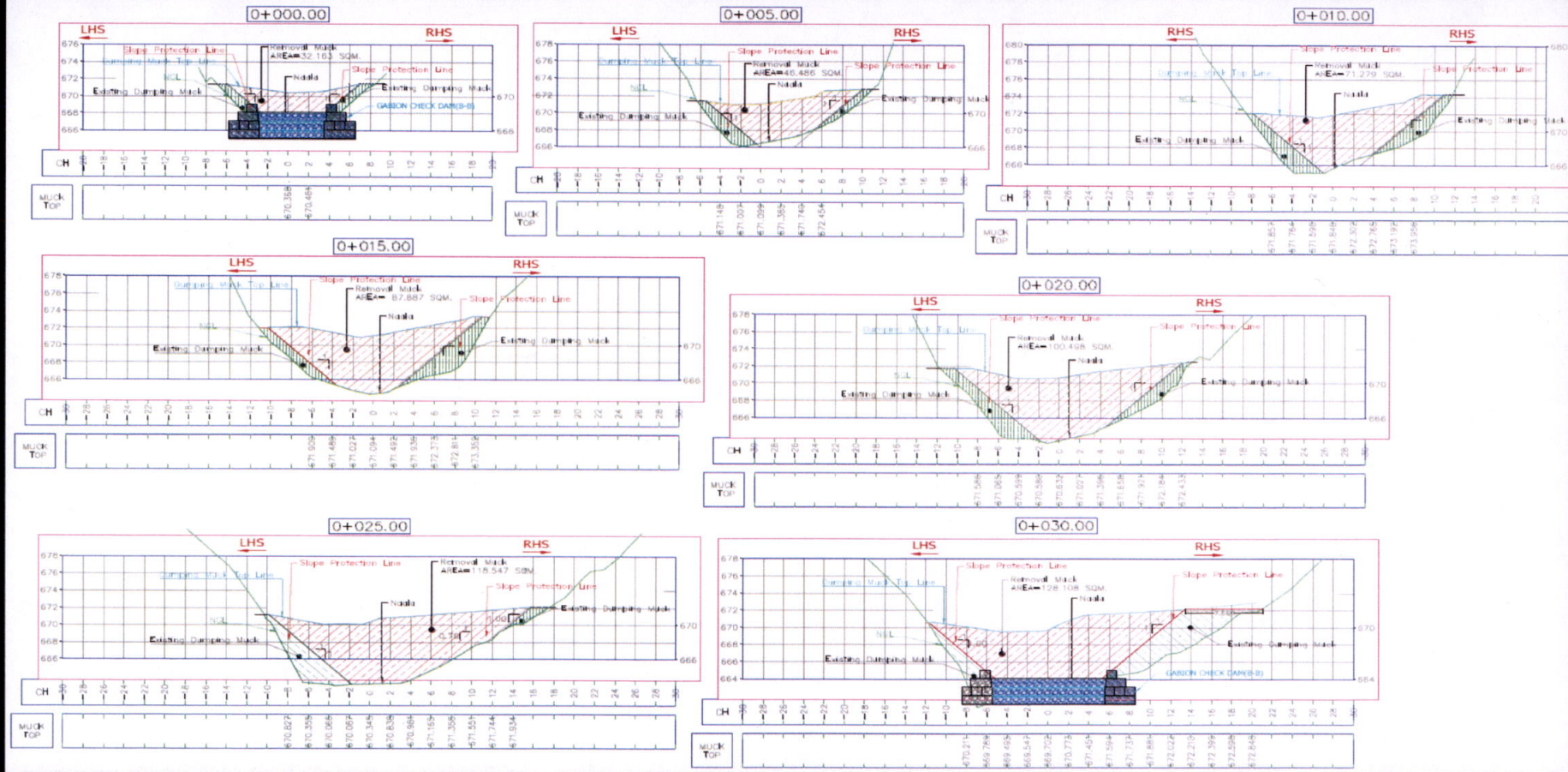
JAWARI NAALA PROPOSED CHECK DAM L-SECTION

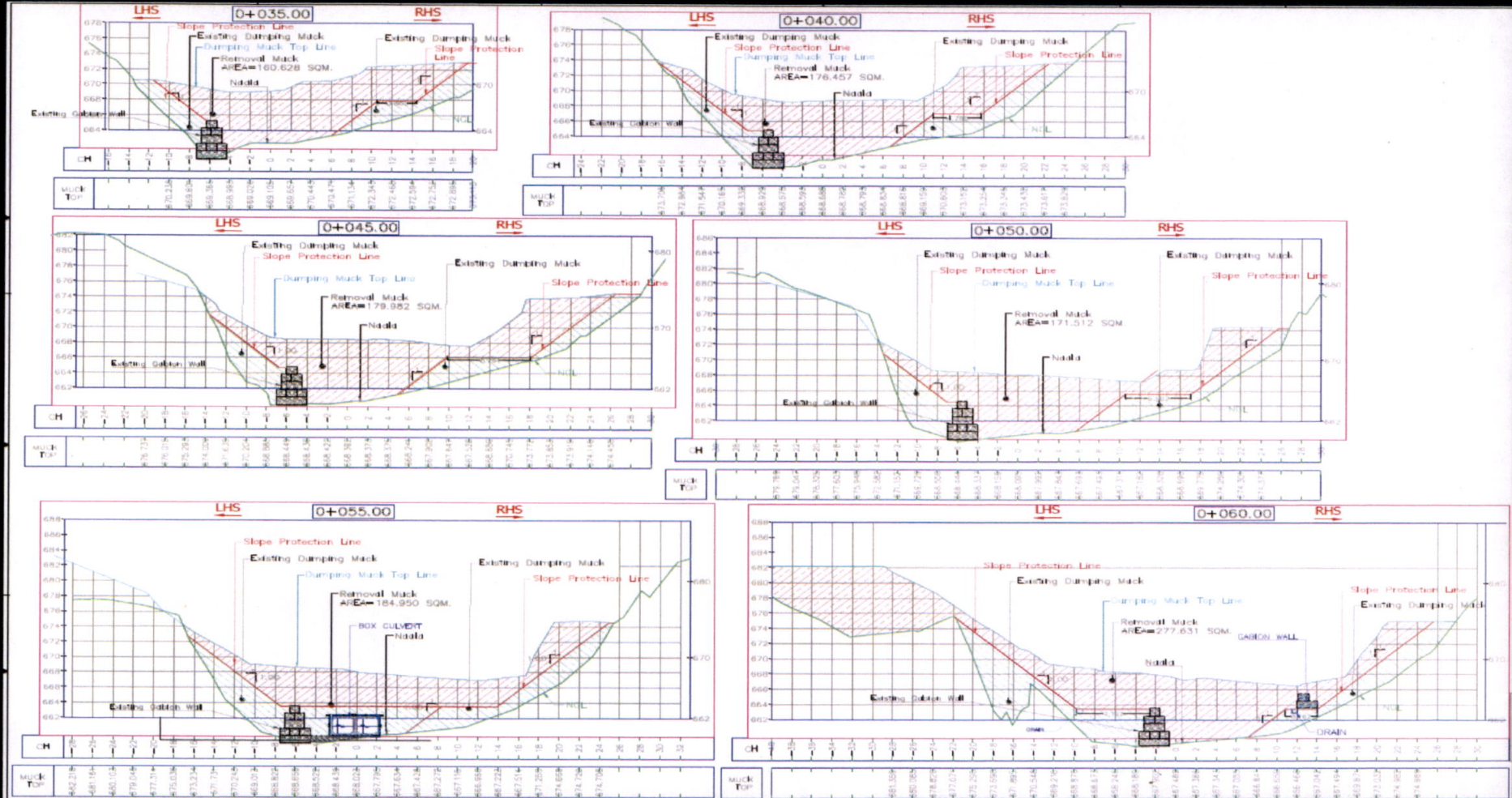


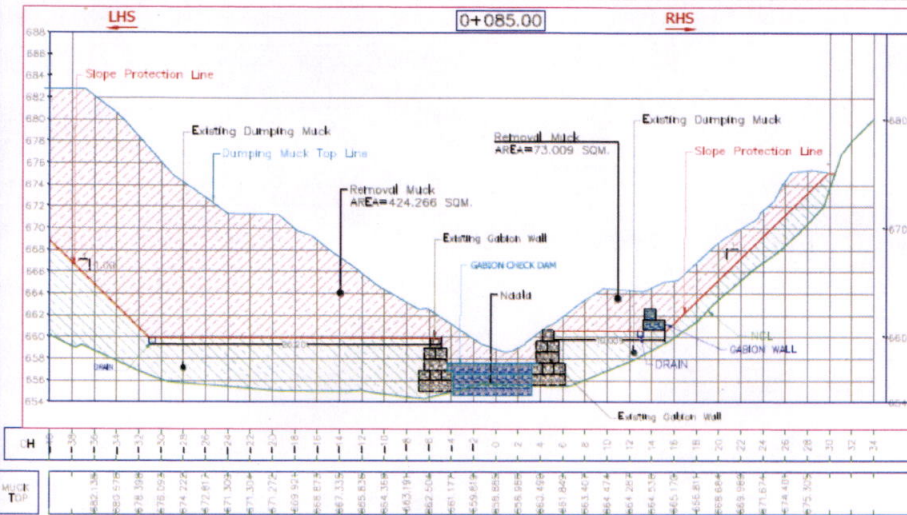
Details of Box Culvert and Check Dam Gabion

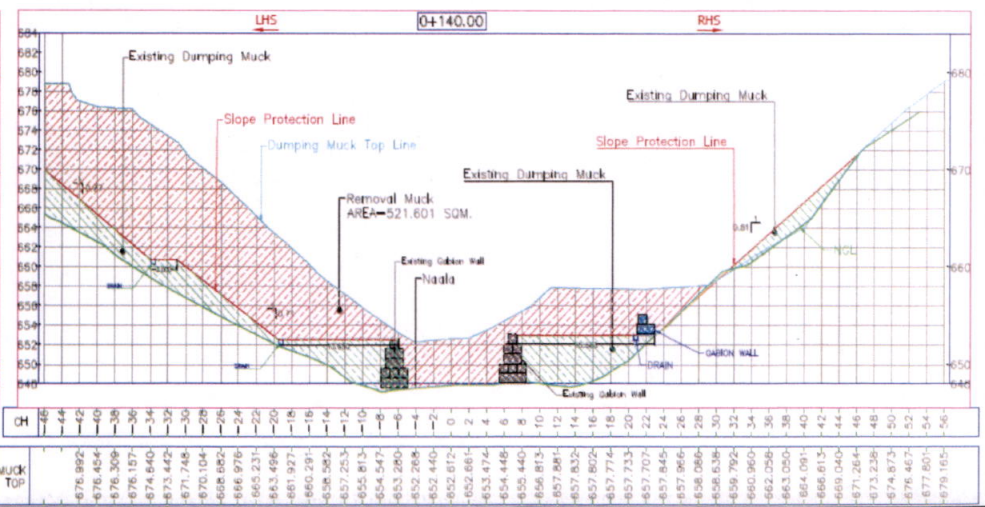
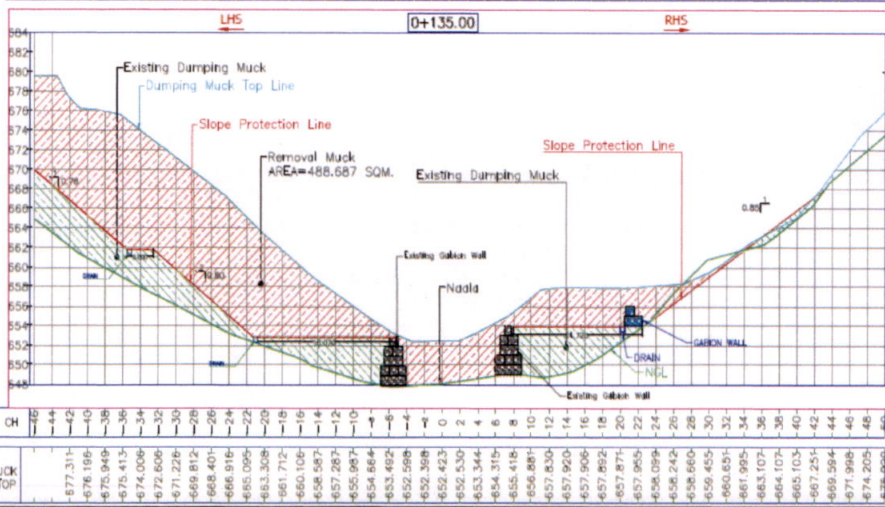
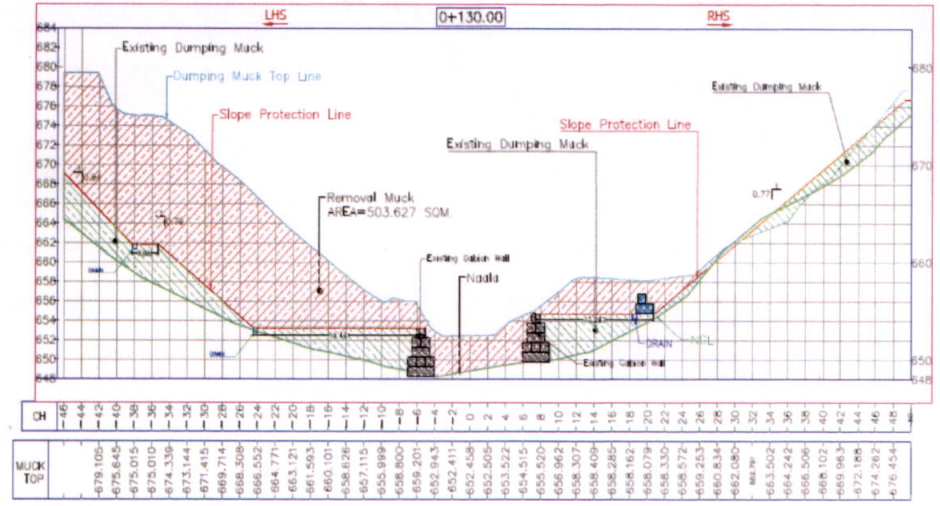
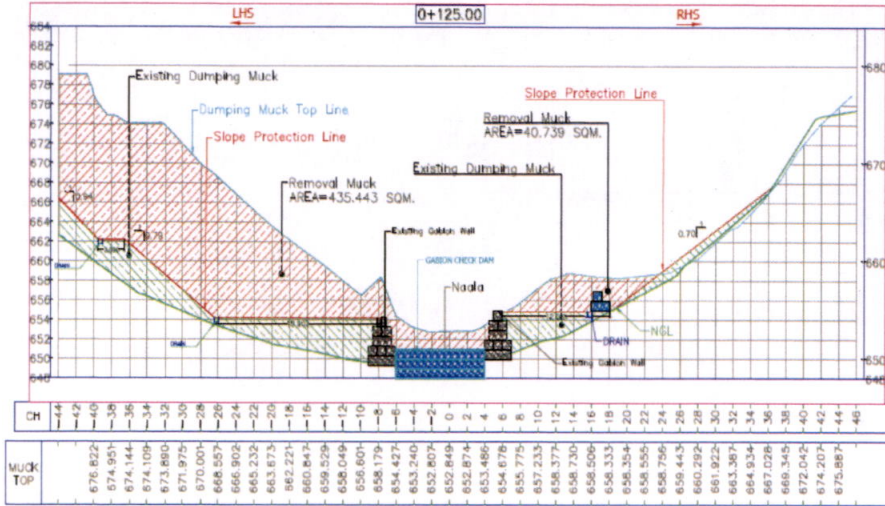


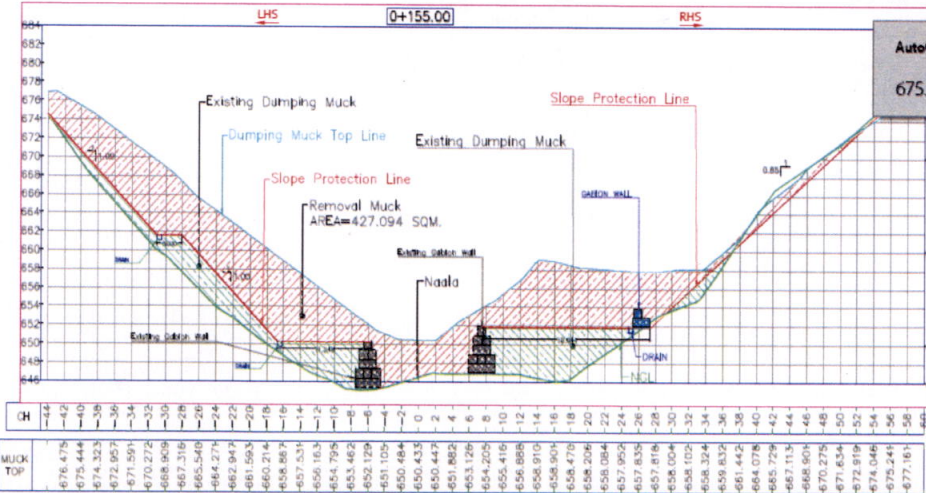
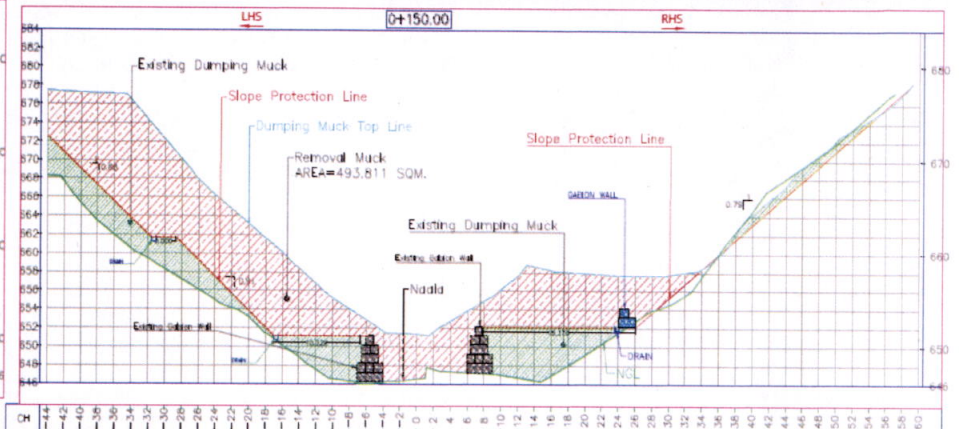
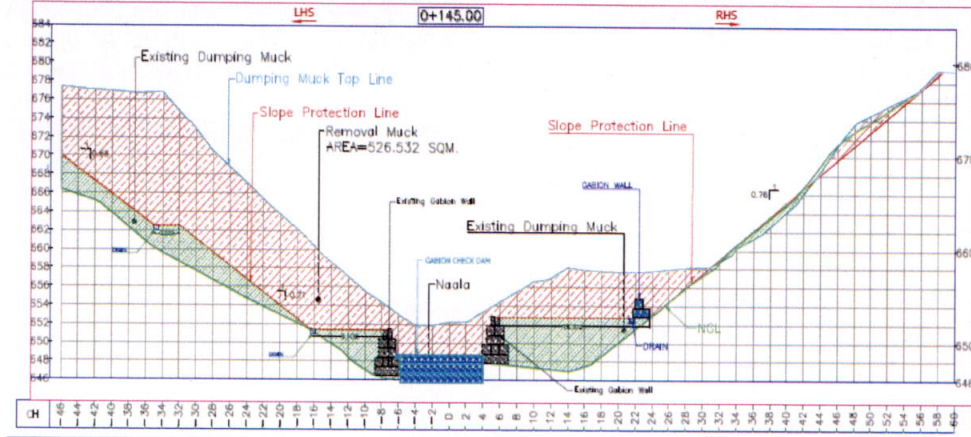
Chainage wise Section



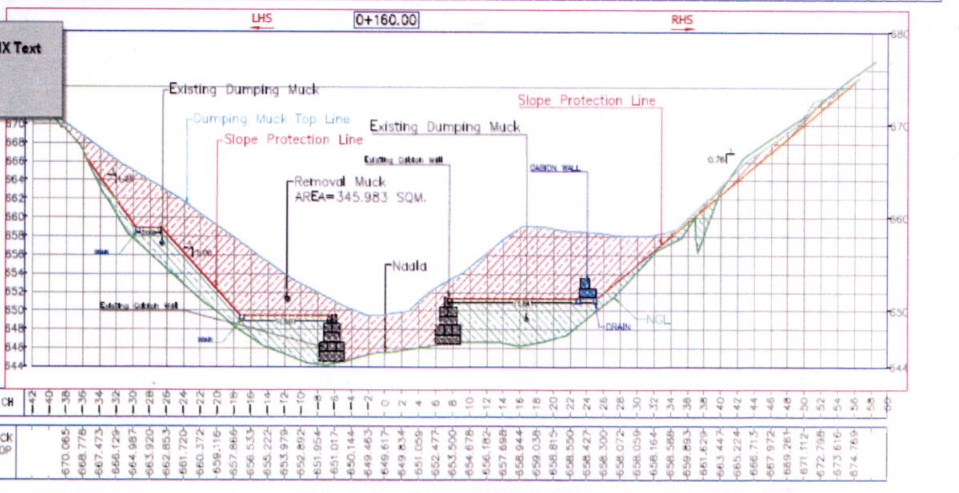




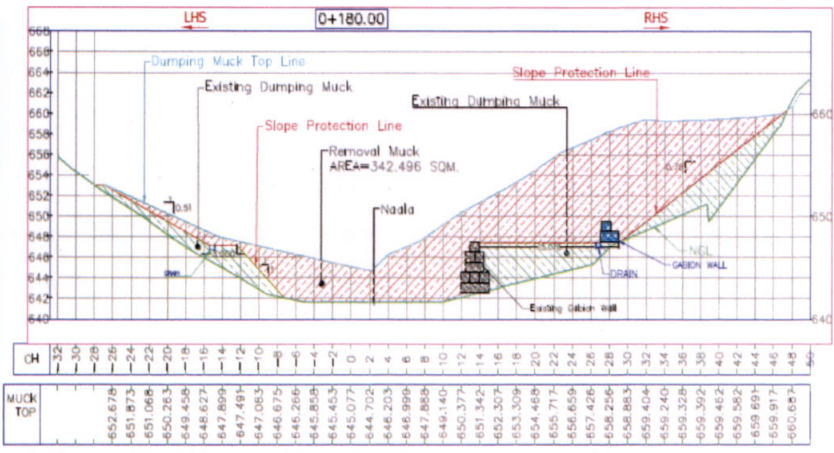
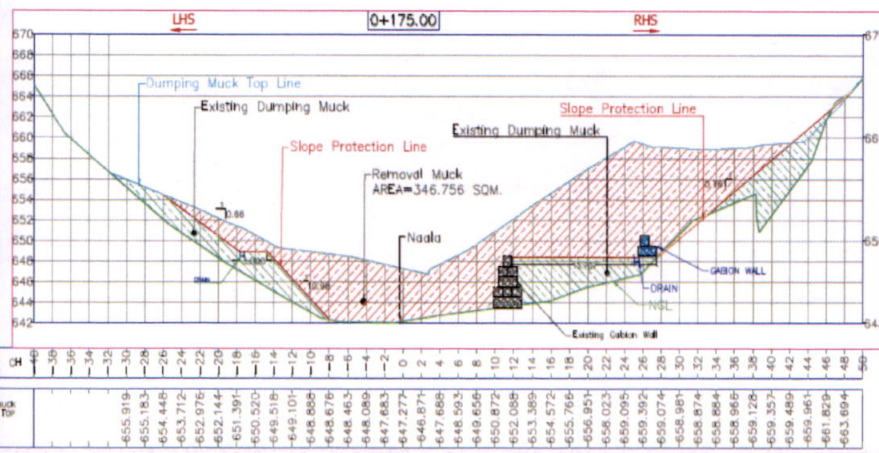
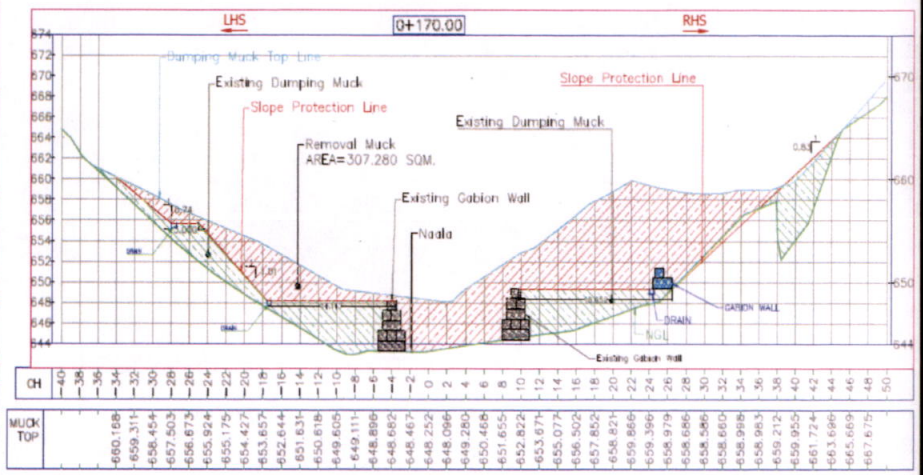
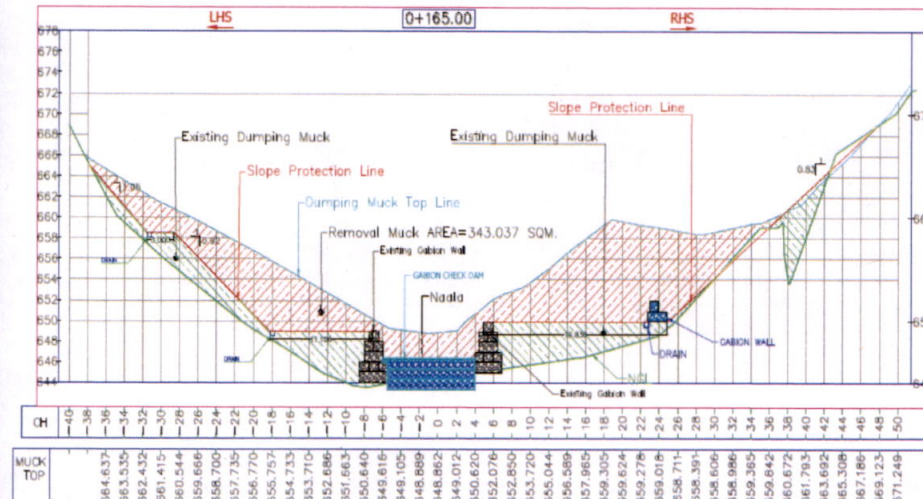




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Implementation Timeline - 12 Months

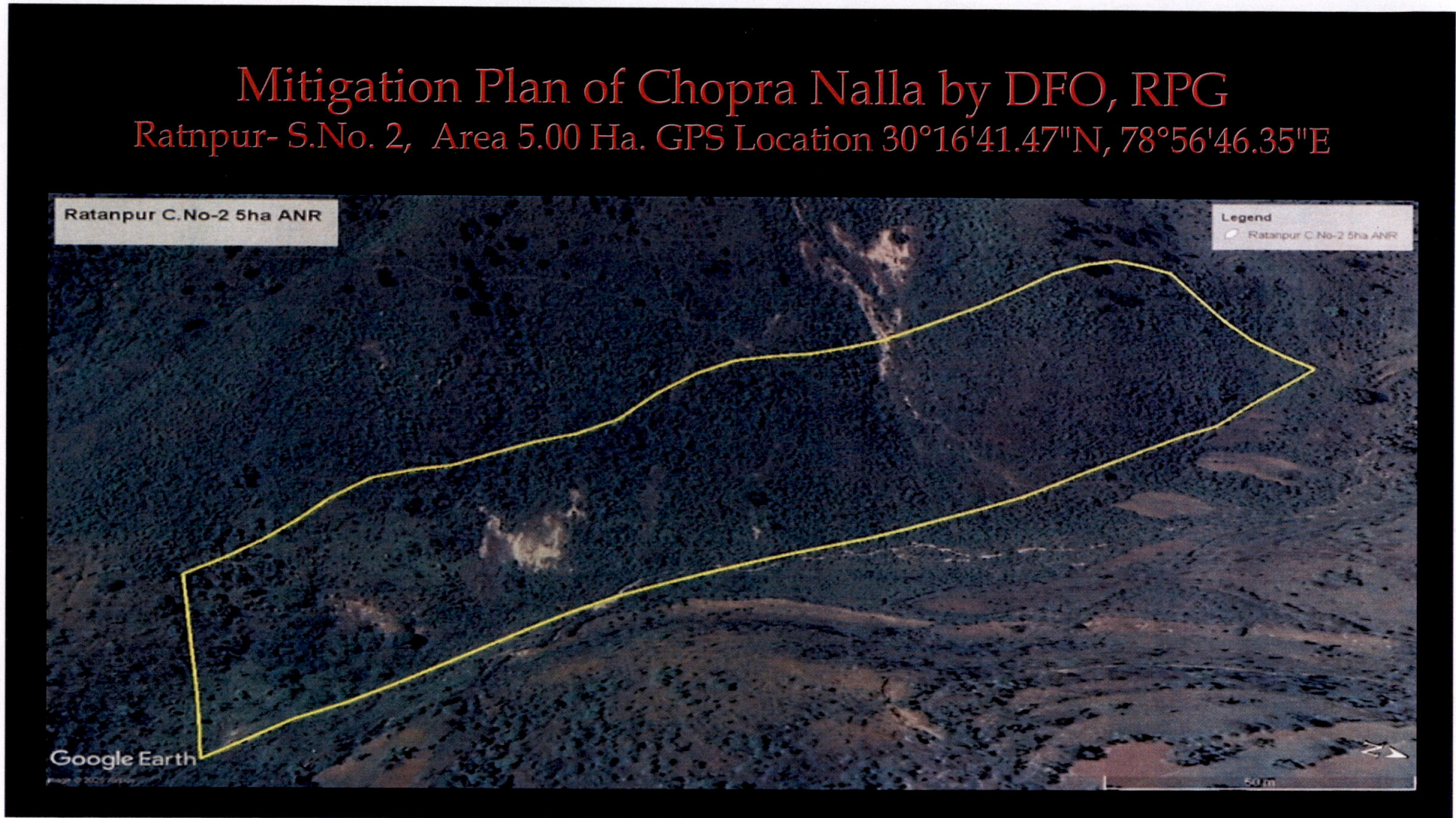
- 1 Pre-Construction Planning (2 weeks) • Mar 2026**
Surveys, detailed designs, environmental clearances
- 2 Mobilization & Site Setup (2 weeks) • Mar-Apr 2026**
Equipment, labor, material procurement
- 3 Main Construction Works (4 months) • Apr-Aug 2026**
Gabions, culverts, check dams, backfill, stabilization
- 4 Restoration & Plantation (3 months) • Aug-Nov 2026**
Miyawaki plantation, soil preparation, fertilization
- 5 Monitoring & Maintenance (Ongoing) • Nov 2026 - Feb 2027**
Plant survival tracking, maintenance, performance assessment

1667

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Mitigation Plan of Chopra Nalla by DFO, RPG

Ratnpur- S.No. 2, Area 5.00 Ha. GPS Location 30°16'41.47"N, 78°56'46.35"E



1668

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Ratanpur-S.No. 3B, Area: 6.00 Ha., GPS Location 30°17'38.87"N,
78°56'29.84"E





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1673

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Dump Yard Before Removal Of Muck



1674



Present Position of Dump Yard

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Estimate of Comprehensive and Detailed Restoration plan proposed by RVNL.

Sr.No	Description	Unit	Qty.	Rate	Amount(Rs.)
1	Gabion Check Dam Wall(B-B)	cum	252	3925.7	9,89,276
2	Check Dam	cum	228	3925.7	8,95,060
3	Proposed gabion wall	cum	459	3925.7	18,01,896
4	Box Culvert PCC	cum	3.76	8363	31,445
5	Box Culvert Concrete	cum	19.60	11410	2,23,636
6	Wing Wall Concrete	cum	4.26	11410	48,607
7	Steel including wing wall	MT	2.71	87951.33	2,38,700
8	Additional Gabion Wall at DEGREE COLLEGE	cum	1266.33	3925.7	49,71,232
9	Plantation in two years with Miyawaki method along with maintenance	EACH	1.00	1286522	12,86,522
Total Amount					1,04,86,373

Estimation of Mitigation Plan of Chopra Nalla by DFO, RPG

Sr.No	Area Name	Description of Work	Qty. (nos./ Ha.)	Amount
1	Ratanpur -Sr.No.02	Preliminary earthwork activities	5.00 Ha.	2421865.09
2	Ratanpur -Sr.No.03B	A.N.R. work	6.00 Ha.	1184185.02
3	Ratanpur -Sr.No.2, 3B	Gabion check dam	10 Nos.	500000
4	Ratanpur -Sr.No. 2, 3B	R.R. Checkdam	10 Nos.	625000
5	Ratanpur -Sr.No. 2, 3B	Plugging work	10 Nos.	125000
6	Ratanpur -Sr.No. 2, 3B	Construction of water conservation pits/ponds	10 Nos.	200000
Total				50,56,050.11

S.No.	Description of Work	Amount
1.	Estimate of Comprehensive and Detailed Restoration plan proposed by RVNL	1,04,86,373.00
2.	Estimation of Mitigation Plan of Chopra Nalla by DFO, RPG	50,56,050.00
Grand Total		1,55,42,423.00

Tentative Investment & Budget Allocation

RVNL - Main Works

Gabion Works	₹37.68 Cr
Culvert & Steel	₹3.04 Cr
Plantation	₹12.28 Cr
RVNL Subtotal	₹53.00 Cr

DFO - Mitigation Works

Earthwork & ANR	₹36.06 Cr
Check Dams (20)	₹10.75 Cr
Water Ponds	₹2.00 Cr
DFO Subtotal	₹50.56 Cr

₹ Grand Total Tentative Investment: ₹1,55,42,423 (1.55 Crore)

Key Technical Innovations

Miyawaki Method

Accelerated afforestation technique that achieves 30 years of growth in 3 years through dense planting and intensive management—ideal for rapid ecosystem recovery.

Gabion Technology

Locally sourced rock-filled wire baskets providing flexible, permeable slope stabilization that works with natural hydrology rather than against it.

Check Dam System

Network of 20 strategically placed structures reducing water velocity, promoting infiltration, and preventing downstream erosion across 11-hectare intervention zone.

Risk Assessment & Mitigation Strategy

Risk Factor	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measure
Monsoon/Heavy Rainfall	Slope failure, foundation erosion	✓Strengthened drainage, phased construction
Material/Labor Shortage	Project delays, cost overruns	✓Pre-procurement, local hiring
Environmental Monitoring Gap	Inability to track restoration	✓Regular baseline & outcome surveys

Post-Project Maintenance Plan

Year 1: Establishment

- Monthly plant health checks
- Irrigation management
- Weed control
- Soil stabilization monitoring

Year 2-3: Management

- Quarterly monitoring
- Plant replacement
- Pruning & thinning
- Pest/disease management

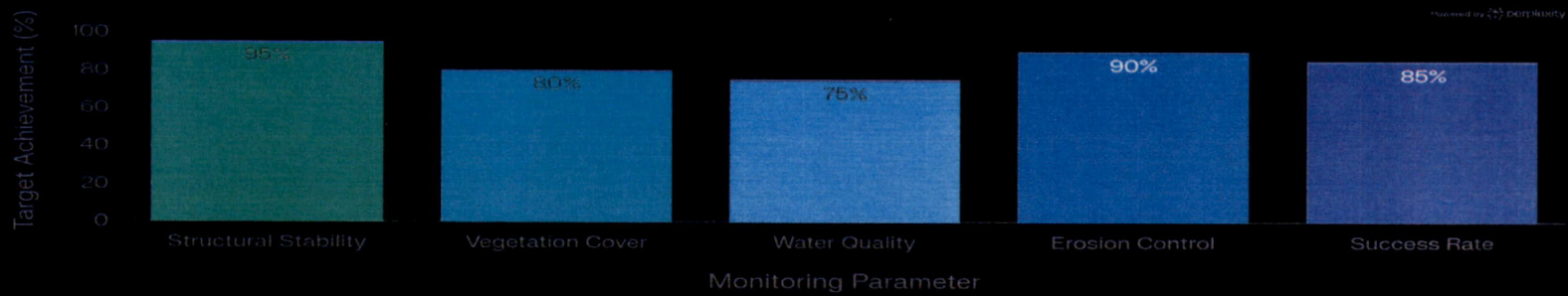
Long-term Stewardship

- Annual structural audits
- Water quality testing
- Community engagement
- Continuous improvement

Responsibility: DFO Rudraprayag (primary), RVNL (structural), Community (local stewardship)

Post-Project Success Metrics (2-3 Years)

Post-Project Success Metrics & Targets



95%

Structural Stability

80%

Vegetation Cover

75%

Water Quality Improvement

90%

Erosion Control

85%

Overall Project Success Rate

Monitored through quarterly surveys, field assessments, water quality testing, and vegetation surveys

Expected Environmental Benefits

Erosion Control

- 95% slope stabilization
- Reduced sediment load
- Stream channel protection
- Long-term sustainability

Biodiversity Restoration

- 80% vegetation cover in 2 years
- Native species establishment
- Wildlife habitat recovery
- Forest ecosystem restoration

Water Quality

- 75% water quality improvement
- Reduced pollution index
- Groundwater recharge
- Sustainable water availability

Stakeholder Coordination & Governance

Ministry of Environment & Forest

Policy oversight, environmental compliance, final approval

DFO Rudraprayag

Biological restoration, plantation management, long-term monitoring & maintenance

RVNL/MEIL (Implementing Agency)

Technical design, gabion works, culvert construction, project management

Approval Request

Submission Status

- ✓ Comprehensive technical plan prepared
- ✓ Budget finalized: ₹1.55 crore
- ✓ Environmental impact assessment completed
- ✓ Stakeholder coordination framework established
- ✓ Implementation timeline finalized
- ✓ Maintenance & monitoring plan outlined

 Ready for Ministry Approval

1686

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Thank You

Chopra Naala Restoration Initiative

Project Location:

Jawadi, Rudraprayag Forest Division, Uttarakhand

Coordinating Agencies:

RVNL • DFO Rudraprayag • Ministry of Environment & Forest

📍 GPS: 30°16'21.88" N, 78°57'1.82" E

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सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय /
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, देहरादून /
Regional Office, Dehradun



25 सुभाष रोड, देहरादून-248001/ 25 SUBHASH ROAD, DEHRADUN-248001
दूरभाष/PHONE-0135-2650809, ई-मेल/ E-mail-moef.ddn@gov.in

फाइल संख्या: NGT/05/2024/

दिनांक: As per E-sign

Minutes of Meeting of the Committee of Experts dated 23.02.2026 held at conference room of MoEF&CC, Regional Office, 25, Subhash Road, Dehradun in compliance of the Hon'ble NGT's order dt. 30.05.2025 passed in OA No. 44/2024

1. As per the directions issued under para 17 (v) of the order dated 30.05.2025, the Respondent No. 1 (RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun) vide order dated 11.06.2025 has constituted a Committee of Experts comprising of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, RO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun, Representative of DM, Rudraprayag, Representative of UKPCB, Representative of Director, FRI, Dehradun, Conservator of Forest (CF) Garhwaland DFO, Rudraprayag.
2. In response thereof, ADM, Rudraprayag vide letter dated 12.06.2025 has nominated SDM, Rudraprayag and Deputy Director, Mining Rudraprayag as a member of Committee of Experts. The Member Secretary, UKPCB vide its letter dated 19.06.2025 has nominated Regional Officer, UKPCB, Dehradun as a member of Committee of Experts and vide e-mail dated 02.07.2025, the FRI, Dehradun has nominated Dr. Parmanand Kumar, Scientist-E as a member of Committee of Experts.
3. To deliberate the matter, a meeting of above committee was held on 07.07.2025 at MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Dehradun. The RVNL was requested to follow the direction of NGT dated- 30.05.2025. The Committee emphasized the need for restoration of Chopra Gadera, directing RVNL to submit a muck disposal plan and conduct geological and hydrological assessments through WIHG and NIH. One expert from each institute will be co-opted, and a joint site visit had to be undertaken shortly.
4. So, in compliance to the above, joint site inspection was done on 13.10.2025 and on the basis of it the user agency was directed to submit/present the tentative Restoration/Reclamation plan consisting of measures/parameters, timeline, component and financial outlay. In this regard, a review meeting was proposed to be scheduled on 14.11.2025 in RO, Dehradun.
5. Afterwards, a review meeting was held on 14.11.2025 at the Regional Office, Dehradun. The meeting concluded with a decision that an expert from a reputed institution such as the Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Dehradun having specialization in soil conservation may be co-opted into the Expert Committee to support both preparation and execution of a scientifically robust Restoration Plan.

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Additionally, it was directed that RVNL shall present a comprehensive and detailed restoration plan, along with complete baseline data of the site in the next review meeting.

6. Afterwards, in compliance to the above the Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Dehradun vide letter dt. 28.11.2025 has nominated Dr. D. V. Singh, Principal Scientist (Head) as a member of Committee of Experts. It was also decided that the DPR would be based on a detailed site inspection and field assessment. This would include an analysis of the current condition of the site, the level of degradation, and associated environmental risks; scientifically designed remedial measures in accordance with the site's topography and ecology; a phased implementation timeline; and a comprehensive financial estimate of all proposed interventions. It was further decided that in the upcoming meeting, RVNL would present the progress of site inspection, ground truthing, and compliance.
7. In the meantime, the final order in the matter was passed on 18.12.2025, stipulating that until the muck is completely removed and the restoration plan is fully implemented, a status report shall be submitted to the Hon'ble NGT on a quarterly basis.
8. In this regard, a review meeting was convened on 23.02.2026 at the Regional Office, Dehradun, to present the comprehensive and detailed restoration plan along with the complete baseline data and the DPR. The meeting was attended by the following officials and representatives:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Smt. Neelima Shah, IFS	Assistant Inspector General of Forests; Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun.
2.	Shri Rajat Suman, IFS	DFO, Rudraprayag Forest Division (Through VC)
3.	Dr. D. V. Singh	Principal Scientist (Head), IISWC, Kaulagarh, Dehradun
4.	Dr. M. K. Sharma	Scientist 'F', NIH, Roorkee
5.	Dr. K. Liurie	Scientist 'F', WIHG, Dehradun
7.	Dr. Parmanand Kumar	Scientist 'E', FRI, Dehradun
8.	Shri Harish Goswami	Regional Officer, UKPCB, Dehradun
9.	Shri Vijay Dangwal	AGM, RVNL
10.	Shri M. K. Bahukhandi	Forest Consultant, RVNL
11.	Representatives of RVNL	

At the outset, Mrs. Neelima Shah, AIGF, welcomed all the members of the Committee of Experts, the DFO, Rudraprayag, and the representatives from RVNL present at the meeting. Thereafter, the directions issued under Para No. 17 of the Hon'ble NGT's

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order dated 30.05.2025, along with the final order dated 18.12.2025 passed by the Hon'ble NGT, were taken up for discussion with the Committee of Experts.

1. During the meeting, RVNL delivered a presentation on the Comprehensive Restoration Plan, which included the integrated restoration approach, technical specifications and key components, the detailed restoration plan for the dump yard, proposed check dams and gabion layouts, and the implementation timeline.

In the same session, the DFO also presented and incorporated the mitigation plan for Chopra Nalla in the upper adjoining forest area pertaining to Ratanpur S. No.-2 and S. No.-3B, along with the proposed check dams. Thereafter, the physio-geological and biological measures proposed by RVNL and the DFO, Rudraprayag, were presented.

The tentative financial outlay was also showcased, amounting to approximately ₹1,55,42,423.00, which comprises the estimated cost of the Comprehensive and Detailed Restoration Plan proposed by RVNL as well as the estimated cost of the Mitigation Plan of Chopra Nalla proposed by the DFO, Rudraprayag.

After the culmination of the entire presentation, the Committee of Experts raised concerns on a few points, which are as follows:

- i. During the meeting, the Committee of expert desired to know the Status of the proposal (FP/UK/RAIL/148808/2021, Existing site). In this connection It was noted that the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, had pointed out certain shortcomings vide their letter dated 16.08.2024, to which RVNL has not yet submitted the reply. The Committee of Experts therefore directed RVNL to ensure the submission of the response at the earliest, so that the process of the Forest land diversion involving forest land of 0.8511 ha may be given well in time. **[Compliance by RVNL].**
- ii. The Committee members also raised a query regarding the status of muck clearance, specifically whether it has been fully removed or not. In this regard, RVNL submitted that the muck has not been completely cleared, as the route remained closed for 20 days due to a landslide. They further added that it would take approximately another one month to clear the entire muck from the dumping zone. Upon this, the members of the Expert Committee suggested to remove the muck by the end of March, 2026. and the restoration work shall be executed from April 2026 onward. Accordingly, timeline shall indicate in the DPR report. **[Compliance by RVNL]**
- iii. The Committee of Experts also observed shortcomings in the layout of the restoration plan, noting that it lacked details of morphological features of the watershed which should include the details of first order and second order of the catchment area and complete pan picture of watershed shall be illustrated and included in the final DPR. **[Compliance by RVNL & DFO, Rudraprayag]**
- iv. The committee of experts recommended conducting a site inspection, forest scientists/experts nominated by IISWC to assess the suitability of the biological measures as proposed in the Restoration plan in consultation with DFO, Rudraprayag. **[Compliance by IISWC & DFO, Rudraprayag]**

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- v. RVNL also sought clarification and directions regarding the revenue already submitted to the Mining Department whether it should be utilized for the restoration/rejuvenation of Chopra Gadhera or treated solely as a penalty. In this context, the committee of experts referred to Para 79 (IV) of the final order of the Hon'ble NGT dated 18.12.2025, which states:

"The penalty amount of Rs. 2,03,96,111/- deposited may not be treated as revenue generated and may be utilized for restoration/rejuvenation of Chopra Gadhera of Village Jawari and remediation of the environmental damage caused."

Accordingly, RVNL was advised to consult the State Secretary (Mining Department) regarding the funds for the execution of restoration/rejuvenation works at Chopra Gadhera/Nalla. Further, The Department of Geology and Mining shall take the necessary actions as per the directions referred in Para 79 (IV) of the final order of the Hon'ble NGT dated 18.12.2025. [Compliance by RVNL and Mining Department]

After thorough discussion and review of the presentation by RVNL and the DFO, Rudraprayag, it was directed that RVNL shall submit the DPR report by 10.03.2026, following the site visit.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Digitally signed by
Neelima Shah
Date: 25-02-2026
16:16:08

(नीलिमा शाह, भा०व०से०)
सहायक महानिरीक्षक वन (केन्द्रीय)

वितरण:

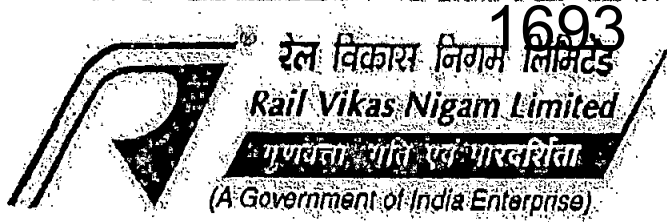
1. प्रमुख सचिव (वन) उत्तराखण्ड शासन, सुभाष रोड, देहरादून।
2. प्रमुख वन संरक्षक एवं नोडल अधिकारी, वन संरक्षण, इन्दिरानगर फारेस्ट कालोनी, उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून।

Meeting of the Committee of Experts at the Conference Hall of
MoEF&CC, Regional Office, 25, Subhash Road, Dehradun in
compliance of the Hon'ble NGT's order dt. 30.05.2025 passed in OA
No. 44/2024 on dated 23rd February, 2026

ATTENDANCE SHEET

S.No.	Name	Designation & Contact No.	Mail ID	Signature
1.	Smt. Neelima Shah, IFS	AIGF(C), MoEF&CC, RO, Dehradun		<u>NL</u>
2.	DR.K. LUIREI	SCIENTIST F WADIA INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN AND GEOLOGY, DEHRADUN 9412054249	ashish_luirei @wadia.res.in	<u>[Signature]</u>
3.	Dr. Parmanand Kumar	Scientist - E Forest Ecology, FRE, Dehradun	parmanand.k@ gov.in.	<u>[Signature]</u>
4.	ADARSH SHARMA	Dy Mgs (Civil) RVNL	Sharmaadarsh41 @gmail.com	<u>[Signature]</u>
5.	Shiv Shukla	AGM - civil/gwr	s'kumaros0175@ gwr	<u>com</u>
6.	S. S. Chauhan	Asst. Scientific Officer UKPZB	chauhanupbes @gmail.com	<u>[Signature]</u>
7.	Birendra Kumar Singh	Dy. Dir./S.M.O Dept. of Geology & Mining RPG.	Singhdgm72@ gmail.com	<u>[Signature]</u>
8.	Sohan Singh Saini	SDM (RPG)	SohanSinghPS @gmail.com	<u>[Signature]</u> 23.02.26
9.	Rupesh Kulkarni	R.V.N.L./Dy Mgs/gwr	rupeshkulkarni@ gmail.com	<u>[Signature]</u>
10.	M.K. Bahukhandi PFS (RPG)	Forest Consultant RVNL	mkbahukhandi @gmail.com	<u>[Signature]</u>
11.	Vijay Dandekar	AGM/RVNL	vnrksh1@ gmail.com	<u>[Signature]</u>
12.	Dr D. V. Singh	Head, IISWC D.D.N	dv5-1com@ yashoo.co.in	<u>[Signature]</u>

S.No.	Name	Designation & Contact No.	Mail ID	Signature
13.	Dr. M. K. Sharma	Scientist F NIH Rohtak 9927221049	rooks.m.k.s @govin	<u>None</u>
14.	Shri. Rajat J. Suman	DFO, Rudrapur		Through Vc
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ANNEXURE-7

मुख्य परियोजना प्रबंधक कार्यालय
(रिश्किश-कर्णप्रयाग नई रेल लाईन परियोजना)
Office of Chief Project Manager
(Rishikesh-Karanprayag New BG Rail Line Project)
RVNL Office Building, Opp. GST Bhevari, Next to GMVN, Shivampur
Bypass Road, Rishikesh - 249201
Email: rvnlrshk1@gmail.com, Tel: +91-135-2432008

No. RVNL/RKSH/COCA/1/2021/CIVIL/RKSH/1903

Dated: 16.03.2026

Assistant Inspector General of Forest,
Regional Office, MoEF&CC
Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

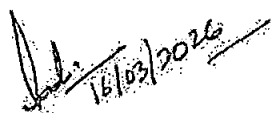
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Subject: Request for Extension of time of submission of Comprehensive restoration plan along with Base Line data and the DPR of Chopera Gadhera.

Mam;

A meeting under your chairmanship was conducted in R.O. office MoEF&CC Dehradun on 23.02.2026 wherein, the direction was given to RVNL to submit the DPR of Chopera Gadhera restoration by 10.03.2026. RVNL has prepared the engineering & drawing related works and submitted those to the DFO, Rudrparayag and IISWC to include forestry related works which will take 10-15 days.

You are kindly requested to extend the date of DPR submission till 30.03.2026.


Chief Project Manager
RVNL/RKSH