

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No.252 of 2024**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on
The news item " 99000 trees in Sandur forest
face axe" appearing in Deccan Herald,
dated 17.06.2024.

... .. Applicant

---Versus---

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Karnataka
and 4 others

..... Respondents

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Dated at Chennai on this the 21st day of January, 2025.


Counsel for Respondent-2

IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHERN
ZONE),

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 252 OF 2024
(Earlier O.A.793/2024 (PB))

IN THE MATTER OF:

Suo Moto matter in respect of news item appearing in Deccan Herald dated
17.06.2024 titled "99,000 trees in Sandur forest to face axe"

Vs.

PCCF, Karnataka and Ors.

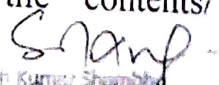
.... Respondents

Counter Affidavit on Behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate
Change (Respondent No.2)

IT IS MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

I, M. K Shambhu, S/o Vaijanath Shambhu, aged about 49 years, working as Deputy
Inspector General of Forest (Central), at Regional Office, Bangalore of the
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change ('MoEFCC', for short), do
hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

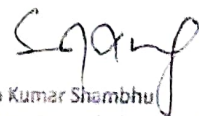
1. That I am holding the post of Deputy Inspector General of Forest (Central)
in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office,
Bengaluru. I have made myself acquainted with the facts and circumstances
of this instant case and I have been duly authorized and empowered to make
and swear this affidavit for and on behalf of the Ministry of Environment,
Forest & Climate Change and I am competent to do so.
2. That, the deponent has been served with a copy of the said application in
which the deponent has perused and understood the contents/


Mahesh Kumar Shambhu
Deputy Inspector General of Forest (C)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Regional Office, Bangalore

allegations/averments/statements and/ or tenor thereof made in the application. At the outset, the deponent denies all averments, submissions; statements and allegations made therein except as may be specifically admitted herein after.


Statement of Facts:

3. It is humbly submitted that the 'land' is a subject matter of State Government. The forest areas and the legal boundaries thereof are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government. That, inter-alia, being the repository of land records, State Government has the primary responsibility to determine status of any parcel of land, giving due regards to gazette notifications, provisions under State and Central Acts and concerned judgments and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
4. It is submitted that prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is required for carrying out any non-forestry activity on forest land.
5. It is submitted that the Government of Karnataka vide their letter dated 09.10.2020 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road = 401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of M/s KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited), Bengaluru.



Mahesh Kumar Shambhu
Deputy Inspector General of Forest (C)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Regional Office, (Southern Zone),
Kandikya Sadan, Koramangala
Bengaluru-560034

6. In this regard, the answering Ministry vide letter dated 28/01/2021 requested its Regional Office, Bengaluru to conduct a site inspection of the proposed land for diversion. That as per the information provided by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) in Part-II and Site Inspection Report (SIR) by Regional Office (RO) dated 15.02.2021, enumeration of trees has been done by Sample Plot method (48 sample plots of 1 ha. each). There are total 99330 trees in different girth classes in the sampled area. The number of trees for revised extent will be proportionately less. About 80% of the trees are in the girth class of under 60 cm. (Copy of the SIR dated 15.02.2021 annexed as **Anexure-1**).
7. That, thereafter the said proposal was considered by Advisory Committee (AC) of the Ministry constituted under Section 3 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in its meeting dated 31.05.2021. After due deliberation, the Advisory Committee (AC) recommended the said proposal with certain conditions. That after careful consideration of the proposal of the State Govt. and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (AC), the answering Ministry vide its letter dated 24.6.2021 read with letter dated 29.09.2021 accorded Stage-I / In-principle approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road=401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of IWs KIOCL Ltd., Bengaluru with general and specific conditions.
8. That after receiving upon the satisfactory compliance report vis-à-vis Stage -I approval dated 24.06.2021 read with letter dated 29.09.2021, the answering respondent vide letter dated 16.12.2022 and letter dated

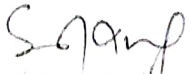

Anandh Kumar Sambhu
Deputy Inspector General of Forest (C)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Regional Office, (Southern Zone)

21.03.2023 accorded Stage-II approval for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road=401.5761 ha.). (Copy of the letters dated 24.06.2021, 29.09.2021 & 16.12.2022, 21.03.2022 annexed as Annexure-2/A/B/C/D).

9. It is submitted that above project for Devadari Iron Ore mine with a mine capacity of 2 MTPA Iron Ore (ROM) and 500 TPA Manganese Ore with 2 MTPA wet Beneficiation plant located at notified and reserved mining lease area of 401.5761 ha (388.0 ha for Mining & 13.5761 ha for conveyor, approach road, etc.) falling under Swamimalai Block Forest, Kumaraswami Reserve Forest Range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary district, Karnataka being operated by M/s KIOCL Limited was issued Environmental Clearance (EC) by the answering Ministry vide letter no. J-11015/28/2018-IA-II (M) dated 13.08.2021. (Copy of the EC dated 13.08.2021 is annexed as Annexure-3).

10. It is submitted that the project proponent has submitted an amendment to Environmental Clearance dated 13.08.2021 mentioned in the paragraph no. 6 of the Environmental Clearance (EC) (mining plan details) issued on 13.08.2021: "The Iron ore produced in the mine will be transported through Downhill Conveyor to the nearest railway siding at Ranjithpura Railway Station/BMM Railway Siding which is about 4 kms away from the proposed mine site". That the project proponent has requested for an amendment as an interim arrangement for the transportation of iron ore by road till installation of Downhill Conveyor System/ over a period of five (05) years, whichever is Earlier.

11. It is submitted that the amendment proposal was considered by the answering Ministry in 34th Expert Appraisal Committee dated 03rd and 04th


 S. Ganesh
 Joint Project Director General of Forests
 Government of Karnataka
 Forests & Wildlife Department
 Bellary Office, Bellary Zone
 Bellary, Karnataka
 Karnataka-576101

October, 2024 and the same was recommended. That after the recommendation of Expert Appraisal Committee (NCM) and after approval from the Competent Authority an amended Environmental Clearance dated 09.12.2024 has been issued to the project. **(Copy of the amended EC dated 09.12.2024 is annexed as Annexure-4)**

12. It is submitted that the proposals for diversion of forest land recommended by the State Government are considered under the provisions of the Adhinyam on case-to-case basis, meticulously scrutinizing the requirement of forest land and its impact on the flora and fauna of the area. The approval for use of bare minimum forest land is accorded in case it is unavoidable, and it is done after taking abundant precautions with necessary mitigative measures which include the land for compensatory afforestation, payment of Net Present Value (NPV), cost for raising compensatory afforestation, soil conservation plan and wildlife management plan, if required and various other measures.
13. It is respectfully submitted that this answering Ministry without prejudice reserves its right to file additional information till pendent-lite, if so required.
14. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above-mentioned facts, the replying Respondents humbly pray that the Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to pass such order as deemed fit in the interest of the justice.


DEPONENT

Shyam Kumar Shambhu
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (C)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Regional Office, (Southern Zone),
Bhadrige Sadan, Koramangala,
Bangalore-560034

VERIFICATION

I, the above-named Deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of the above counter affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge as per the records of the answering respondents. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Bengaluru on this 10th day of January 2025.

S. Anp.
DEPONENT

S. Anand Shambhu
Inspector General of Forest (C)
Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Regional Office, (Southern Zone),
K. S. S. Sadar, Koramangala
(Bengaluru-560034)

PROFORMA FOR SITE INSPECTION

The project site was inspected on 09.02.2021 along with CCF Ballari, DCF Ballari and the representatives of the User agency i.e KIOCL.

	Title of the Project:	Diversion of 484.0733 ha. of (including 470.40 ha. for Mining Lease and the remaining for ancillary purposes like Conveyor Corridor, Transmission Lines, Service Roads outside Mining Lease, etc.,) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of M/s. KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.), Bengaluru. (The State Government has stated that the User Agency shall revise the proposal to 401.5761 ha forest land (instead of 484.0733 ha))
1.	Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:	Section – 4 Notified area.
3.	Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:	No. Along with Mining Lease the proposed area for diversion includes allied structures like conveyor corridor, transmission lines, service roads etc.
4.	Total cost of the project at present rates:	Rs.78750 lakhs as per the project proponent
5.	Wildlife:	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, etc. The proposed land is not located within Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of any Protected Area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. DCF has reported that wild animals found in the area include Leopard, Sloth bear, Four-horned antelope, Jackal, Hare, Wild Pig, Indian Porcupine, Indian Pangolin, Monitor lizard, Star tortoise, Peafowl, etc.
6.	Vegetation:	Enumeration of trees has been done by Sample Plot method (48 sample plots of 1 ha. each). There are totally 99330 trees in different girth classes in

		<p>the sampled area.</p> <p>The number of trees for revised extent of will be proportionately less. About 80% of the trees are in the girth class of under 60 cm.</p> <p>Major tree species include <i>Anogeissus latifolia</i>, <i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i>, <i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>, <i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i>, <i>Langerstromea paviflora</i>, <i>Grewia tiliaefolia</i>, <i>Boswellia serrate</i>, <i>Madhuca latifolia</i>, <i>Acacia catechu</i>, <i>Azadirachta indica</i>, <i>Albizia lebbeck</i>, <i>Cassia fistula</i>, <i>Vetara indica</i>, etc.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Background note on the proposal:</p>	<p>KIOCL Limited is a GOI undertaking established in the year 1976. The Government of Karnataka has reserved an area of 470.40 ha in favour of M/s. KIOCL Ltd, for Iron and Manganese Ore in Devadari Range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District, Karnataka. The total lease area falls under forest land.</p> <p>The iron ore deposits are mostly found in the hill ranges, which form part of the forest land. The exploration conducted by GSI has proved resource of Hematite iron ore and Manganese ore in notified mining lease area.</p> <p>This project will supply iron ore requirement for KIOCL's Pellet Plant of capacity 3.5 MTPA and Iron & Manganese ore requirement for Blast Furnace Unit of capacity 2.16 lakhs TPA located at Mangalore.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Compensatory afforestation (CA):</p>	<p>DCF, Ballari has identified 968.1466 ha of degraded forest land in various Reserve Forests of Kudligi Range (439 ha) and Hadagali Range (530 ha.) of Ballari Division.</p> <p>The CA sites identified in various Reserve Forests of Kudligi Range totalling 439 ha. was visited along with DCF and CCF, Ballari on 9/2/2021. The patches of land identified are suitable for raising CA. However, since multiple patches have been identified in different Reserve Forests within a range, it is advisable that a larger area encompassing these identified patches should be</p>

		<p>protected and treated for better management as well as for preventing fragmentation of the Reserve Forest as the proposed CA areas are to be chain-linked/barbed wire fenced. For example, during the visit to Benakallu RF in Bopalpura Village in Kudligi Range, wherein, an area of 150.00 ha. was earmarked for CA. It was noticed that on the adjoining site another additional area of about 200 ha. was available and fit for CA, but was not considered by the officials. Taken together a total of 350 ha. in 2 patches on either side of the district road would have been an ideal compact block for CA plantations. It was also observed that while proposing small patches of forest land (25 ha.) for CA, major portions of available forest land, at some sites (Hirekeriyagahalli Village Survey No.141, Keriyanahalli Reserve Forest – 25 ha.) major patch of available forest land adjoining cultivation areas have not been included in the proposed CA plantation area. Hence it is proposed that the DCF, Ballari may revisit the proposed CA sites and suggest larger patches of forest areas for proposed CA so that it could be protected and treated for better management in future as well as prevent fragmentation of forest areas due to fencing of 17 different proposed CA sites.</p>
9.	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:	No violation noticed.
10.	Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:	No, as per State government records.
11.	Reclamation Plan:	

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	The UA has to do it as per the Progressive Mining Closure plan and R&R plan for the lease
12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:	<p>The topography is hilly and the rainfall received is between 750 to 1000mm. Due to hilly nature the rain water drains down as seasonal drainage.</p> <p>To arrest soil erosion and landslides which may result due to open cast nature of mining, adequate measures, both physical and vegetative structures, are required to be implemented as per the Environmental plan and reclamation plan.</p>
13. Cost benefit ratio:	1:142
14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:	<p>DCF, Ballari, CCF, Ballari Circle, APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA) and PCCF, Karnataka have not recommended the proposal in the larger interest of protection and bio-diversity value of the forest land, under FC Act, 1980, as allotment of fresh/virgin forest area for mining before expiry of all the broken up forest area (existing mines in the forest area) is not justifiable and thus can be avoidable.</p> <p><i>(Detailed reasons cited by DCF, CCF and PCCF-HoFF, Karnataka for not recommending the proposal are given in the Enclosure at Annexure I)</i></p> <p>State Government has recommended the proposal. The reason for State Government overruling the PCCF(HoFF)'s opinion and recommending the proposal are mentioned below:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "The KIOCL has agreed as a goodwill gesture to develop a forest corridor for easy movement of animals, particularly elephants, in the State of Karnataka. Accordingly, the Company has committed to spend Rs.50 crores over a period of 10 years to develop the corridor. This would be done by spending an amount of Rs.10 crores during the first year after execution of the Mining lease, followed by Rs.4-5 crores per annum in the next 9 years totaling Rs.50 crores.

		<p>2. The UA has also agreed to implement planting of saplings under the guidance of the Forest Department at the project site as well as the abandoned mining area.</p> <p>3. The Company will pay towards CA charges and NPV, etc applicable to Central PSUs.</p> <p>4. The company is a flagship CPSU steel producer in the State. It is for the first time that it has obtained a captive mine in the State. Further, it has plans to invest around Rs.3500 crores in the State and provide employment to 1500 persons. Such investment and employment would enhance the State GSDP and also provide revenues to the State.</p> <p>5. The UA has also stated that the proposed ML is already reserved for the Company by the Deptt. of Commerce and Industries (Mines) of Government of Karnataka vide Notification No.CI 294 MMM 2015, dated 23.01.2017 and has obtained mining plan approval from IBM on 08.03.2018 for production of 2 mtpa Iron Ore. The company is ready to exclude 82 hectares out of 484.0733 ha forest land. Hence the UA requires 388 ha for mining and 13.5761 ha for ancillary purposes (construction of downhill conveyor, approach road, etc.,). Thus, as per the requirement of UA, the proposed land extent will be revised to 401.5761 ha”.</p>
15.	<p>Recommendations of Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Bangalore along with detailed reasons:</p>	<p>i. The lease is on the hill of Swamimalai block forest as in the case of many leases in Sandur region of Ballari District. It is well wooded and has good stretch of forest – Eco-Class III Southern Dry Deciduous forests having 0.3 canopy density in the proposed area.</p> <p>ii. On the same hill an old C Category Mining Lease of 24.47 ha. exists i.e., M/s. Bharat Mines and Minerals which is now auctioned and allotted to M/s. Kirloskar Ferrous Industries and is recommended by DCF, CCF, PCCF and the State Government for its forest clearance.</p>

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iii. As per the Information provided by DCF, Ballari during the inspection the details of Mines and production capacity In Ballari Forest Division, Ballari as on 31.01.2021 is given as under :

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of Mines	Production Capacity (In MMT)
	A & B Category Mines		
1	Working Mines - A & B Category	24	18.806
2	Resumed - auctioned mines (Which are stopped on 31/03/2020)	03	1.192
3	To be resumed - A & B Category (Which are R & R approved)	32	14.380
4	To be resumed - which are R & R plan not approved	14	7.560
	Sub Total	73	41.938
	C Category Mines		
5	Working mines - Category -C mines	06	5.865
6	Category - C mines which are already auctioned, but yet to be resumed	06	1.698
7	Category - C Mines yet to be auctioned (0.54 MMT for each lease)	14	7.560
	Sub Total	26	15.123
	Grand Total	99	57.061

iv. During the visit, it was noted that the proposed land for diversion is situated in Section 4 notified area of Swamimalai Forest Block in Sandur Taluka, Ballari District and as per the information provided by DCF, Ballari, it was noticed that there

are 33 working mining leases in Ballari Forest Division as on 31/01/2021 spread over an area of 4115.14 ha. having an annual production capacity of 25.863 MMT.

v. The forest land 401.5761 ha. proposed for diversion is a fresh virgin forest area on a hilly terrain with steep slopes. Major tree species include *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Langerstromea paviflora*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Grewia tiliaefolia*, *Boswellia serrate*, *Madhuca latifolia*, *Acacia catechu*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Alibizzia lebbeck*, *Cassia fistula*, *Vetera indica* etc.

vi. Enumeration of trees has been done by sample plot method (48 sample plots of 1 ha. each). There are totally 99330 trees in different girth classes in the originally proposed forest area of 484.0733 ha. for diversion. The number of trees for the revised extent i.e., 401.5761 ha. will be proportionally less. About 80% of the trees are in the girth class of under 60 cms.

vii. Further the selected site is on a hill ridge with steep slopes on either sides with about 99330 trees which will have to be cut in stages, which if opened up would cause severe erosion of soil and its consequent negative effect locally and in the lands located below and far off. The user agency i.e., KIOCL has reduced the originally proposed forest area for diversion from 484.0733 ha. to 401.5761 ha. i.e., a reduction of 82.4972 ha. which is mostly located in the South Western, Western and North Western steep sloppy portions of the originally proposed 484.0733 ha. area in 5 different patches. The user agency may be advised to explore the possibility of further reduction of forest land requirement in sloppy areas with dense vegetation so that in future soil erosion and other related environmental issues can be avoided.

viii. Based on the perusal of the year-wise land use plan as told by the user agency i.e., KIOCL during the site visit, in the initial five years a total

16/2

of 118.48 ha. of forest area would be utilized involving a felling of a total of 21259 trees of which 17501 trees would be of girth size 0-60 cm and 3758 trees above 60 cm girth.

ix. During the inspection Wildlife movement was observed in the proposed site and community droppings of Four-horned antelope were noticed at various places. Major wildlife found in the area include Leopard, Sloth bear, Four horned antelope, Jackal, Hare, Wild boar, Indian porcupine etc. However, there are no other rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna reported in the area. Conservation Plan for wildlife needs to be prepared in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden. The said plan shall be implemented at the project cost for betterment of the adjoining wildlife habitat and reduction in Man-Animal conflict in the surrounding habitations.

x. DCF, Ballari has identified 968.1466 ha. of degraded forest land in 17 different locations in Reserve Forests of Kudligi Range (439 ha.) and Hadagali Range (530 ha.) of Ballari Division.

The CA sites identified in various Reserve Forests of Kudligi Range totalling 439 ha. was visited along with DCF and CCF, Ballari on 9/2/2021. The patches of land identified are suitable for raising CA. However, since multiple patches have been identified in different Reserve Forests within a range, it is advisable that a larger area encompassing these identified patches should be protected and treated for better management as well as for preventing fragmentation of the Reserve Forest as the proposed CA areas are to be chain-link/barbed wire fenced. For example, during the visit to Benakallu RF in Bopalpura Village in Kudligi Range, wherein, an area of 150.00 ha. was earmarked for CA, it was noticed that on the adjoining site another additional area of about 200 ha. was available and fit for CA, but was not considered by the officials. Taken together a total of 350 ha. in 2 patches on either side of the

		<p>district road would have been an ideal compact block for CA plantations. It was also observed that while proposing small patches of forest land (25 ha.) for CA, major portions of available forest land, at some sites (Hirekeriyagahalli Village Survey No.141, Keriyanahalli Reserve Forest - 25 ha.) major patch of available forest land adjoining cultivation areas have not been included in the proposed CA plantation area. Hence it is proposed that the DCF, Ballari may revisit the proposed CA sites and suggest larger patches of forest areas for proposed CA so that it could be protected and treated for better management in future as well as prevent fragmentation of forest areas due to fencing of 17 different proposed CA sites.</p> <p>xii. It is also to note that KIOCL is a subsidiary of Government of India (Ministry of Steel) and pursuant to stoppage of mining activity in Kudremukh from 1/1/2006, KIOCL does not have a mine of its own for captive usage in order to feed raw material to its pellet plant and blast furnace unit at Mangalore. Since there are already existing mining leases on the same hill which the Forest Department and Government have recommended, this proposed lease if it is reduced and restricted in area, will be less imposing and less destructive of the landscape.</p>
16.	Regional Officer, IRO shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:	Mining is a site specific activity.
17.	Utility of the Project:	As per the project proponents, revenue generation to District/State. Direct and indirect employment to the local population of the area. Overall economic development of the region. This project will supply iron ore requirement for the company owned pellet plant of capacity 3.5 MTPA and iron ore and manganese ore requirement for Blast furnace unit of capacity 2.16 lakhs TPA at

(16)

		Mangalore as per the details given by the project proponent.
18.	Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value:	There are no Protected/Archaeological/ Heritage Sites/Defence establishments located in the proposed area.
19.	Situation w.r.t. any P.A.	<p>It is at a distance of 19.22 km from the nearest Wildlife Sanctuary i.e, Daroji Bear Sanctuary.</p> <p>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, etc. The proposed land is not located within Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of any Protected Area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.</p>
20.	Any other information relating to the Project:	<p>During discussions with concerned officials, it was noted that Hon'ble Supreme Court has fixed a ceiling on maximum amount of iron ore that can be extracted from three districts namely Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur. As per Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 14/12/2017 in Writ Petition (C) No. 562 of 2009 and other interlocutory Application No's 270, 271, 273, 56562, 76163, 76167 and 103342 filed by Samaj Parivarthana Samudaya and Others Vs. State of Karnataka and Others, the annual production capacities have been fixed as follows :</p> <p>(i) "With regard to Category 'A' and 'B' Mining leases for District Ballari" the annual production cap for the district may be enhanced by 3 MMT to 28 MMT and wherein NMDC and MML will operate with maximum annual production ceiling of 12 MMT and 2 MMT for the year 2017-18 respectively and thereafter from 2018-19 these will also operate at the MPAP limit as per the approved R & R plans subject to the overall limit of annual production fixed for the district, until further orders.</p> <p>(ii) The existing ceiling of 5 MT fixed for 'A' and 'B' Mining leases for District Tumkur and Chitradurga may be enhanced by 2 MMT to 7 MMT, until further orders; and</p>

		<p>(iii) With regard to Category 'C' mining leases which have been e-auctioned to the end users, the production cap of individual mining leases be regulated through the limits approved in the R & R plan without reference to the general cap fixed for the District concerned."</p>
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Signature

Name and Designation
of Inspecting Officer :

K.P. SINGH, IFS
REGIONAL OFFICER

Date of Inspection:

09/02/2021



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
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Ind Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034.
Tel.No.080-25635901, E.Mail: ros.z.bng-mef@nic.in



F.No.4-KRA 1269/2020-BANI/12/17
Dated the 15th February, 2021

To

The Additional Director General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi - 110 003.

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 401.5761 ha (revised from 484.0733 ha.) (388.00 ha. for Mining + 13.5761 for approach road = 401.5761 ha) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Bellari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of M/s. KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd), Bengaluru-regarding (Online Proposal No.FP/KA/MIN/32568/2018 -reg.

Sir,

With reference to Ministry's letter No.8-24/2020-FC dated 28/01/2021 on the above subject, it is informed that the undersigned has carried out site inspection of the forest land proposal for diversion as well as proposed Compensatory Afforestation land on 09/02/2021. Accordingly, a detailed site inspection report is attached herewith for kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

(K.P.Singh)
Regional Officer

Encl: As above.

Copy to: The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003.

(K.P.Singh)
Regional Officer

Reasons cited by DCF, Ballari for not recommending the proposal:-

1. " The production capacity of all the existing mines (59 'A' & 'B' category mines, 26 'C' category mines and 14 mines whose R&R plan is yet to be approved) is calculated as 53.599 MMT, which far exceeds the 28 MMT Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) limit fixed for the A & B category mines of Bellary district (According to Hon'ble Supreme Court of India Judgement dated 14.12.2017, in the Samaj Parivartana Samudaya & Ors. Vs State of Karnataka & Ors.). Therefore, before expiring the existing opened-up mining blocks, recommending and approving new mining lease in the fresh or virgin forest area is not justifiable and would cause serious and irreparable damage to the forest/ nature/ environment.
2. As per the meeting held on 28.03.2016 under the Chairmanship of PCCF(HoFF), Bengaluru, it was decided not to grant approvals for new mining lease in the fresh forest areas. (Copy enclosed). So, recommending / approval of mining in the fresh forest area would undermine the decision of Karnataka Forest Department.
3. From the field verification and enumeration of trees, it was found that around 99,390 trees which needs to be felled/ cut for this mining activity. Felling of around 99,390 trees would negatively affect the local flora, fauna and other environment resources. Therefore, FC approval for new mining activities in this 484.0733 ha fresh virgin forest area would lead to severe soil erosion, destruction of streams/water resources and thus causes serious environmental damages.
4. This mining project in the 484.0733 ha fresh virgin forest area would destroy the local streams, the change the local weather pattern and may lead to ecosystem imbalance. Therefore, this new mining proposal in the fresh forest area would ultimately endanger the water security and/or livelihood security of the local people.
5. Therefore, this project should not be accepted or considered for approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980".

Reasons cited by CCF, Ballari for not recommending the proposal:-

1. " I have also inspected the proposed site on 6.12.2019 and affirm the views of the DCF, Ballari Division in rejecting the diversion of forest land.
2. I agree with the information given in the Part-II and recommendations of the DCF, Ballari.

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3. I recommend for rejecting the forest land diversion over an extent of 484.0733 ha in the larger interest of protection and bio-diversity value of the forest land under the FC Act, 1980.

The proposed forest land is not part of any PA, but is having a thick dry deciduous forest interspersed with grassy blanks. Most of these areas are pure patches of *Anogeissus* and *Boswellia* forests which are very unique. This forest is home to Indian leopard, sloth bear, Indian wolf and many more flora and fauna. From the report of DCF, it found that there are about 99390 trees to be cut, if this area is to be diverted for the mining purpose. An approximate 5 Sq.Km is to be diverted in this land scape question of passing this area under DSS criteria fixed for identification of inviolate areas arises, which unfortunately could not be done at this level and recommend to subject this area to pass this test as well.

Besides above observation, I have read the report of DCF regarding the annual production cap on iron ore as fixed by the Hon'ble Supreme court in its order in WP NO.562/2009, as this is the legal matter involving Rule of the land as fixed by the Honorable Apex court, I hope this issue will also be taken into consideration while taking decision on this matter.

Over all I recommend not to consider this diversion in the interest of forest, wildlife, water security and soil health of this land scape as it's already subjected to severe damage by existing mines".

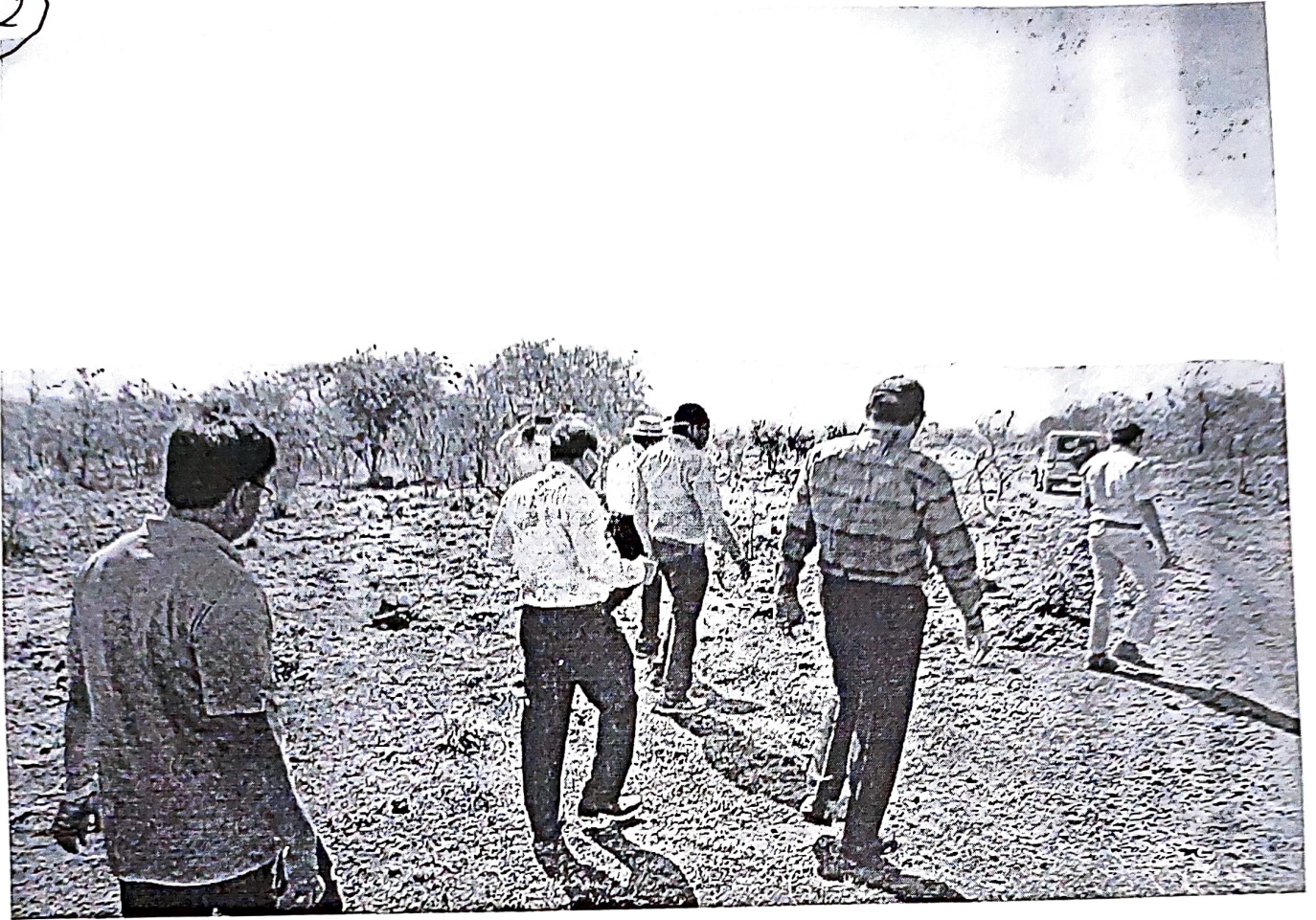
Reasons cited by ACCF(FC) & Nodal Officer (FCA) for not recommending the proposal:-

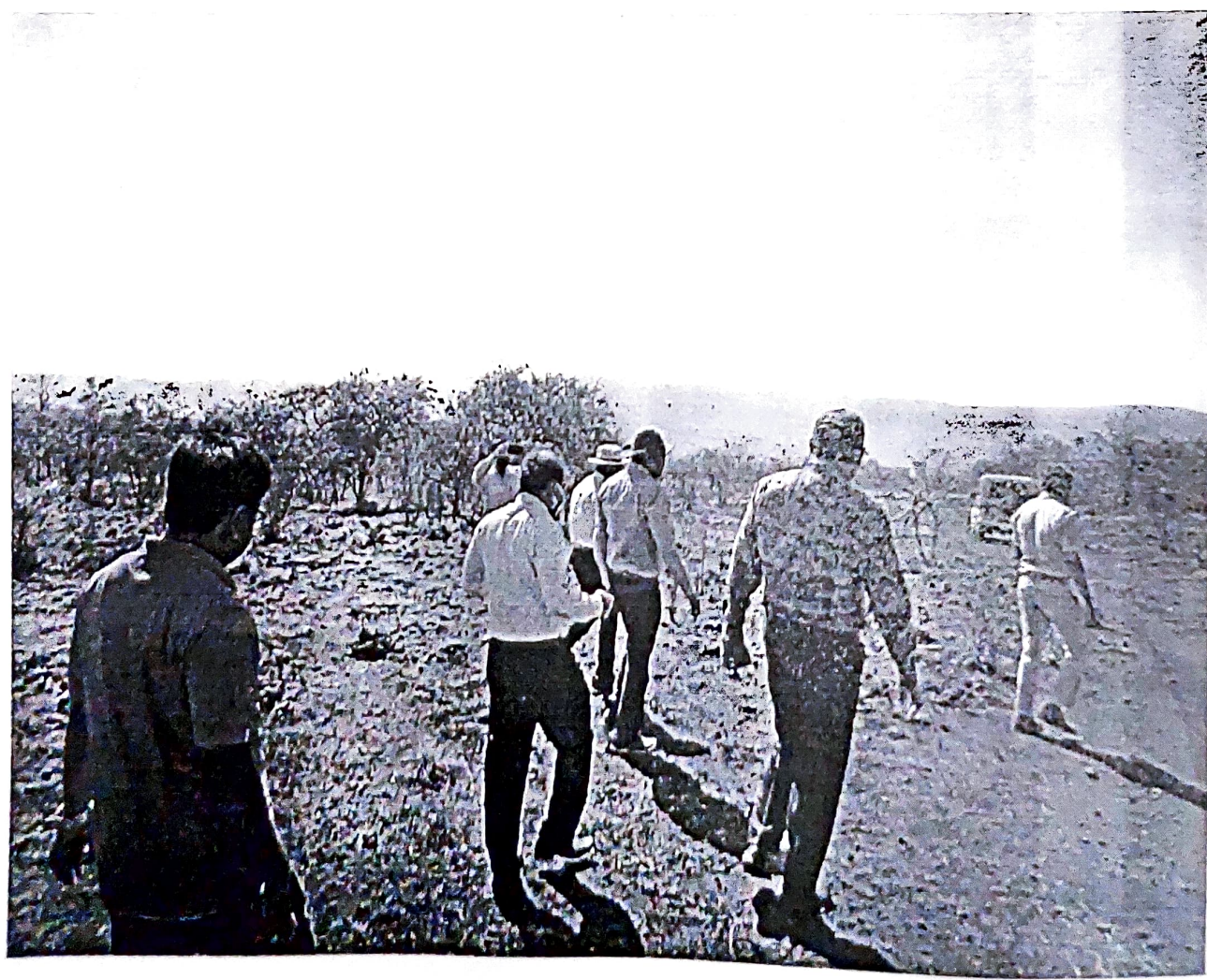
" Inspected the 482.467 ha of forest land in Swamymalai Forest Block on 16.01.2020. During inspection I was accompanied by CCF, Ballari, DCF, Ballari and officials of KIOCL and other field staff of Sandur range. The Forest land is located in villages namely Nandihalli and Ranajipura and Narsapura of Sandur Range of Ballari Division. The forest land proposed for diversion for mining purpose is hilly in nature and is having good growth of *Anogeissus*, *Boswellia*, *Albizia* and other dry deciduous species. Top of the hill is flat and either side of hillock are having steep slopes. As we climb to the top of the hill there is one non-working mine which was given earlier to M/s. Bharath Mines and Minerals Limited.

I concur with the inspection report of DCF Ballari and CCF Ballari that this area need not be recommended for mining purpose because it is having very good dry deciduous forest. With the opening of these type of forest areas for mining purpose the soil erosion from the hillocks will be very high which will effect the drainage system down below and ultimately effect the health of local habitants living in the vicinity. Loss of such a good dry

deciduous forest will be for ever and such a forest can't be recreated. The diversion of forest land for mining purpose will adversely affect the eco-system of the area. Hence, the 482.367 ha of forest land in Swamymalai Forest Block of Sandur Range is not recommended for diversion for mining purpose to M/s. KIOCL".

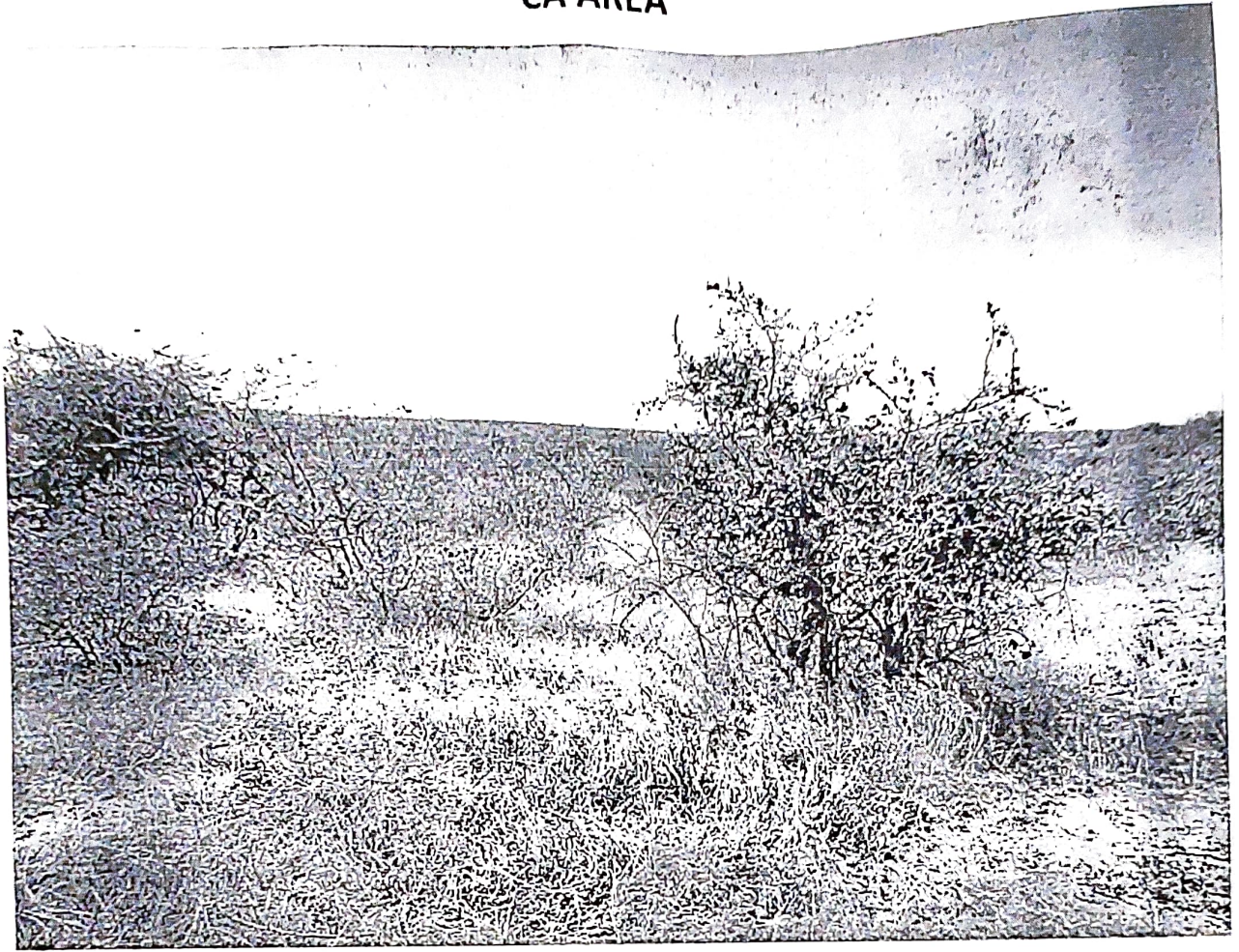
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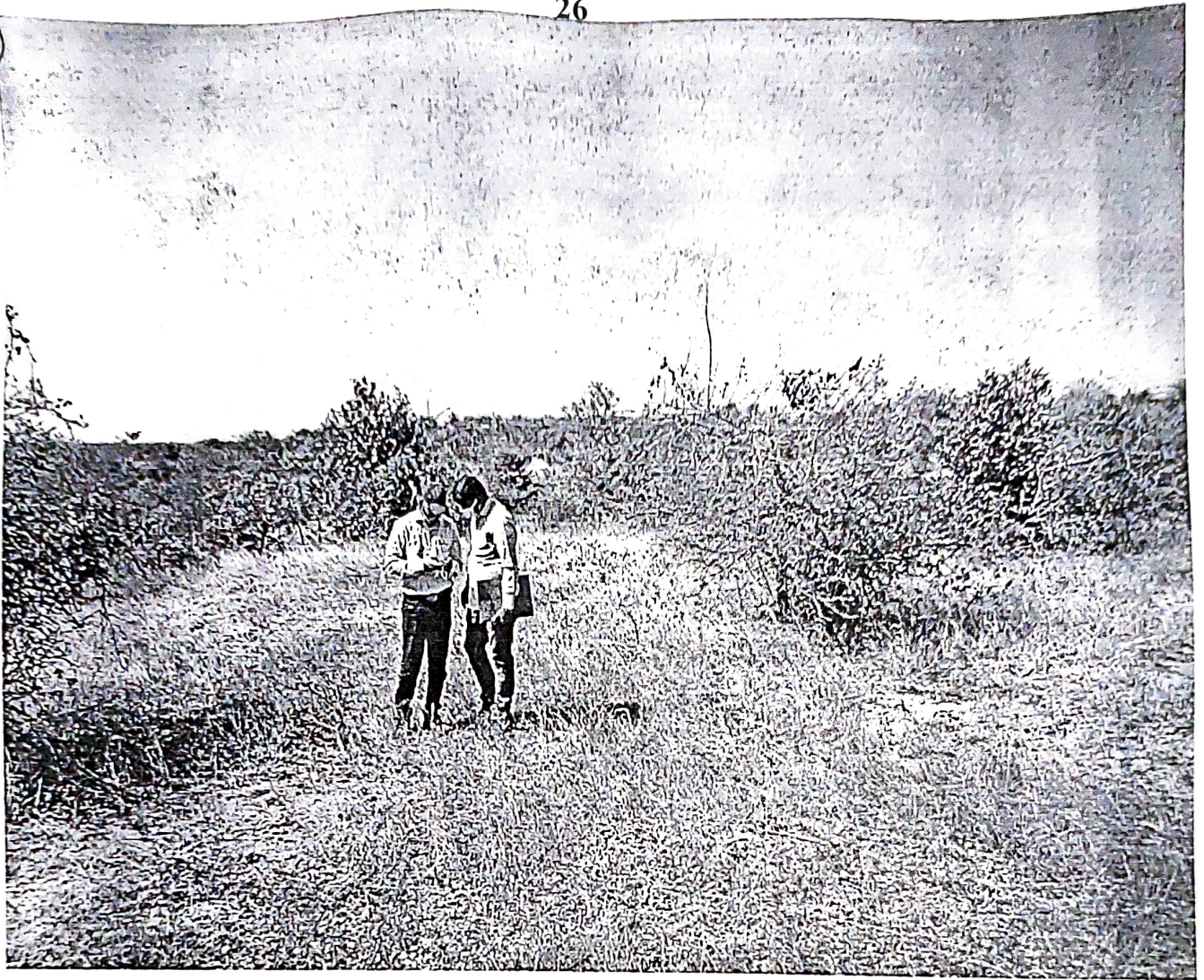
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Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi - 1100 03
Dated: 24th June, 2021

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Ecology and Environment Department,
Government of Karnataka,
Bengaluru.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road=401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of IWS KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited), Bengaluru. -regarding (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/32568/2018).

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 19FFM 2020 (e) dated 09th October, 2020 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the Government of Karnataka and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, the Central Government hereby agrees to *accord Stage-I / In-principle* approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road=401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of IWS KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited), Bengaluru. -regarding (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/32568/2018), subject to the following conditions:-

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department and compliance is to be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

- i. The User Agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted (i.e. 401.5761 ha of forest land) under this proposal,

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as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal into CAMPA account of the State Concerned;

- ii. The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India topo sheet of 1:50,000 scale;
- iii. The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited through online e-portal into the CAMPA account in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
- iv. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance;
- v. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
- vi. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector;
- vii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019;
- viii. State government was informed earlier by the Ministry that small forest land adjoining cultivation areas should not be proposed for CA on account of management issues associated with such small forest patches. The State government shall therefore propose revised CA area with sufficiently large patches, and got the same verified from the Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru. The so verified CA land details along with KML file shall be submitted by the State Govt. to the Government of India prior to Stage II approval;
- ix. The Mines Department, Karnataka/ User Agency in consultation with the Forest Department, Karnataka shall prepare a plan with maps to secure dense vegetation on the slopes of the proposed area, and implement the same during the course of the lease period;
- x. In view of prevalence of wildlife in the area, a Site-specific Wild Life Management Plan shall be prepared, and implemented at the cost of the

- User Agency;*
- xi. It is reported that a number of seasonal nalas (streams) originate in the area proposed for forest diversion. A CAT Plan duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Karnataka shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency;
- xii. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Approved scheme/plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with compliance of Stage-I approval:
- Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department.
 - Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - Construction of check dams, retention / toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, inaccordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28° ; and
 - No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
- xiii. Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
- User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the. State Forest Department;
 - Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost under the supervisions of the State Forest Department. The degraded forest land (DFL) so selected will be informed to the MoEF & CC with shape files before Stage-II approval and afforestation will be done within

User Agency;

- xi. It is reported that a number of seasonal nalas (streams) originate in the area proposed for forest diversion. A CAT Plan duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Karnataka shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency;
- xii. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Approved scheme/plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with compliance of Stage-I approval:
 - a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department.
 - b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - c. Construction of check dams, retention / toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, inaccordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28° ; and
 - e. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
- xiii. Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
 - a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the. State Forest Department;
 - b. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - d. Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost under the supervisions of the State Forest Department. The degraded forest land (DFL) so selected will be informed to the MoEF & CC with shape files before Stage-II approval and afforestation will be done within

three years from the date of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department; and

e. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;

xiv. The KML files of the area to be diverted, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details prior to Stage II approval;

B: Conditions which need to be complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted and compliance is to be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The Forest land will be handed over only after required non-forest land for the project is handed over by the user agency;
- iii. The Compensatory Afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over double the degraded i.e. $401.5761 \times 2 = 803.1522$ ha. of degraded forest land at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. With provision for ten years on subsequent maintenance;
- iv. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
- v. **The area is within a mineralised zone. It is reported that at present there are 4 mining zones where active mining is taking place by a large number of organisations as per their individual plans. On the other hand, the cumulative impact of mining on forest, wildlife and ecology needs to be understood and acted upon. As such, the area requires a comprehensive view with regard to sustainable mining vis-à-vis forest, wildlife and ecological conservation including promotion of green mining infrastructure in the future which could not only have least impact on forest and wildlife in the area but in some cases could actually promote forest and wildlife by itself. A comprehensive study jointly by a couple of reputed institutes like IIT(ISM), Dhanbad, IIT, Delhi, IISc, Bengaluru, ICFRE, Dehradun shall be undertaken by the State Government at the cost of the user agency so as to draw a perspective co-management plan for mining and forest and wildlife conservation and development, including for green mining infrastructure development. The study report shall be submitted within one year for its consideration by Govt. of India and issuing guidelines/ direction for follow-up action by the mining companies at their cost. It is clarified that this study shall not be linked to the present FC approval;**

- vi. The User Agency and the State Government shall strictly adhere to the directions/ guidelines issues by the Honourable Supreme Court for mining, including directions on mining in Bellary district, and comply with all the statutory conditions for scientific and sustainable mining issued by competent authority;
- vii. Road side plantation of local species and bamboo shall be raised along the approach road to the mine at the cost of the user agency;
- viii. The State Government shall prepare a time-bound plan for return of those forest areas in 'A', 'B' and 'C' category mines in Bellary district which could not be auctioned on account of non-viability, to the State Forest Department after proper Rehabilitation and Resettlement as per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and submit the Plan to the Govt. of India within six months. It is clarified that this condition is not linked to the instant proposal of forest land diversion, but the same shall be one of the issues for consideration for any forest land diversion in Karnataka State in the future, i.e. after six months;
- ix. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- x. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;
- xi. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- xii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- xiii. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- xiv. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
- xv. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
- xvi. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;

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- xvii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- xviii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- xix. The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- xx. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
- xxi. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xxii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency;
- xxiii. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly; and
- xxiv. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru.
3. The Nodal Office (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading.



F.No.J-11015/28/2018-IA-II (M)

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Impact Assessment Division

33

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Prithvi Wing, 2nd Floor
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110 003
Date: 13th August 2021

To

M/s KIOCL Limited
II Block, Koramangala
Bangalore South
Bangalore Urban
Karnataka – 560 034

Sub: Proposal for Environmental Clearance of Devadari Iron Ore mine with a mine capacity of 2 MTPA Iron Ore (ROM) and 500 TPA Manganese Ore with 2 MTPA wet Beneficiation plant located at notified and reserved mining lease area of 401.5761 ha (388.0 ha for Mining & 13.5761 ha for conveyor, approach road, etc.) falling under Swamimalai Block Forest, Kumaraswami Reserve Forest Range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary district, Karnataka by M/s KIOCL Limited – EC

Sir,

This has reference to proposal no.IA/KA/MIN/72345/2018 for Environmental Clearance of Devadari Iron Ore mine with a mine capacity of 2 MTPA Iron Ore (ROM) and 500 TPA Manganese Ore with 2 MTPA wet Beneficiation plant located at notified and reserved mining lease area of 401.5761 ha (388.0 ha for Mining & 13.5761 ha for conveyor, approach road, etc.) falling under Swamimalai Block Forest, Kumaraswami Reserve Forest Range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary district, Karnataka by M/s KIOCL Limited

1. EAC Meeting Details:

EAC meeting	33 rd EAC Meeting
Date of Meeting	13 th – 16 th July, 2021

2. Project details:

Name of the Proposal	Proposal for EC of Devadari Iron Ore mine with a mine capacity of 2 MTPA iron ore (ROM) and 500 TPA manganese ore with 2 MTPA Wet Beneficiation plant.		
Location	Village	Nandhihalli, Ranjitpura	Narsarapura,

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	Tehsil/Taluka	Sandur
	District	Ballari
	State / UT	Karnataka
	Latitudes	15°1'18.18627" & 15°3'43.60179"N
	Longitudes	76°34'35.0174" & 76°36'12.77452"E
	SoI Topo sheet No.	57 A/12 (D43E12)
Company's Name	KIOCL Limited	
Accredited Consultant and certificate no.	Ecomen Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. QCI/NABET Certificate No. NABET/EIA/2023/RA 0203, valid up to September 21, 2023.	
KML file	Submitted	
Seismic zone	II	

3. Category details:

Category of the project	A
Provisions	1(a)(i) and 2b
Mining lease Area (MLA)	470.4 ha
Additional information	<p>Govt. of Karnataka (GoK) vide gazette notification dated 23.01.2017 notified an area 470.40 ha forest land in Devadari range, Sandur Taluka, Ballari District, Karnataka for Iron ore & Manganese ore mining in favour of KIOCL Limited under section 17A(2) of MMRD Act 1957. Subsequently KIOCL has submitted application for EC & FC clearance for an extent of 470.40 ha ML area + 15.3725 ha for conveyor Corridor, approach road, Power transmission line/water line) for total area of 485.7725 ha. During the process of Forest clearance Addl. Chief Secretary, (Forest, Environment, Ecology) GoK has recommended the FC proposal for an extent of 401.5761 ha (388.0 ha for Mining & 13.5761 ha for conveyor, approach road, etc) in-principle stage-I approval to MoEF&CC, Gol. MoEF&CC, Gol vide letter dated 24.06.2021 accorded In-Principle stage -I FC approval for the same extent of 401.5761 ha i.e., 388.00 ha for Mining lease & 13.5761 ha for conveyor, approach road, power transmission line/water line of total 401.5761 ha.</p> <p>Hence Mining Lease area will now be reduced from 470.4 ha to 388 ha and the area outside the ML will reduce from 15.3725 ha to 13.5761 ha making the total area reduced from 485.7725 ha to 401.5761 ha.</p>

4. ToR/EC Details:

ToR Proposal No.	IA/KA/MIN/72345/2018
Online application date for Form-I	22/03/2018
Documents Submitted	Brief summary, GPS file, Survey of India Toposheet, Proposed TOR, PFR, Approval

	letter of mining plan, Acknowledgement that proposal is seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 has been successfully uploaded on the portal of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, Proof of reservation of 470.4 ha area, Mining lease gazette notification
EAC meeting date	24/04/2018
ToR Letter No.	J-11015/28/2018-IA.II (M)
ToR grant Date	16/05/2018
Production capacity	2 MTPA Iron Ore (ROM) & 500 TPA Manganese & Wet Beneficiation Plant including crushing, Screening, conveying for a capacity of 2 MTPA
Soil	1, 16,102 cu.m. of top soil
Waste	waste during proposed plan period-6.351664 M.cu.m for iron ore, 0.00085 M.cu.m for Manganese ore
Total Excavation	The total excavation (highest) for Iron ore shall be 7.87 Million TPA & Manganese ore 0.0022 Million TPA.
Crusher	3 proposed crushers: Primary Jaw Crusher 350 TPH, Secondary Cone Crushers 250 TPH, Tertiary & Quarternary Cone Crushers 250 TPH
EIA/EMP uploaded on	12/09/2019

5. Lease Details:

Prospecting operation, Commence date	Geological Survey of India prospected the area during the year 2005 to 2008.	
Application for the Mining lease area and Date	KIOCL has submitted application on 25.07.2015 to GoK for reservation of mining area in Devadari range under the provision of section 17 A (2A) of MMDR Act, 1957	
Validity of mine lease	50 years from the date of ML deed registration.	
Letter of Intent	Letter No.	Letter No. DMG/MLS/Res. KIOCL/2016-17/10301
	Date	13.02.2017
Additional information	Department of Mines & Geology vide letter No. DMG/MLS/Res. KIOCL/2016-17/10301 dated 13.02.2017 issued Letter of Intent to obtain Environmental Clearance under EIA Notification 2006 for execution of mine lease deed.	

6. Mining plan details:

Mining	Letter No.	279/1096/2018/BNG/505
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Plan(approved by Indian Bureau of Mines/DMG)	Date	08.03.2018	
	Validity	5 year plan period	
Mining Parameters	Quantitative Description		
Bench Height	6 m		
Bench Width	11 m		
Method of Mining	Opencast mining with conventional shovel dumper combination		
Individual bench slope	Bank slope angle 75°		
Overall pit slope	less than 36°		
Drilling/Blasting	Controlled blasting in the pits to keep the ground vibration level within permissible limit. Rock breaker will be used so that no secondary blasting is required.		
RoM output size	2 MTPA of Iron Ore (ROM) and 500 TPA of Manganese Ore. The total excavation (highest) shall be 7.87 million TPA.		
	Lump Ore	Fines Ore	Iron ore concentrate
	+10 - 40 mm (Over & under size : Max. 5% Each)	Size: - 10mm (with oversize 5% maximum and undersize 20% maximum)	(-)325 mesh
Life of mine	Considering the present mineable reserve, the life of mine is calculated 7 years. However, after the detailed exploration of entire mining lease area, the expected mineral reserve is likely to substantiate a mine life of around 20 years.		
Transportation details	The Iron ore produced in the mine will be transported through Downhill Conveyor to the nearest railway siding at Ranjithpura Railway Station/BMM Railway Siding which is about 4 kms away from the proposed mine site. The railway siding facilities, which already exists at Ranjithpura/BMM Railway Siding will be utilized for transportation of iron ore to KIOCL plants at Mangalore. Manganese Ore produced from mine will be transported through trucks to Railway siding about 4 km from mine site		
Dumpers capacity	35 Tonnes		
Additional information	The ore and over burden will be excavated and transported by conventional shovel – dumper combination after loosening the hard rock mass by blasting. Excavators of 3.5 - 4.5 m ³ capacity will be utilized for excavation and loading and 35 tonne capacity dumpers will be used for the transportation of the ore and overburden. The blasted ore will be loaded by the excavator and transported by dumper to a ROM stock pile close to the proposed crushing plant.		

7. Land Area Breakup:

Private land	NIL
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Government land	Forest land
Total Mining lease area (MLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Govt. of Karnataka (GoK) vide gazette notification dated 23.01.2017 notified an area 470.40 ha forest land in Devadari range, Sandur Tq, Ballari Dt., Karnataka for Iron ore & manganese ore mining in favour of KIOCL Limited under section 17A(2) of MMRD Act 1957. MoEF&CC, GoI vide letter dated 24.06.2021 accorded In-Principle stage-I FC approval for the extent of 401.5761 ha i.e., 388.00 ha for Mining lease & 13.5761 ha for conveyor, approach road, power transmission line/water line of total 401.5761 ha. Hence Mining Lease area will now be reduced from 470.4 ha to 388 ha and the area outside the ML will reduce from 15.3725 ha to 13.5761 ha making the total area reduced from 485.7725 ha to 401.5761 ha.
Private land for crusher, workshop & other infrastructure outside the MLA	NA

8. Nearest village / town/ highway/railway station / water bodies

Particulars	Particular's Name	Distance & Directions
Village	Nandhihalli	1.6 km, W
Village	Narsarapura	1.1 km, E
Village	Ranjitpura	1.5 km, E
TOWN	Sandur	4.6 km, NW
Road	MDR-131	6.2 km, E
Road	MDR-40	5.4 km, NW
Road	MDR-49	5.2 km, N
Railway station	Toranagallu	28 km, N
Railway station	Ranithpura	1.5 km, E
Water body	Narihalla	4.2 km, NW
Water body	Narihalla dam and reservoir	4.9 km, N

9. Water requirement

Total water requirement	2953.21 m ³ /hr	Fresh water	143.48 m ³ /hr
		Treated water	2809.73 m ³ /hr
Source	Tungabhadra Dam		
Permission	In progress		
Additional information	<p>The approval of withdrawal of water from State Govt. is in advance stage.</p> <p>Chief engineer, KNNL, TB dam, Munirabad, has recommended the proposal of drawl of 4 MLD of water from downstream of TB dam near Nimbhapura village, for Devadari mining project. Further, on 05.2.2021, Managing Director, KNNL, has also recommended the proposal to Govt of Karnataka. Due to COVID 19 Pandemic lockdown in the state of Karnataka, the approval</p>		

process got delayed. Meeting of water allocation committee was held on 16.06.2021 and proposal for sanction of water was considered favourably by the committee.

10. Presence of Environmentally Sensitive areas in the study area

Forest Area/Environmental Zone	Land/Protected Sensitivity	Yes/No	Details of Certificate/letter/Remarks
Forest Land		Yes	Mining area falls under Kumaraswamy Reserved forest.
National park		NO	
Wildlife Sanctuary		NO	

Schedule-1 species	Yes/No	Details of Certificate/letter/Remarks		
Schedule-I species	Yes	Sl. No.	Common Name / Local Name	Scientific Name
		1	Black buck	Antelope cervicapra
		2	Indian wolf	Canis lupus pallipes
		3	Panther	Pantheropardus
		4	Sloth bear	Melursus ursinus
		5	Monitor lizard	Varanus spp.
		6	Python	Python molurus
		7	Common peafowl	Pavocristatus
Wildlife Conservation Plan	Yes	Conservation plan for all the seven Schedule-1 species have been prepared and submitted for the approval to the Chief Wild Life Warden under acknowledgement vide letter No. KIOCL/DPP/06 dated 11/08/2020.		

11. Green belt/plantation details:

Proposed area for green belt/plantation	447.78 ha as per Mine Plan (Due to reduction of ML area, the revised area for Green Belt /Plantation at the conceptual period will be 353.7099 ha).
Budget for green plant & plantation till the end of life of mine.	Capital cost: Rs 100 lac. Recurring cost Rs 10 lacs (during first 5 years)
Budget for nursery	25 lac proposed under CER

Particulars for Green belt/plantation	Area covered (in Ha)
7.5 m barrier & non-mineralized zone	Safety Zone 9.9571 ha. Green belt 31.8419 ha.
50 m safety zone of nallah, roads, electric lines	-
500 m safety zones of nearest habitation villages	-

12. Baseline detail

Baseline Data (Air / Water / Noise / Soil / Ground water table/ others)

Period of baseline data collection	March to May 2018
Season (Summer / Pre-monsoon / Post-monsoon / Winter)	Pre-monsoon

13. Public Hearing (PH) Details

Advertisement for PH with date	'Indian Express', (English) and 'Vijay Karnataka' (Kannada) on 24-05-2019.
Date of PH	25-06-2019
Venue	Project Site of Devadari Iron Ore Mine, Swamimalai Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District.
Chaired by	Additional Deputy Commissioner and Additional District Magistrate, Ballari District
Main issues raised during PH	Employment, Education, Plantation, Infrastructure, Grazing land, Pollution especially Dust, Noise & Water.
Budget proposed for addressing issues raised during PH	Company has earmarked Rs 5 Crs under Environment Management plan and Rs 10.87 Crs for various activities under Corporate Environment Responsibility.
Additional information	CER will be implemented in 1 st Five-year plan period on execution of mining lease deed and commencement of mining activities.

14. Court case details:

Court Case	No
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15. Rehabilitation & Resettlement:

R & R details	Not Applicable
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16. Affidavit/Undertaking details:

Affidavit/Undertaking	Letter No. KIOCL/Mining/DIOM/1863, dated 10/09/2019 by GM (Mining, O&M Doni project), KIOCL Limited, Bangalore
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17. ADS details:

S.No.	ADS Point	Reply
1	Approval for the allocation of water from Tungabhadra Dam to use in Devadari iron Ore mine.	The company has planned to source water from Tunga Bhadra dam or Narihalla reservoir. The requirement of water would be 2953.21 m ³ /hr. Recovery of water in the plant would be around 2809.73 m ³ /hr. Therefore, the makeup water requirement for the project is 143.48 m ³ /hr rounding to 150 m ³ /hr (3.6 MLD). Accordingly, company has submitted application on 12.10.2018 to Principal Secretary, Water Resource Department, Govt. of Karnataka. As per the Govt. of Karnataka directions, Company has resubmitted application in prescribed format on

M/s KIOCL Limited, Karnataka

		13.03.2020 for allocation of 4 MLD water from TB Dam or Narihalla reservoir. Water resource department, GoK vide letter dated 22.05.2020 directed Managing Director, <i>Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited (KNNL)</i> to verify the application and submit the detail report regarding the proposal. The application is under process with Water Resource Dept., GoK.															
2	Submit the present status of the forest clearance for 470.40 ha mining lease area and outside the mine lease are of 15.3725 ha.	Company has submitted FC application in Form "A" on 16.03.2018 through online portal of MoEF&CC, GoI. On 23.08.2018, Nodal officer, GoK accepted FC application. Company has submitted hard copy of FC application on 28.08.2018 to Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF), Ballari. DCF, Ballari visited Devadari mine site on 25.09.2019 and submitted Part II report to CCF, Ballari Circle. Thereafter, CCF, Ballari Circle submitted Part III report to Nodal Officer, GoK. On 19.02.2020 PCCF, GoK forwarded FC proposal to Additional Chief Secretary (Forest), GoK along with Part IV report for submission to MoEF&CC, GoI for in-principle (Stage I) FC approval. Currently, the Forest Clearance application is being processed in the office of Additional Chief Secretary (Forest), GoK for State Govt recommendations for in-principle (Stage I) FC approval. The State Government was sought clarification from PCCF and same was forwarded to CCF, Ballari Circle for review and opinion.															
3	PP need to bring out the total excavation quantity for mineral wise, waste generation, Top soil generation, OB/IB/SB generation and its quantity of reserves mineral wise etc.	<p>Reserves ,Excavation and Generation of waste during proposed plan period</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="662 1260 1332 1701"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Iron ore</th> <th>Manganese ore</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Probable reserves</td> <td>7.34 million tonnes</td> <td>1400 tonnes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total excavation(Waste+ore)</td> <td>7.87 Million TPA</td> <td>0.0022 Million TPA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waste generation (OB/SB/IB)</td> <td>6.351664 M.cu.m</td> <td>0.00085 M.cu.m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Top soil generation</td> <td>0.116102 M.cu.m</td> <td>NIL</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Description	Iron ore	Manganese ore	Probable reserves	7.34 million tonnes	1400 tonnes	Total excavation(Waste+ore)	7.87 Million TPA	0.0022 Million TPA	Waste generation (OB/SB/IB)	6.351664 M.cu.m	0.00085 M.cu.m	Top soil generation	0.116102 M.cu.m	NIL
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4	PP need to submit the Revised CER for the total cost of the project including cost of land	<p>Total cost of the project is Rs. 787.5 Crores Proposed CER expenses is Rs. 10.87 Crores</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="662 1785 1346 1890"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No.</th> <th>Details of Activities</th> <th>Amount proposed (Rs lakhs) Approx.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sl. No.	Details of Activities	Amount proposed (Rs lakhs) Approx.												
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		1	Creation of Health infrastructure & assistance	50
		2	Creation of Education facilities.	50
		3	Environment sustainability	565
		4	Infrastructure development	320
		5	Hygiene and Health	50
		6	Sustainable livelihood	25
		7	Development of Sports facility & cultural activity	15
		8	Skill Development	12
			Total	1087
5	PP need to submit the EMP cost.	Capital cost to be made on Environment Management plan is Rs 500 lakhs and Recurring cost per year is Rs 100 lakhs.		
6	List of Flora & Fauna details duly authenticated by the Department of Forest/Wild life division of the state Government.	List of Flora and Fauna authenticated by DCF, Forest Department, Ballari is enclosed. Schedule – I Fauna are Black buck, Panther, Sloth Bear Common peafowl, Monitor lizard, Python & Indian Wolf. Site Specific Conservation plan for above seven Schedule-I Fauna have been prepared & submitted to Chief Wild Life Warden at Bengaluru vide letter No. KIOCL/DPP/06.		
7	PP needs to bring the Revised R&R plan and the HR policy for the engagement of 500 employees.	This project is Greenfield project and there are no habitants within lease area. Rehabilitation and Resettlement is not envisaged. For engagement of 500 employees for this project, KIOCL being CPSU has well defined HR policy for recruitment of workers and officer category. Out of 500, 435 shall be permanent employees & 65 out sourced employees through local contractors.		
8	Permission for shifting of School and its alternative location	This project is Greenfield project and no habitants within the lease area. No school is existing within the core zone hence shifting of school to alternate location is not envisaged		
9	Estimated quantity of Manganese reserve and life in the mine lease area	The Probable Manganese ore Reserves are 1400 tons with an average grade of 34.96% Mn. Initial 4 years is envisaged for preparatory works like preparation of storage yard, removal of OB, road and production of Manganese ore at the rate of 500 tonnes/year starting from 5th year of mine plan onwards. The life of mine is considered as 7 years.		
10	PP did not provide the details of the	Reserves ,Excavation and Generation of waste during proposed plan period		

	overburden, burden, top soil generation etc. inter-	Description	Iron ore	Manganese ore
		Probable reserves	7.34 million tonnes	1400 tonnes
		Total excavation(Waste+ore)	7.87 Million TPA	0.0022 Million TPA
		Waste generation (OB/SB/IB)	6.351664 M.cu.m	0.00085 M.cu.m
		Top soil generation	0.116102 M.cu.m	NIL
11	PP needs to submit the plan of utilization of wastes overburden, inter-burden, filtered tailings and its dumping locations should bring out.	<p>Waste dumps Management (Utilization & dumping location)</p> <p>Total quantity of waste generation (OB/SB/IB) during proposed plan period will be 6.351664 M.cu.m for Iron ore & 0.00085 M.cu.m for Manganese ore.</p> <p>Some quantity of overburden waste is envisaged for laying of mine roads. The overburden/ waste generated during the excavation of iron ore will be dumped at the western side of the lease area demarcated as Waste Dump-1 Similarly, the waste generated by the Manganese pit will be dumped at Waste Dump-2 demarcated at the south western corner of the lease area.</p> <p>After the mine reaches the conceptual stage, backfilling is envisaged in a sequential manner such that the terrain attains its original profile. All overburden dumps and tailing stack yards are planned for afforestation with indigenous species.</p> <p>Details of Tailing dump Pond and its management:</p> <p>The low-grade iron ore will be processed for up-gradation of the Fe content. The capacity of tailing dump pond is 3 Mt. The filtered tailing cake will be disposed off in tailing dump pond @ 0.4 MT /year. The tailings generated by iron ore beneficiation will be dewatered and the tailing cakes will be dumped at north-west corner of the lease.</p>		
12	Undertaking for not utilization of ground water resources.	Undertaking for not utilization of ground water resources has been submitted.		
13	Undertaking by way of Affidavit in compliance of the Ministry OM 30.05.2018.	Devadari Iron Ore Mine is a Greenfield project and the mine is yet to commence the operations. Environmental Clearance is one of the prerequisites for execution of Mining Lease Deed. Affidavit for compliance of the Ministry's OM no. 3-50/2017-IA.III (Pt.), dated 30th May 2018 that this judgment is not applicable to the said project.		
14	In addition to above, on further examination of	The project is both mining (1 (a) (i)) and beneficiation (2(b)). Corrected Form -2 has been		

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	the proposal it has found that in Form-2 details of the beneficiation is mentioned but the application is only made in schedule 1 (a) (i) i.e. mining of mineral. In view of the same it is requested to clarify whether the application involve mining as well as beneficiation or not. If yes, the revised from-2 needs to be submitted.	submitted.
2. ADS Dated 30/08/2021		Replied on 28/06/2021
1	The Committee observed that latitude & longitude needs to be verified as per coordinate provided by the State Government.	Latitude & Longitude are verified with the coordinates provided by the State Government vide notification no. CI 294 MMM 2015, Bengaluru, dated 23-01-2017 by Commerce and Industries Secretariat, Government of Karnataka.
2	The Committee asked the PP to submit the approval of State Government for withdrawal of water from TB Dam or Narihalla reservoir.	The approval of withdrawal of water from state govt. is in advance stage. Total water requirement is 2953.21 m ³ /hr. Water recovery shall be 2809.73 m ³ /hr making total make up water requirement 143.48 m ³ /hr rounding to 150 m ³ /hr. Chief engineer, KNNL, TB dam, Munirabad, has recommended the proposal of drawl of 4 MLD of water from downstream of TB dam near Nimbhapura village, for Devadari mining project. Further, on 05.2.2021, Managing Director, KNNL, has also recommended the proposal to Govt of Karnataka. Due to COVID 19 Pandemic lockdown in the state of Karnataka, the approval process is getting delayed. It is understood that, water allocation committee was held on 16.06.2021 and proposal for sanction of water was considered favourably. Copy of letter of Chief engineer and Managing Director, KNNL has been submitted.
3	PP should submit the species to be planted and select indigenous local species.	List of plants/species (Indigenous local species) that will be planted under Afforestation/ Green Belt Development program including Safety Zone in respect to Devadari Iron ore Mine of M/s KIOCL has been submitted
4	PP may expedite the process for grant of FC and submit the Stage-I of FC for consideration of the proposal for	MoEF&CC, Gol accorded on 24.06.2021 Stage-I In-principle approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for diversion of 401.5761 ha (388.0 ha for Mining & 13.5761 ha for conveyor line, approach road, power transmission line/water line

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	grant of EC. In addition to this PP shall also submit a distance of mining lease from the protected area if any falling within the 10 KM of the project site.	etc.) of forest land in Swamimalai Block forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari Dt. for Mining in Devadari hill range in favour of KIOCL Ltd. Copy of Stage -I / In-principle approval is submitted. No protected area is falling within 10 km from the project site. Protected area buffer zone map has been submitted.
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5	PP should verify the list provided by State Government and mention the schedule against each species. PP should also prepare the conservation plan for all the schedule-1 species and submit the same for the approval of the Chief Wildlife Warden. PP shall upload the list of schedule-1 species, copy of conservation plan and its proof of submission to CWWL on the PARIVESH Portal.
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The verified list mentioning Schedule, Part and Serial No. against each species of Fauna has been submitted (Source –Working group of Ballari forest division) of ADS reply. There are total seven Schedule-1 species as per the list mentioned in the Table below:

Sl. No.	Common Name / Local Name	Scientific Name
1	Black buck	Antelope cervicapra
2	Indian wolf	Canis lupus pallipes
3	Panther	Pantheropardus
4	Sloth bear	Melursus ursinus
5	Monitor lizard	Varanus spp.
6	Python	Python molurus
7	Common peafowl	Pavocristatus

Conservation plan for all the seven Schedule-1 species have been prepared and submitted for the approval to the Chief Wild Life Warden under acknowledgement vide letter No. KIOCL/DPP/06 dated 11/08/2020. List of schedule-1 species, copy of conservation plan and its proof of submission to CWWL have been uploaded on the Parivesh Portal.

6	The Committee is of the view that isopleth is not incorporated in the EIA/EMP Report nor in the annexure rather it is uploaded separately. Further, there is no indexing in the isopleth. The Committee is of the view that air quality modeling should be done for all the activities viz. drilling, blasting, loading, unloading, transportation,
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Revised isopleths with indexing considering the related activities have been submitted.

Original analysis report of samples collected and the accreditation certificate of the laboratory have been submitted as an annexure with the ADS reply.

	<p>crushing, conveying, beneficiation activities considering the total excavation and material re-handling. The control case and worst case scenario needs to be demonstrated with controlling factor and GLCs values for all the pollutants needs to be mentioned clearly. In addition to this the Original analysis report of sample collected needs to be submitted along with the accreditation certificate of the laboratory. The input parameters used for the modeling needs to be submitted to the Ministry.</p>	
7	<p>PP should provide the complete details (area, location, tentative budget, timeline) for the grazing land.</p>	<p>The proposed mining project falls within SM block reserve forest area of total extent is 6993 ha. The proposed mining project area is 401.5761 ha. The balance land status remain same & available for grazing.</p> <p>However, under CER company proposed to develop grazing land near Mudukalapenta /Vittalnagar area with an estimated cost of Rs 65 lakhs including cost of land.</p> <p>In this regard a request letter is submitted to DC Ballari, to provide 25 ha C&D class revenue land for development of grazing land in order to increase fodder yield by way of good & fast-growing grass seedling, watering, distribution of fodder and measure to improve soil fertility under corporate environmental responsibility fund in & around Narasingapura /Ranjithpura /Bujanganagara villages, SandurTq, Ballari Dt. This will enhance the growth of livestock as well as socio-economic development of nearby villagers. Copy of request letter to DC Ballari has been submitted.</p>
8	<p>Activities proposed under CER needs to be revised as suggested by EAC during the meeting.</p>	<p>Project proponent has provided CER on environmental sustainability for Rs. 565 lacs and sustainable livelihood for Rs. 25 lacs including other activities of capital nature which can be monitored. Details of CER have been submitted.</p>

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19. Details of the EMP:

Activities	Capital cost (Crores)	Recurring cost (Lakhs/annum)
Capital and recurring cost on Environment	5	100

20. Details of project cost and employment:

Particulars	(Rs. In Crore)
Capital Cost for Environment Protection	5
Budget for addressing the Public Hearing issues	Company has earmarked Rs 5 Crs under Environment Management plan and Rs 10.87 Crs for various activities under Corporate Environment Responsibility.
Total Cost for EMP	5
Recurring Cost for EMP	1
Project Cost	787.5
Employment	The direct employment will be 500 persons. Indirect employment will be about 1000 persons.

20. The Committee observed that details of expenses proposed in Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) submitted by PP are very generic. The Committee also observed shortfalls in the mine plan. It is also noted that Wildlife conservation plan has been prepared and submitted for approval to PCCF. It is also noted that 10.87 Crores have been earmarked for public hearing concerns.

21. After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent and the Consultant, the Committee during its meeting during 13th to 16th July, 2021 **recommended** the proposal for Environmental Clearance of Devadari Iron Ore mine with a mine capacity of 2 MTPA Iron Ore (ROM) and 500 TPA Manganese Ore with 2 MTPA wet Beneficiation plant for 401.5761 ha (388.0 ha for Mining + 13.5761 ha for conveyor, approach road, etc.) out of 485.7725 ha project area (470.40 ha mine lease area + 15.3725 ha conveyor, approach road etc) located at Swamimalai Block Forest, Kumaraswami Reserve Forest Range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary district, Karnataka by M/s KIOCL Limited along with the specific conditions.

22. The Ministry has examined the proposal in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and further amendments thereto; and after accepting the recommendation of 33rd meeting during 13th to 16th July, 2021, Ministry grants the proposal for Environmental Clearance of Devadari Iron Ore mine with a mine capacity of 2 MTPA Iron Ore (ROM) and 500 TPA Manganese Ore with 2 MTPA wet Beneficiation plant for 401.5761 ha (388.0 ha for Mining + 13.5761 ha for conveyor, approach road, etc.) out of 485.7725 ha project area (470.40 ha mine lease area + 15.3725 ha conveyor, approach road etc) located at Swamimalai Block Forest, Kumaraswami Reserve Forest Range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary district, Karnataka by M/s KIOCL Limited with the following specific conditions alongwith the standard conditions:

M/s KIOCL Limited, Karnataka

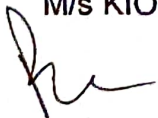
A. Specific conditions

- 1) Mining shall be restricted to 388.00 ha only.
- 2) Proper plan up to 22 years as operation will commenced up to 22 years. Mass balance in terms of iron ore rejects with iron containing less than 35, management of tailing as mass balance including the water balance as wet beneficiation and dry beneficiation.
- 3) Wildlife conservation plan has to be dynamic. Action plan and monitoring plan has to be prepared and proper operation of wildlife conservation plan needs to be done. The Wildlife conservation plan has been prepared and submitted for approval to PCCF. Copy of approval sent to PCCF needs to be submitted to Ministry. At the stage of implementation and on approval of the plan, the monitoring structure should be in place so that implementation of the plan can be done for which it has been prepared.
- 4) 10.87 Crores have been earmarked for public hearing concerns. Detailed table with activity-wise, component-wise needs to be submitted by PP.
- 5) The peripheral plantation plan should be taken up in 2 years with minimum 3 m height sapling with 2 × 2 m spacing.
- 6) Since it is a Greenfield project, entire peripheral plantation must be completed before the mining activity actually starts with 95% survival rate. At the end of 1 year, monitoring for 95% survival rate and the gap plantation must be done.
- 7) The EC will only be functional after obtaining permission for with-drawal of groundwater from the competent authority.
- 8) As the Public Hearing has been carried out for the entire 485.7725 Ha, project proponent after taking Stage-II Forest Clearance for remaining area i.e. 84.1964 Ha; may again approach the Ministry for undertaking mining in the remaining area with the proper mining plan.

B. Standard conditions

I. Statutory compliance

- (1) This Environmental Clearance (EC) is subject to orders/ judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble High Court, Hon'ble NGT and any other Court of Law, Common Cause Conditions as may be applicable.
- (2) The Project proponent complies with all the statutory requirements and judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2nd August, 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in matter of Common Cause versus Union of India & Ors before commencing the mining operations.



- 4.8
- (3) The State Government concerned shall ensure that mining operation shall not be commenced till the entire compensation levied, if any, for illegal mining paid by the Project Proponent through their respective Department of Mining & Geology in strict compliance of Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2nd August, 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in matter of Common Cause versus Union of India & Ors.
 - (4) This Environmental Clearance shall become operational only after receiving formal NBWL Clearance from MoEF&CC subsequent to the recommendations of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife, if applicable to the Project.
 - (5) This Environmental Clearance shall become operational only after receiving formal Forest Clearance (FC) under the provision of Forest Conservation Act, 1980, if applicable to the Project.
 - (6) Project Proponent (PP) shall obtain Consent to Operate after grant of EC and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein. The mining activity shall not commence prior to obtaining Consent to Establish / Consent to Operate from the concerned State Pollution Control Board/Committee.
 - (7) The PP shall adhere to the provision of the Mines Act, 1952, Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulation), Act, 2015 and rules & regulations made there under. PP shall adhere to various circulars issued by Directorate General Mines Safety (DGMS) and Indian Bureau of Mines from time to time.
 - (8) The Project Proponent shall obtain consents from all the concerned land owners, before start of mining operations, as per the provisions of MMDR Act, 1957 and rules made there under in respect of lands which are not owned by it.
 - (9) The Project Proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in MoEFCC's Office Memorandum No. Z-11013/57/2014-IA.II (M), dated 29th October, 2014, titled "Impact of mining activities on Habitations-Issues related to the mining Projects wherein Habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or Habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area".
 - (10) The Project Proponent shall obtain necessary prior permission of the competent authorities for drawl of requisite quantity of surface water and from CGWA for withdrawal of ground water for the project.
 - (11) A copy of EC letter will be marked to concerned Panchayat / local NGO etc. if any, from whom suggestion / representation has been received while processing the proposal.
 - (12) State Pollution Control Board/Committee shall be responsible for display of this EC letter at its Regional office, District Industries Centre and Collector's office/ Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
 - (13) The Project Authorities should widely advertise about the grant of this EC letter by printing the same in at least two local newspapers, one of which shall be in vernacular language of the concerned area. The advertisement shall be done within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter mentioning that the instant project has been accorded EC and copy of the EC letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board/Committee and web site of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (www.parivesh.nic.in). A copy of the advertisement may be forwarded to the concerned MoEFCC Regional Office for compliance and record.

- (14) The Project Proponent shall inform the MoEF&CC for any change in ownership of the mining lease. In case there is any change in ownership or mining lease is transferred than mining operation shall only be carried out after transfer of EC as per provisions of the para 11 of EIA Notification, 2006 as amended from time to time.

II. Air quality monitoring and preservation

- (1) The Project Proponent shall install a minimum of 3 (three) online Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations with 1 (one) in upwind and 2 (two) in downwind direction based on long term climatological data about wind direction such that an angle of 120° is made between the monitoring locations to monitor critical parameters, relevant for mining operations, of air pollution viz. PM10, PM2.5, NO₂, CO and SO₂ etc. as per the methodology mentioned in NAAQS Notification No. B-29016/20/90/PCI/I, dated 18.11.2009 covering the aspects of transportation and use of heavy machinery in the impact zone. The ambient air quality shall also be monitored at prominent places like office building, canteen etc. as per the site condition to ascertain the exposure characteristics at specific places. The above data shall be digitally displayed within 03 months in front of the main Gate of the mine site.
- (2) Effective safeguard measures for prevention of dust generation and subsequent suppression (like regular water sprinkling, metalled road construction etc.) shall be carried out in areas prone to air pollution wherein high levels of PM10 and PM2.5 are evident such as haul road, loading and unloading point and transfer points. The Fugitive dust emissions from all sources shall be regularly controlled by installation of required equipments/ machineries and preventive maintenance. Use of suitable water-soluble chemical dust suppressing agents may be explored for better effectiveness of dust control system. It shall be ensured that air pollution level conform to the standards prescribed by the MoEFCC/ Central Pollution Control Board.

III. Water quality monitoring and preservation

- (1) In case, immediate mining scheme envisages intersection of ground water table, then Environmental Clearance shall become operational only after receiving formal clearance from CGWA. In case, mining operation involves intersection of ground water table at a later stage, then PP shall ensure that prior approval from CGWA and MoEFCC is in place before such mining operations. The permission for intersection of ground water table shall essentially be based on detailed hydro-geological study of the area.
- (2) Regular monitoring of the flow rate of the springs and perennial nallahs flowing in and around the mine lease shall be carried out and records maintain. The natural water bodies and or streams which are flowing in an around the village, should not be disturbed. The Water Table should be nurtured so as not to go down below the

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pre-mining period. In case of any water scarcity in the area, the Project Proponent has to provide water to the villagers for their use. A provision for regular monitoring of water table in open dug well located in village should be incorporated to ascertain the impact of mining over ground water table. The Report on changes in Ground water level and quality shall be submitted on six-monthly basis to the Regional Office of the Ministry, CGWA and State Groundwater Department / State Pollution Control Board.

- (3) Project Proponent shall regularly monitor and maintain records w.r.t. ground water level and quality in and around the mine lease by establishing a network of existing wells as well as new piezo-meter installations during the mining operation in consultation with Central Ground Water Authority/ State Ground Water Department. The Report on changes in Ground water level and quality shall be submitted on six-monthly basis to the Regional Office of the Ministry, CGWA and State Groundwater Department / State Pollution Control Board.
- (4) The Project Proponent shall undertake regular monitoring of natural water course/ water resources/ springs and perennial nallahs existing/ flowing in and around the mine lease and maintain its records. The project proponent shall undertake regular monitoring of water quality upstream and downstream of water bodies passing within and nearby/ adjacent to the mine lease and maintain its records. Sufficient number of gullies shall be provided at appropriate places within the lease for management of water. PP shall carryout regular monitoring w.r.t. pH and included the same in monitoring plan. The parameters to be monitored shall include their water quality vis-à-vis suitability for usage as per CPCB criteria and flow rate. It shall be ensured that no obstruction and/ or alteration be made to water bodies during mining operations without justification and prior approval of MoEFCC. The monitoring of water courses/ bodies existing in lease area shall be carried out four times in a year viz. pre- monsoon (April-May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January) and the record of monitored data may be sent regularly to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Regional Office, Central Ground Water Authority and Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, State Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board. Clearly showing the trend analysis on six-monthly basis.
- (5) Quality of polluted water generated from mining operations which include Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) in mines run-off; acid mine drainage and metal contamination in runoff shall be monitored along with Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Dissolved Oxygen (DO), pH and Total Suspended Solids (TSS). The monitored data shall be uploaded on the website of the company as well as displayed at the project site in public domain, on a display board, at a suitable location near the main gate of the Company. The circular No. J- 20012/1/2006-IA.II (M) dated 27.05.2009 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may also be referred in this regard.
- (6) Project Proponent shall plan, develop and implement rainwater harvesting measures on long term basis to augment ground water resources in the area in consultation with Central Ground Water Board/ State Groundwater Department. A report on amount of water recharged needs to be submitted to Regional Office MoEFCC annually.

- (7) Industrial waste water (workshop and waste water from the mine) should be properly collected and treated so as to conform to the notified standards prescribed from time to time. The standards shall be prescribed through Consent to Operate (CTO) issued by concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB). The workshop effluent shall be treated after its initial passage through Oil and grease trap.
- (8) The water balance/water auditing shall be carried out and measure for reducing the consumption of water shall be taken up and reported to the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC and State Pollution Control Board/Committee.

IV. Noise and vibration monitoring and prevention

- (1) The peak particle velocity at 500m distance or within the nearest habitation, whichever is closer shall be monitored periodically as per applicable DGMS guidelines.
- (2) The illumination and sound at night at project sites disturb the villages in respect of both human and animal population. Consequent sleeping disorders and stress may affect the health in the villages located close to mining operations. Habitations have a right for darkness and minimal noise levels at night. PPs must ensure that the biological clock of the villages is not disturbed; by orienting the floodlights/ masks away from the villagers and keeping the noise levels well within the prescribed limits for day /night hours.
- (3) The Project Proponent shall take measures for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. The workers engaged in operations of HEMM, etc. should be provided with ear plugs /muffs. All personnel including laborers working in dusty areas shall be provided with protective respiratory devices along with adequate training, awareness and information on safety and health aspects. The PP shall be held responsible in case it has been found that workers/ personals/ laborers are working without personal protective equipment.

V. Mining plan

- (1) The Project Proponent shall adhere to the working parameters of mining plan which was submitted at the time of EC appraisal wherein year-wise plan was mentioned for total excavation i.e. quantum of mineral, waste, over burden, inter burden and top soil etc.. No change in basic mining proposal like mining technology, total excavation, mineral & waste production, lease area and scope of working (viz. method of mining, overburden & dump management, O.B & dump mining, mineral transportation mode, ultimate depth of mining etc.) shall not be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, which entail adverse environmental impacts, even if it is a part of approved mining plan modified after grant of EC or granted by State Govt. in the form to Short Term Permit (STP), Query license or any other name.
- (2) The Project Proponent shall get the Final Mine Closure Plan along with Financial Assurance approved from Indian Bureau of Mines/Department of Mining & Geology

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 as required under the Provision of the MMDR Act, 1957 and Rules/ Guidelines made there under. A copy of approved final mine closure plan shall be submitted within 2 months of the approval of the same from the competent authority to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for record and verification.

- (3) The land-use of the mine lease area at various stages of mining scheme as well as at the end-of-life shall be governed as per the approved Mining Plan. The excavation vis-à-vis backfilling in the mine lease area and corresponding afforestation to be raised in the reclaimed area shall be governed as per approved mining plan. PP shall ensure the monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. The compliance status shall be submitted half-yearly to the MoEFCC and its concerned Regional Office.

VI. Land reclamation

- (1) The Overburden (O.B.) generated during the mining operations shall be stacked at earmarked OB dump site(s) only and it should not be kept active for a long period of time. The physical parameters of the OB dumps like height, width and angle of slope shall be governed as per the approved Mining Plan as per the guidelines/circulars issued by D.G.M.S w.r.t. safety in mining operations shall be strictly adhered to maintain the stability of top soil/OB dumps. The topsoil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation.
- (2) The reject/waste generated during the mining operations shall be stacked at earmarked waste dump site(s) only. The physical parameters of the waste dumps like height, width and angle of slope shall be governed as per the approved Mining Plan as per the guidelines/circulars issued by DGMS w.r.t. safety in mining operations shall be strictly adhered to maintain the stability of waste dumps.
- (3) The reclamation of waste dump sites shall be done in scientific manner as per the Approved Mining Plan cum Progressive Mine Closure Plan.
- (4) The slope of dumps shall be vegetated in scientific manner with suitable native species to maintain the slope stability, prevent erosion and surface run off. The selection of local species regulates local climatic parameters and help in adaptation of plant species to the microclimate. The gullies formed on slopes should be adequately taken care of as it impacts the overall stability of dumps. The dump mass should be consolidated with the help of dozer/ compactors thereby ensuring proper filling/ leveling of dump mass. In critical areas, use of geo textiles/ geomembranes / clay liners / Bentonite etc. shall be undertaken for stabilization of the dump.
- (5) The Project Proponent shall carry out slope stability study in case the dump height is more than 30 meters. The slope stability report shall be submitted to concerned regional office of MoEF&CC.
- (6) Catch drains, settling tanks and siltation ponds of appropriate size shall be constructed around the mine working, mineral yards and Top Soil/OB/Waste dumps to prevent run off of water and flow of sediments directly into the water bodies (Nallah/ River/ Pond etc.). The collected water should be utilized for watering the

- mine area, roads, green belt development, plantation etc. The drains/ sedimentation sumps etc. shall be de-silted regularly, particularly after monsoon season, and maintained properly.
- (7) Check dams of appropriate size, gradient and length shall be constructed around mine pit and OB dumps to prevent storm run-off and sediment flow into adjoining water bodies. A safety margin of 50% shall be kept for designing of sump structures over and above peak rainfall (based on 50 years data) and maximum discharge in the mine and its adjoining area which shall also help in providing adequate retention time period thereby allowing proper settling of sediments/ silt material. The sedimentation pits/ sumps shall be constructed at the corners of the garland drains.
 - (8) The top soil, if any, shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) within the mine lease only and should not be kept unutilized for long. The physical parameters of the top soil dumps like height, width and angle of slope shall be governed as per the approved Mining Plan and as per the guidelines framed by DGMS w.r.t. safety in mining operations shall be strictly adhered to maintain the stability of dumps. The topsoil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation purpose.

VII. Transportation

- (1) No Transportation of the minerals shall be allowed in case of roads passing through villages/ habitations. In such cases, PP shall construct a 'bypass' road for the purpose of transportation of the minerals leaving an adequate gap (say at least 200 meters) so that the adverse impact of sound and dust along with chances of accidents could be mitigated. All costs resulting from widening and strengthening of existing public road network shall be borne by the PP in consultation with nodal State Govt. Department. Transportation of minerals through road movement in case of existing village/ rural roads shall be allowed in consultation with nodal State Govt. Department only after required strengthening such that the carrying capacity of roads is increased to handle the traffic load. The pollution due to transportation load on the environment will be effectively controlled and water sprinkling will also be done regularly. Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. Project should obtain Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate for all the vehicles from authorized pollution testing centers.
- (2) The Main haulage road within the mine lease should be provided with a permanent water sprinkling arrangement for dust suppression. Other roads within the mine lease should be wetted regularly with tanker-mounted water sprinkling system. The other areas of dust generation like crushing zone, material transfer points, material yards etc. should invariably be provided with dust suppression arrangements. The air pollution control equipments like bag filters, vacuum suction hoods, dry fogging system etc. shall be installed at Crushers, belt-conveyors and other areas prone to air pollution. The belt conveyor should be fully covered to avoid generation of dust while transportation. PP shall take necessary measures to avoid generation of fugitive dust emissions.

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VIII. Green Belt

- (1) The Project Proponent shall develop greenbelt in 7.5m wide safety zone all along the mine lease boundary as per the guidelines of CPCB in order to arrest pollution emanating from mining operations within the lease. The whole Green belt shall be developed within first 5 years starting from windward side of the active mining area. The development of greenbelt shall be governed as per the EC granted by the Ministry irrespective of the stipulation made in approved mine plan.
- (2) The Project Proponent shall carryout plantation/ afforestation in backfilled and reclaimed area of mining lease, around water body, along the roadsides, in community areas etc. by planting the native species in consultation with the State Forest Department/ Agriculture Department/ Rural development department/ Tribal Welfare Department/ Gram Panchayat such that only those species be selected which are of use to the local people. The CPCB guidelines in this respect shall also be adhered. The density of the trees should be around 2500 saplings per Hectare. Adequate budgetary provision shall be made for protection and care of trees.
- (3) The Project Proponent shall make necessary alternative arrangements for livestock feed by developing grazing land with a view to compensate those areas which are coming within the mine lease. The development of such grazing land shall be done in consultation with the State Government. In this regard, Project Proponent should essentially implement the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquisition of grazing land. The sparse trees on such grazing ground, which provide mid-day shelter from the scorching sun, should be scrupulously guarded/ protected against felling and plantation of such trees should be promoted.
- (4) The Project Proponent shall undertake all precautionary measures for conservation and protection of endangered flora and fauna and Schedule-I species during mining operation. A Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared for the same clearly delineating action to be taken for conservation of flora and fauna. The Plan shall be approved by Chief Wild Life Warden of the State Govt.
- (5) And implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department. A copy of Wildlife Conservation Plan and its implementation status (annual) shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry.

IX. Public hearing and human health issues

- (1) The Project Proponent shall appoint an Occupational Health Specialist for Regular as well as Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the mining activities, as per the DGMS guidelines. The records shall be maintained properly. PP shall also carryout Occupational health check-ups in respect of workers which are having ailments like BP, diabetes, habitual smoking, etc. The check-ups shall be undertaken once in six months and necessary remedial/ preventive measures be taken. A status report on the same may be sent to MoEFCC Regional Office and DGMS on half-yearly basis.

- (2) The Project Proponent must demonstrate commitment to work towards 'Zero Harm' from their mining activities and carry out Health Risk Assessment (HRA) for identification workplace hazards and assess their potential risks to health and determine appropriate control measures to protect the health and wellbeing of workers and nearby community. The proponent shall maintain accurate and systematic records of the HRA. The HRA for neighborhood has to focus on Public Health Problems like Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV, Anaemia, Diarrhoea in children under five, respiratory infections due to bio mass cooking. The proponent shall also create awareness and educate the nearby community and workers for Sanitation, Personal Hygiene, Hand washing, not to defecate in open, Women Health and Hygiene (Providing Sanitary Napkins), hazard of tobacco and alcohol use. The Proponent shall carryout base line HRA for all the category of workers and thereafter every five years.
- (3) The Proponent shall carry out Occupational health surveillance which be a part of HRA and include Biological Monitoring where practical and feasible, and the tests and investigations relevant to the exposure (e.g. for Dust a X-Ray chest; For Noise Audiometric; for Lead Exposure Blood Lead, For Welders Full Ophthalmologic Assessment; for Manganese Miners a complete Neurological Assessment by a Certified Neurologist, and Manganese (Mn) Estimation in Blood; For Inorganic Chromium- Fortnightly skin inspection of hands and forearms by a responsible person. Except routine tests all tests would be carried out in a Lab accredited by NABH. Records of Health Surveillance must be kept for 30 years, including the results of and the records of Physical examination and tests. The record of exposure due to materials like Asbestos, Hard Rock Mining, Silica, Gold, Kaolin, Aluminium, Iron, Manganese, Chromium, Lead, Uranium need to be handed over to the Mining Department of the State in case the life of the mine is less than 30 years. It would be obligatory for the State Mines Departments to make arrangements for the safe and secure storage of the records including X-Ray. Only conventional X-Ray will be accepted for record purposes and not the digital one). X-Ray must meet ILO criteria (17 x14 inches and of good quality).
- (4) The Proponent shall maintained a record of performance indicators for workers which includes (a) there should not be a significant decline in their Body Mass Index and it should stay between 18.5 -24.9, (b) the Final Chest X-Ray compared with the base line X-Ray should not show any capacities ,(c) At the end of their leaving job there should be no Diminution in their Lung Functions Forced Expiratory Volume in one second (FEV1), Forced Vital Capacity (FVC), and the ratio) unless they are smokers which has to be adjusted, and the effect of age, (d) their hearing should not be affected. As a proof an Audiogram (first and last need to be presented), (e) they should not have developed any Persistent Back Pain, Neck Pain, and the movement of their Hip, Knee and other joints should have normal range of movement, (f) they should not have suffered loss of any body part. The record of the same should be submitted to the Regional Office, MoEFCC annually along with details of the relief and compensation paid to workers having above indications.
- (5) The Project Proponent shall ensure that Personnel working in dusty areas should wear protective respiratory devices and they should also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.

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- (6) Project Proponent shall make provision for the housing for workers/labors or shall construct labor camps within/outside (company owned land) with necessary basic infrastructure/ facilities like fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile STP, safe drinking water, medical health care, crèche for kids etc. The housing may be provided in the form of temporary structures which can be removed after the completion of the project related infrastructure. The domestic waste water should be treated with STP in order to avoid contamination of underground water.
 - (7) The activities proposed in Action plan prepared for addressing the issues raised during the Public Hearing shall be completed as per the budgetary provisions mentioned in the Action Plan and within the stipulated time frame. The Status Report on implementation of Action Plan shall be submitted to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry along with District Administration.

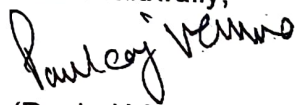
X. Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER)

- (1) The activities and budget earmarked for Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) as per Ministry's O.M No 22-65/2017-IA. II (M) dated 01.05.2018 or as proposed by EAC should be kept in a separate bank account. The activities proposed for CER shall be implemented in a time bound manner and annual report of implementation of the same along with documentary proof viz. photographs, purchase documents, latitude & longitude of infrastructure developed & road constructed needs to be submitted to Regional Office MoEF&CC annually along with audited statement.
- (2) Project Proponent shall keep the funds earmarked for environmental protection measures in a separate account and refrain from diverting the same for other purposes. The Year wise expenditure of such funds should be reported to the MoEFCC and its concerned Regional Office.

XI. Miscellaneous

- (1) The Project Proponent shall prepare digital map (land use & land cover) of the entire lease area once in five years purpose of monitoring land use pattern and submit a report to concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC.
- (2) The Project Authorities should inform to the Regional Office regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (3) The Project Proponent shall submit six monthly compliance reports on the status of the implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards to the MOEFCC & its concerned Regional Office, Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board.
- (4) A separate 'Environmental Management Cell' with suitable qualified manpower should be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive. The Senior Executive shall directly report to Head of the Organization. Adequate number of qualified

- Environmental Scientists and Mining Engineers shall be appointed and submit a report to RO, MoEFCC.
- (5) The concerned Regional Office of the MoEFCC shall randomly monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the MoEFCC officer(s) by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
23. The Ministry or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
24. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attracts action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
25. The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules made there under and also any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India/ High Court and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.
26. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
27. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

 (Pankaj Verma)
 Scientist E

Copy to:

- (1) The Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.
- (2) The Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka, Secretariat, Bengaluru.
- (3) The Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Karnataka, Secretariat, Bengaluru.
- (4) The Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of Karnataka, Secretariat, Bengaluru.
- (5) The Chief Wildlife Warden, Forest Department, Bengaluru.

- (58)
- (6) The Dy. Director General of Forests, Ministry of Env., Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, Koramangala II Block, Bangalore – 560 034.
 - (7) The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110 032.
 - (8) The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, 18/11, Jam Nagar House, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110 011.
 - (9) The Chairman, Karnataka Pollution Control Board, Parisara Bhavan, No # 49, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.
 - (10) The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440 001.
 - (11) The District Collector, Bellary District.
 - (12) Guard File.
 - (13) PARIVESH.

Pankaj Verma
(Pankaj Verma)
Scientist E

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi - 1100 03
Dated: 29th September, 2021

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.,
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department,
Government of Karnataka,
Bengaluru.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road=401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of IWs KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited), Bengaluru. -regarding (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/32568/2018).

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to Govt. of Karnataka's letter no. FEE 19 FFM 2020 (e) dt 17.08.2021 seeking clarification with respect to conditions No. B (ii) & (iii) and permission for condition No. B (v) as per this Ministry's in-principle approval/Stage-I letter dt 24.06.2021. In this regard it is clarified that B(ii) of the letter dt 24.06.2021 may be read as :-

"B (ii) If there is any non-forest land within the project area, same needs to be acquired by the user agency, prior to the forest land under diversion (in the instant proposal) is handed over to the user agency."

Instead of:-

"B (ii) That Forest land will be handed over only after required non-forest land for the project is handed over by the user agency"

2. With respect to condition no. B(v) of the letter dt 24.06.2021, it is informed that the Ministry has imposed the condition that a comprehensive study jointly by a couple of reputed institutes like IIT (ISM), Dhanbad, IIT Delhi, IISC, Bengaluru and ICFRE, Dehradun may be conducted. The State Government may decide which

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institute may be entrusted for this Study among the institutes/Organizations mentioned above.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru.
3. The Nodal Office (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
4. User Agency.

Annexure 20

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 1100 03,

Dated: 16th December, 2022

To

The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept.,
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road=401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of M/s KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited), Bengaluru. -regarding (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/32568/2018).

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 19FFM 2020 (e) dated 09th October, 2020 on the above mentioned subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road=401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of M/s KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited), Bengaluru, was sought in accordance with Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, *In-principle approval /Stage-I clearance* for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 24.06.2021 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Karnataka vide their letter No. FEE 19 FFM 2020 (e) dated 18th August, 2022 and letter No. FEE 19 FFM 2020 dated 01st October, 2022, *Final approval/Stage - II approval* of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road=401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of M/s KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited), Bengaluru, subject to the following conditions: -

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A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land to user agency by the State Govt.:

- i. The State Govt. shall ensure that the Mines Department, Karnataka/ User Agency in consultation with the Forest Department, Karnataka will implement a plan to secure dense vegetation on the slopes of the proposed area, and implement the same during the course of the lease period;
- ii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the prevalence of wildlife in the area, a Site-specific Wild Life Management Plan will be implemented at the cost of the user agency, before commencement of work;
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the number of seasonal nalas (streams) originate in the area proposed for forest diversion. A CAT Plan duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Karnataka will be implemented at the cost of the user agency, before commencement of work;
- iv. The State Govt. shall ensure the complete compliance on FRA, 2006; It should also be ensured that the FRA certificate issued by District collector is complete with letter number, date, name, signature and official seal, as required in the certificate;
- v. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- vi. The State Government may ensure that the KML files of the area to be diverted, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal;
- vii. The State Government shall ensure that the mining lease holder shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re grassing the mining area, and any other areas which may have been disturbed due their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc.;

B: Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Govt.:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The Compensatory Afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over double the degraded i.e. $401.5761 \times 2 = 803.1522$ ha. of degraded forest land at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and mono-culture of any species may be avoided. With provision for ten years on subsequent maintenance;
- iii. The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and transfer the same to the NA, CAMPA under intimation to this Ministry;
- iv. The area is within a mineralised zone. It is reported that at present there are 4 mining zones where active mining is taking place by a large number of organizations as per their individual plans. On the other hand, the cumulative impact of mining on forest, wildlife and ecology needs to be understood and acted upon. As such, the area requires a comprehensive view with regard to sustainable mining *vis-à-vis* forest, wildlife and ecological conservation including promotion of green mining infrastructure in the future which could not only have least impact on forest and wildlife in the area but in some cases could actually promote forest and wildlife by itself. A comprehensive study jointly by a couple of reputed institutes like IIT(ISM), Dhanbad, IIT, Delhi, IISc, Bengaluru, ICFRE, Dehradun shall be undertaken by the State Government at the cost of the user agency so as to draw a perspective co-management plan for mining and forest and wildlife

- conservation and development, including for green mining infrastructure development. The study report shall be submitted within one year for its consideration by Govt. of India and issuing guidelines/ direction for follow up action by the mining companies at their cost. It is clarified that this study shall not be linked to the present FC approval, however the State shall ensure the compliance;
- v. The User Agency and the State Government shall strictly adhere to the directions/ guidelines issues by the Honorable Supreme Court for mining, including directions on mining in Bellary district, and comply with all the statutory conditions for scientific and sustainable mining issued by competent authority;
- vi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the road side plantation of local species and bamboo raised along the approach road to the mine at the cost of the user agency;
- vii. The State Government shall prepare a time-bound plan for return of those forest areas in 'A', 'B' and 'C' category mines in Bellary district which could not be auctioned on account of non-viability, to the State Forest Department after proper Rehabilitation and Resettlement as per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and submit the Plan to the Govt. of India within six months. It is clarified that this condition is not linked to the instant proposal of forest land diversion, but the same shall be one of the issues for consideration for any forest land diversion in Karnataka State in the future, i.e. after six months, however the State shall ensure the compliance;
- viii. The State Govt. shall ensure the User Agency must do the needful as per Hon'ble SC directions and follow the instructions and recommendation of the CEC and also take required approval in a time bound manner for the regularization of the violations in the Kudremukh Forest and National Park. It would be obligatory on the State Government and UA to get the regularization of the violation of FC Act in the matter is done in time. The State shall also ensure the non binding conditions laid down by the FAC in the matter;
- ix. The period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulating) Act, 1957, as amended or Rules framed there under;
- x. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Approved scheme/plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with compliance of Stage-I approval:
- (a) Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department.
- (b) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;
- (c) Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
- (d) Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28° ; and
- (e) No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan;
- xi. Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by

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- the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
- (a) User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - (b) Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - (c) Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - (d) Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost under the supervisions of the State Forest Department. The degraded forest land (DFL) so selected will be informed to the MoEF&CC with shape files before Stage-II approval and afforestation will be done within three years from the date of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department; and
 - (e) The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;
- xii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government;
- xiii. The User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xiv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xv. No labour camps shall be set up inside the forest area. Labour management plan should be implement with emphasis that no labour camp be set up in the close vicinity of the eco-fragile and sensitive areas;
- xvi. The Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xvii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
- xviii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xix. No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused;
- xx. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
- xxi. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- xxii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred

- to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
- xxiii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the Compliance report of this approval is uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xxiv. The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.21 of comprehensive guidelines issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28th March, 2019;
- xxv. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency; and
- xxvi. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 24.06.2021 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Nodal Officer, (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. The Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading.

(66)

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: 21st March, 2023

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Forest, Ecology and Environment Deptt.,
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road=401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of IWs KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited), Bengaluru. -regarding (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/32568/2018).

Sir

I am directed to refer to Govt. of Karnataka letterNo.FEE 19 FFM 2020 (e) dt 27.02.2023 and KIOCL D.O. letter No. CMD/5037 dated 01.03.2023 and this Ministry's Stage-II/Final approval letter dt 16.12.22 and to say that in partial modification to the said approval letter, the conditions (i), (ii) (iii) and (vii) of Part- A (Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land to user agency by the State Govt.) are hereby shifted as conditions of Part B (Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Govt.).

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Nodal Officer, (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. The Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading.



File No.: IA-J-11015/28/2018-IA-II(M)

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
IA Division



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Dated 09/12/2024



To,

Vasudha Chandra S
M/s KIOCL LIMITED
II BLOCK, KORAMANGALA, BANGALORE 560034 , KORAMANGALA, BENGALURU
URBAN, KARNATAKA, , 560034
bnbd@kioclltd.com

Subject: Devadari Iron Ore mine for mining of 2.0 MTPA Iron Ore (ROM) & 500 TPA Manganese Ore with 2 MTPA wet Beneficiation plant located at notified and reserved mining lease area of 401.5761 ha (388.0 ha for Mining & 13.5761 ha for conveyor, approach road, etc.) falling under Swamimalai Block Forest, Kumaraswami Reserve Forest Range, Taluk Sandur, District Bellary, Karnataka by M/s KIOCL Limited – Amendment in Environmental Clearance reg.

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your application submitted to MoEF&CC vide proposal number IA/KA/MIN/489756/2024 dated 08/08/2024 for grant of an amendment in prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to the project under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-and as amended thereof.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) EC Identification No.	EC24A0000KA5618372A
(ii) File No.	IA-J-11015/28/2018-IA-II(M)
(iii) Clearance Type	Amendment in EC
(iv) Category	A
(v) Schedule No./ Project Activity	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vi) Sector	Non-Coal Mining
(vii) Name of Project	Proposal for Amendment in EC condition granted vide ltr (J-11015 /28 / 2018-IA-II (M)) dt 13.08.2021 of Devadari Iron Ore Mine with capacity of 2.0 MTPA Iron Ore (ROM) and 500 TPA Manganese Ore production along with 2.0 MTPA Wet Beneficiation plant of M/s. KIOCL Limited for permission as interim arrangement for transportation of iron ore by road till installation of Downhill Conveyor System / over a period of Five

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- (viii) Location of Project (District, State)
(ix) Issuing Authority
(x) EC Date
(xi) Applicability of General Conditions
(xii) Status of implementation of the project

(05) years, whichever is earlier, in 401.5761 Ha.
BALLARI, KARNATAKA
MoEF&CC
08/08/2024
NO

3. The instant proposal for Amendment for Environmental Clearance of Devadari Iron Ore mine for mining of 2.0 MTPA Iron Ore (ROM) & 500 TPA Manganese Ore with 2 MTPA wet Beneficiation plant located at notified and reserved mining lease area of 401.5761 ha (388.0 ha for Mining & 13.5761 ha for conveyor, approach road, etc.) falling under Swamimalai Block Forest, Kumaraswami Reserve Forest Range, Taluk Sandur, District Bellary, Karnataka by M/s KIOCL Limited.

4. The Project Proponent has submitted an Amendment to Environmental Clearance (EC) granted vide letter no. J-11015/28/2018-IA-II (M) dated 13.08.2021 for Devadari Iron Ore Mine with capacity of 2.0 MTPA Iron Ore (ROM) and 500 TPA Manganese Ore production along with 2.0 MTPA Wet Beneficiation plant of M/s KIOCL Limited mentioned in the paragraph no. 6 of the EC (mining plan details) issued on 13.08.2021:

“The Iron ore produced in the mine will be transported through Downhill Conveyor to the nearest railway siding at Ranjithpura Railway Station/BMM Railway Siding which is about 4 kms away from the proposed mine site”.

The Project Proponent has requested for an amendment as an interim arrangement for transportation of iron ore by road till installation of Downhill Conveyor System/ over a period of Five (05) years, whichever is earlier.

5. The details of the project as per the document submitted by the Project Proponent are given as under:

i. The mine lease area is located between Latitude N 15°01'21.71" to 15°03' 38.10" N and Longitude: 76°34'36.77" to 76° 36'12.75" E

ii. The mine lease area falls under the Survey of India Topo sheet No. 57 A/12 and falls in Seismic Zone II.

iii. The proposed project activity is listed at Schedule no. 1(a) for Mining of Mineral, under Category “A” as the mining lease, area is greater than 250 ha, and therefore project is being considered at central level.

iv. Details of Mine Lease in chronological manner

S.No	Prospecting License/ Letter of Intent (LoI)/ Grant of Mine lease and Lr No	Date of the grant	Name of the Mineral&(Major/Minor)	Period of Grant	Granted by	Mine lease area in Ha
1	Letter No. DMG/MLS/Res. KIOCL/2016-17/10301	13.02.2017	Iron Ore	50 years	Govt. of Karnataka	388.0

S. No	Details of grant of Mine Lease deed execution	Period of Grant		Name of the Mineral	Mine lease area in Ha
		From	To		
1	Mining Lease was executed by Director of Mines & Geology, Bellary	18-01-2023	-	Iron Ore	388.0

v. Land Use/Land Cover of the Mine Lease Area:

Private land	NIL
Government land	NIL
Forest land	Forest Land
Total Mining Lease area (MLA), ha	<p>Govt. of Karnataka (GoK) vide gazette notification dated 23.01.2017 notified an area 470.40 ha forest land in Devadari range, SandurTq, Ballari Dt., Karnataka for Iron ore & manganese ore mining in favour of KIOCL Limited under Section 17A (2) of MMRD Act 1957.</p> <p>MoEF&CC, GoI vide letter dated 16.12.2022 accorded Final Stage-II FC approval for the extent of 401.5761 ha i.e., 388.00 ha for Mining lease & 13.5761 ha for conveyor, approach road, power transmission line/water line of total 401.5761 ha.</p> <p>Hence Mining Lease area reduced from 470.4 ha to 388 ha and the area outside the ML will reduce from 15.3725 ha to 13.5761 ha making the total area reduced from 485.7725 ha to 401.5761 ha.</p>
Private land for crusher, workshop & other infrastructure outside the MLA	NA

vi. Mining Plan details:

Mining Plan including Progressive Mine Closure Plan (approved by Indian Bureau of Mines/DMG)	Letter No.	MCDR-MPCOFE/15.2023-BNG-IBM-RO-BNG
	Date	11.10.2023
	Mineral (Major/Minor)	Iron Ore - Major Mineral
	Mine Lease Area, Ha	388.0
	Validity	5 years plan period
Mining Parameters	Quantitative Description	
Method of Mining	Opencast Mining with conventional shovel dumper combination.	
Drilling/Blasting	Controlled blasting in the pits to keep the ground vibration level within permissible limit. Rock breaker will be used to break oversized boulders, if any, so that no secondary blasting is required.	
Geological Reserves	31826760 Tonnes	
Mineable Reserves	5119200 Tonnes	
Breakup of Total Excavation (Topsoil/OB/SB/IB/Mineral Rejects/ Waste, MTPA)	The total excavation at the peak production will be 6.3317 million tonnes per annum (ROM Iron Ore 2.00 MTPA + ROM of Mn Ore : 0.000500 + Top soil 0.030 + OB: 4.3012 MTPA)	
Life of mine	Considering the present mineable reserve, the life of mine is calculated 7 years. However, after the detailed exploration of entire mining lease area, the expected mineral reserve is likely to substantiate a mine life of around 20 years.	
Mine Bench Height & Bench Width	Mine Bench Height: 6 m Bench Width (working bench): 11 m	
No. of Mine Benches	More than 6	
Existing Depth, m bgl	Not Applicable	
Ultimate Depth of Mining, m bgl	Iron Ore -786mRL Manganese Ore - 890mRL	
Ground Water Table, m bgl	The mining lease area lies above the water table, indicating that groundwater is not a significant concern	
Details of ground water intersection	Yes	
Individual bench slope	75°	
Overall pit slope	36°	
Details of existing/ proposed Crusher	Proposed 03 crushers: Primary Jaw Crusher 350 TPH, Secondary Cone Crushers 250 TPH, Tertiary & Quaternary Cone Crushers 250	

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	TPH.						
Mineral Beneficiation	Iron Ore Mining, Beneficiation, Filtration Technology and the production of high-quality Pellets						
RoM output size	2 MTPA of Iron Ore (ROM) and 500 TPA of Manganese Ore. The total excavation (highest) shall be 7.87 million TPA.						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lump Ore</td> <td>Fines Ore</td> <td>Iron ore concentrate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>+ 10 - 40mm (Over Size: - 10mm (Over & Under size: Max. 5% each)</td> <td>Size: - 10mm (Over size 5% maximum and undersize 20% maximum)</td> <td>(-) 325 mesh</td> </tr> </table>	Lump Ore	Fines Ore	Iron ore concentrate	+ 10 - 40mm (Over Size: - 10mm (Over & Under size: Max. 5% each)	Size: - 10mm (Over size 5% maximum and undersize 20% maximum)	(-) 325 mesh
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+ 10 - 40mm (Over Size: - 10mm (Over & Under size: Max. 5% each)	Size: - 10mm (Over size 5% maximum and undersize 20% maximum)	(-) 325 mesh					
Transportation details including capacity of dumper/tipper, mode of transport and distance	The Iron ore produced in the mine will be transported through Downhill Conveyor to the nearest railway siding at Ranjithpura Railway Station/BMM Railway Siding which is about 4 kms away from the proposed mine site. The railway siding facilities, which already exists at Ranjithpura/BMM Railway Siding will be utilized for transportation of iron ore to KIOCL plants at Mangalore. Manganese Ore produced from mine will be transported through trucks. Dumpers capacity: 35 Tonnes.						
Generation of Topsoil/OB & its Management during plan period & conceptual period	The total top soil generation is estimated to be about 1,0.55 lakh cubic meters will be stacked properly and used for plantation and landscaping during the plan period.						
Generation of Mineral Rejects/ Waste & its Management during plan period & conceptual period	Reject: 1.2311 million cubic meters of mineral rejects will be generated over the plan period, starting from the 2nd year. Waste 6.835 million cubic meters of waste will be generated over the plan period						
Additional information (if any)	The ore and over burden will be excavated and transported by conventional shovel-dumper combination after loosening the hard rock mass by blasting. Excavators of 3.5 - 4.5 m ³ capacity will be utilized for excavation and loading and 35 tonnes capacity dumpers will be used for the transportation of the ore and overburden. The blasted ore will be loaded by the excavator and transported by dumper to a ROM stock pile close to the proposed crushing plant.						

vii. Water requirement:

Total water requirement	2953.21 m ³ /hr	Fresh water	143.48 m ³ /hr
Source	Downstream of Tungabhadra Dam	Treated water	2809.73m ³ /hr
Permission for withdrawal/ intersection along with details of grant and its validity	Permission obtained from Water Resources Department, Govt. of Karnataka vide Government Order No. WRD 23 MTP 2021, Bangalore dated 26.07.2021.		

viii. Presence of Environmentally Sensitive areas in the study area

Forest Land/Protected Area/Environmental Sensitivity Zone	Yes/No	Details of Certificate/letter issued by the concerned Department mentioning the Lr no, date of grant and remarks
Forest Land within the mine lease area and (if yes) status of Forest Clearance	Yes	Mining area fall under Swamimalai Block Forest, Kumaraswami Reserve Forest Range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary district, Karnataka.
National Park	No	--
Wildlife Sanctuary	No	--

Elephant/Tiger Reserve	No	--																								
Eco-Sensitive Zone(ESZ) /Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA)	No	--																								
Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)	No	--																								
Schedule-I species (No.s and name of schedule-I species with authenticated letter)	Yes	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SI. No.</th> <th>Common Name I Local Name</th> <th>Scientific Name</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Black buck</td> <td>Antelope cervicapra</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Indian wolf</td> <td>Canis lupus pallipes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Panther</td> <td>Pantheropardus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Sloth bear</td> <td>Melursusursinus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Monitor lizard</td> <td>Varanus spp.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Python</td> <td>Python molurus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Common peafowl</td> <td>Pavocristatus</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SI. No.	Common Name I Local Name	Scientific Name	1	Black buck	Antelope cervicapra	2	Indian wolf	Canis lupus pallipes	3	Panther	Pantheropardus	4	Sloth bear	Melursusursinus	5	Monitor lizard	Varanus spp.	6	Python	Python molurus	7	Common peafowl	Pavocristatus
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Wildlife Conservation Plan	Yes	PP has submitted the Site-specific Wildlife Management Plan with a budget of 7.5 crores is approved by PCCF (Wildlife), Govt. of Karnataka on 21.02.2022 with specific conditions.																								

ix. The Project Proponent has obtained Stage-I approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 vide F.No. 8-24/2020-FC dated 24.06.2021. Further, Stage-II approval obtained for 401.5761ha (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road = 401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM)Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of M/s KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited), Bengaluru.

x. Green belt/plantation details:

Proposed area for green belt/plantation and no. of saplings proposed	Efforts for plantation will continue at the mine, and KIOCL will also undertake plantation initiatives in nearby villages Area proposed to be covered (Ha): 41.799 Ha. Survival Rate: 75%
Budget for green plant & plantation till the end of life of mine.	Rs. 51,93,500 /- is earmarked.
Budget for nursery	25 lakhs proposed under CER.
Details of existing plantation and its survival rate	Efforts for plantation will continue at the mine, and KIOCL will also undertake plantation initiatives in nearby villages Area proposed to be covered (Ha): 41.799 Ha. Survival Rate: 75%
No. of tree cuts in the mine lease area and compensatory afforestation	0
Particulars for Green belt/plantation	Area covered (in Ha)
7.5 m barrier & non-mineralized zone	Safety Zone - 9.9571 ha. Green belt - 31.8419 ha.
50 m safety zone of nallah, roads, electric lines	-
500 m safety zones of nearest habitation villages	-

xi. Details of CTE/CTO, Certified Compliance Report, Certified Production Details from the inception of the mine:

Particulars	Details of Letter along with date of grant and validity
Consent to Operate	PP has obtained the CTO from KSPCB letter vide Order No. CTE-332501 dated July 27, 2022 and validity till 26.07.2027

xii. Details of project cost and employment:

Particulars	(Rs. In Crore)
Total cost of EMP (Capital Cost of EMP + capital cost of EMP)	EMP, capital Cost: Rs.370.0 lakhs

Public hearing)	recurring cost Rs.29.0 lakhs
Project Cost	Not Applicable, the proposal is for EC Amendment
Employment (No.s)	500 persons

6. Observation and Recommendation of the EAC:

The Project Proponent/Consultant has delivered the presentation and explained the key site features using a KML file such as Railway siding, and proposed road transportation route.

EAC observed that the Project Proponent has requested an amendment to allow for the transportation of iron ore by road as an interim arrangement, pending the installation of the Downhill Conveyor System, or for a period of five years, whichever is earlier. EAC noted that conveyor system would be installed in forestland. The Committee also noted that while Stage-II Forest Clearance has been obtained for the entire mine lease area, the Forest Lease Agreement for the transfer of forest land from the Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, has yet to be executed.

EAC noted that in the last EIA-EMP report PP has submitted issues raised during Public hearing. Mineral transportation by trucks through road was also a concern of the public on vehicle. PP assured public that they will install conveyor system for mineral transportation.

It was further observed that forest diversion issues and administrative and logistical challenges have caused delays in the original transportation plan, which involves the installation of the Downhill Conveyor System. The Committee also took into account the study conducted by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), which provided a report on the permissible annual production capacities for different roads connecting the mine lease area to the PMBR (BMM) Railway Siding and Sandur Bypass. The Committee noted that production and dispatch operations are expected to commence within six months via road to the railway siding.

Additionally, the Committee emphasized that the Project Proponent should make efforts to complete the construction of the conveyor belt within the next three years to connect the mine to the railway siding.

Based on above discussion and presentation by the Project Proponent and the Consultant, the EAC in its 34th EAC meeting held during 3-4 October 2024 recommended the proposal for amendment in Environmental Clearance letter no. J-11015/28/2018-IA-II (M) dated 13.08.2021 and allowed the amendment as an interim arrangement for transportation of iron ore by road till installation of Downhill Conveyor System/ over a period of two (02) years i.e. on or before 31st October 2026 with certain specific conditions.

7. The MoEF&CC has examined the proposal in accordance with the extant provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 & further amendments thereto and based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee hereby accords amendment in Environmental Clearance letter no. J-11015/28/2018-IA-II (M) dated 13.08.2021 and allowed the amendment as an interim arrangement for transportation of iron ore by road till installation of Downhill Conveyor System/ over a period of two (02) years i.e. on or before 31st October 2026 with the following additional specific conditions as given at Annexure 1. The other conditions of EC dated 13.08.2021 will remain.

8. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Copy To

- i. **The Secretary**, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.
- ii. **The Secretary**, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka, Secretariat, Bengaluru.
- iii. **The Secretary**, Department of Environment, Government of Karnataka, Secretariat, Bengaluru.
- iv. **The Secretary**, Department of Forests, Government of Karnataka, Secretariat, Bengaluru.
- v. **The Chief Wildlife Warden**, Karnataka State Forest Department, Bengaluru.
- vi. **The Deputy Director General of Forests (C)**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, Koramangala II Block, Bangalore - 560034.
- vii. **The Chairman**, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar,

Delhi-110032.

- viii. **The Member Secretary**, Central Ground Water Authority, 18/11, Jam Nagar House, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110011.
- ix. **The Chairman**, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, "Parisara Bhavan", No: 49, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560001.
- x. **The Controller General**, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001.
- xi. **The District Collector**, Ballari District, Government of Karnataka.
- xii. **Guard File**.
- xiii. **PARIVESH Portal**.

Annexure 1

Specific EC Conditions for (Mining Of Minerals)

1. Specific Conditions

S. No	EC Conditions
1.1	The project proponent needs to complete the installation of the Downhill Conveyor System within a period of two (02) years, i.e., on or before 31st October 2026. Until that time, the project proponent is permitted to transport iron ore by road via the erstwhile BMM road, which connects the DIOM mine lease boundary to the Ranjitpura/BMM railway siding. This route covers approximately 4.0 km through the Swamimalai Block Forest in Ballari District, Karnataka.
1.2	PP needs to comply the OM dated 24.07.2024 of MoEFCC, wherein it is stated that the plantation of saplings shall be carried out in the earmarked 33% greenbelt area as part of the tree plantation campaign "EK Ped Ma keNaam" (एकपेड़माकेनाम) and the details of the same shall be uploaded in the Meri Life portal(https://merilife.nic.in).
1.3	PP needs to take safeguards w.r.t control of air pollution, noise pollution, ensure no spillage of mineral on road and appropriate traffic management for transportation of iron ore by road till installation of Downhill Conveyor System/ over a period of two (02) years.
1.4	PP shall ensure that no dust is generated during the transportation of Iron Ore. PP shall use the tarpaulin-covered trucks to transport the iron ore by road till installation of Downhill Conveyor System.

Signature Not Verified

Digitally Signed by : Rajeev Ranjan
Member Secretary, MoEFCC (EC)

Date: 09/12/2024

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE
NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL (SZ), CHENNAI**

O.A.No.252 of 2024

Tribunal on its own motion SUO
MOTU based on The news item “
99000 trees in Sandur forest face
axe” appearing in Deccan Herald,
dated 17.06.2024.

... .. Applicant

---Versus---

Principal Chief Conservator of
Forest, Karnataka
and 4 others

..... Respondents

**Counter Affidavit with typed
set of papers**

Mrs.Kavitha.P, Ms.1031(a)/2001
Counsel for Respondent No. 2
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Chennai-104
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