



Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Minutes of Meeting for Advisory Committee



**MoM ID** FC/MOM/AC/406318/2026  
**Agenda ID** FC/AGENDA/AC/268638/2026  
**Title of Meeting** 3rd Advisory Committee meeting  
**Meeting Venue** Krishna Conference Hall  
**Meeting Mode** Physical  
**Meeting Dates & Time** Start Date : 24/03/2026  
End Date : 24/03/2026

**List of AC Members:**

S.No.	Name	Designation	Email ID
1	Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi	DGF&SS, MoEFCC	dgfi****@nic.in
2	Shri Santosh Tewari	Additional Director General (FC)	bh15*@ifs.nic.in
3	Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey	Additional Director General of Forest, MOEFCC	rame*****@nic.in
4	Shri R Raghu Prasad	Inspector General of Forest, MEF	ragh*****@gov.in
5	Sh Nityanand Srivastava	Chairman, SEAC	nity*****@yahoo.co.in
6	Manoj Pant	AC MEMBER	mpan*****@gmail.com
7	K R Shree Harsha	Member (EAC)	sree*****@gmail.com
8	Dr. Mehraj A. Shaikh	AC MEMBER	ac.n*****@gov.in

**Proposals considered during Meeting:**

**1. Project Name** Munjri Irrigation Project  
**Proposal Number** FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/471582/2024  
**User Agency** Subhash Gupta  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 740.1592  
**Division** Sheopur(T) Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted  
**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**2. Project Name** Diversion of 77.17 Ha additional Forest Land (46.42 Ha in Kurnool Range, Kurnool Division and 30.75 Ha in Panyam Range, Nandyal Division) in favor of M/s Greenko Energies Private Limited, Hyderabad, for Establishment of Integrated Renewable Energy Project at Pinna puram.

**Proposer**

**Number** FP/AP/HYD/IRRIG/462719/2024

**User Agency**

Gopi Krushna Nikku

**Forest Land and Area (Ha)**

77.17

**Division** Nandyal

**Recommendation**

Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**3. Project Name** Block VII Cudnem Mineral Block  
**Proposal Number** FP/GA/MIN/QRY/466437/2024  
**User Agency** Sunil Gupta  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 5.3612  
**Division** North Division  
**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Additional information sought from State Government.

**4. Project Name** CM GHOSANA, CONSTRUCTION OF YAMUNA GHAT NEAR YAMUNA RIVER BED UNDER BLOCK KALSI VILLAGE-HARIPUR DEHRADUN

**Proposal Number** FP/UK/OTHERS/563269/2025

**User Agency** MUSSOORIE DEHRADUN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.425

**Division** Chakrata Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**5. Project Name** Construction of 220 KV DCDS line from 220/132 KV Substation Chhuri to M/s SECL Gevra area - I & II Dipka, SECL Gevra project Distt Korba (RL-16 KM)

**Proposal Number** FP/CG/TRANS/423052/2023

**User Agency** INJOR KUMAR SAI

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 12.001

**Division** KATGHORA DIVISION

**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Additional information sought from State Government.

**6. Project Name** Relocation of core area villages in PTR (North) (Kutku, Bhajna, Saneya, Khaira, Khurra, Chemo and other villages)

**Proposal Number** FP/JH/REHAB/541432/2025

**User Agency** PRAJESH JENA

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 393.23

**Division** Garhwa South Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**7. Project Name** Proposed Forest Land to be Diverted for Entry/Exit approach to HPCL Retail Outlet at Village:-Parsa Gaudari, Tehsil:-Colonelganj, District:- Gonda.

**Proposal Number** FP/UP/PetrolPump/505912/2024

**User Agency** Ashish Kumar Sharma

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.1568

**Division** Gonda Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**8. Project Name** Diversion of Forest Land for "Construction of RCC Drain on both side of NH 72A (Km.

ame 7) via. Fatehpur Chutmalpur to NH-73 (Km. 31) in District Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh)".

**Proposal Number** FP/UP/OTHERS/465947/2024

**User Agency** Praveen Gairi

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.2679

**Division** Social Forestry Division Saharanpur

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**9. Project Name** DIVERSION OF 0.1704 HA OF FOREST LAND FOR APPROACH ROAD TO STERLING CASTLE RESORT, AT VILLAGE BALA CHACK ON MDR-103, CHKM- 118.473 (RHS), ON AMRITSAR - TARN TARAN ROAD TEHSIL & DISTT TARN TARAN.

**Proposal Number** FP/PB/OTHERS/505715/2024

**User Agency** abhimanyu mahajan

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.1704

**Division** Amritsar

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**10. Project Name** Renovation and Expansion of RCMS Infrastructure at Sripadganj, Baripada, Majurbhanj District.  
**Proposal Number** FP/OR/OTHERS/457118/2023  
**User Agency** Bhubaneswar Behera  
**Forest Land Area (Ha)** 0.635  
**Division** Baripada Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**11. Project Name** Raikela Iron Ore Mines, Shiv Dutt Sharma  
**Proposal Number** FP/OR/MIN/QRY/505523/2024  
**User Agency** SHAKTI RANJAN DASH  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 7  
**Division** Bonai Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**12. Project Name** Kalimati Manganese Block ( Pre-embedded Clearance)

**Proposal Number** FP/OR/MIN/QRY/449153/2023

**User Agency** Dr. Amarpalli Roy

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 55.44

**Division** Keonjhar Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**13. Project Name** Diversion of 17.00 Ha. Forest land for Mining lease of Naranda Limestone Block in favour of M/S. Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited,

**Proposal Number** FP/MH/MIN/QRY/407839/2022

**User Agency** Ashok Premchand Bhurawat

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 17

**Division** Central Chanda Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**14. Project Name** Shirawta Off Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (1800 MW)

**Proposal Number** FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/477051/2024

**User Agency** Ivaturi Nandikeswara Rao

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 160.783

**Division** Pune Division

**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Additional information sought from State Government.

**15. Project Name** Marwatola VI Coal Mine (Block Area: 763.00 ha) with Coal Production Capacity: 1.50 Million TPA

**Proposal Number** FP/MP/MIN/QRY/470497/2024

**User Agency** Manoj Kumar Rustagi

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 390.643

**Division** Umariya(T) Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**16. Project Name** Ukwa Mine Project.

**Proposal Number** FP/MP/MIN/QRY/524859/2025

**User Agency** VIKASH RANJAN PARIDA

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 3.986

**Division** North Balaghat Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**17. Project Name** Kirthai-II Hydroelectric Project  
**Proposal Number** FP/JK/HYD/IRRIG/402507/2022  
**User Agency** Rahul Srivastava  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 197.27  
**Division** Kishtwar Forest Division  
**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Additional information sought from State Government.

**18. Project Name** Mother Teresa Modern Public School  
**Proposal Number** FP/HR/SCH/497829/2024  
**User Agency** Sh Kailash Chand  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.0024  
**Division** Kurukshetra Division  
**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Additional information sought from State Government.

**19. Project Name** Regularization of already constructed link road from Dhar to Kathyana 0/00 to 0/800 reported earlier under violation to hon'ble high court of H.P.

**Proposal Number** FP/HP/ROAD/541223/2025

**User Agency** Pradeep Singh Thakur

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.1288

**Division** Mandi Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**20. Project Name** Regularization of already constructed of Reur to Hawanigalu 0/00 to 2/500 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble high court of H.P.

**Proposal Number** FP/HP/ROAD/541492/2025

**User Agency** Pradeep Thakur

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 1.3929

**Division** Mandi Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**21. Project Name** Regularization of already constructed of Kundi Nallah to Harizan Basti Dhanyari 0/00 to 1/200 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble high court of H.P.

**Proposal Number** FP/HP/ROAD/541657/2025

**User Agency** Pradeep Singh Thakur

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.2696

**Division** Mandi Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**22. Project Name** Regularization of already constructed link road from Khaprehra to Balhi 0/00 to 0/700 reported earlier under violation to hon'ble high court of H.P.

**Proposal Number** FP/HP/ROAD/540964/2025

**User Agency** Pradeep Singh Thakur

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.114

**Division** Mandi Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**23. Project Name** Proposed Underground Datima Coal Mine (Targeted Capacity: 0.360 MTPA, Peak Capacity: 0.54 MTPA, ML area : 807.91 ha)

**Proposal Number** FP/CG/MIN/QRY/456133/2023

**User Agency** Sunil Raosaheb Deshmukh

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 245.83

**Division** SURAJPUR DIVISION

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**24. Project Name** Goleti Opencast Mine in Komarambheem Asifabad and Mancherial District - 61 5.386 Ha  
**Proposal Number** FP/TG/MIN/QRY/445053/2023  
**User Agency** K Kondaiah  
**Forest Land Area( Ha)** 615.3861  
**Division** MANCHERIAL DIVISION  
**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.03.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Additional information sought from State Government.

**Other Item Details:**

S.No.	Remarks	Document
1	Diversion of 937.077 ha forest land for Scientific exploration and excavation and systematic recovery of low grade iron ore (i.e. Hematite quartzite) from adjacent existing mines in Village Hedri, Bande & Parsalgondi, Round-Parsalgondi, Range-Etapalli of District G	N/A

S.No.	Remarks	Document
	adchiroli in the State of Maharashtra in favour of M/s Lloyds Metals And Energy Limited. (Change in CA land)	

**Other Item Deliberation:**

**1. Recommendation**

Accepted

**Brief Description:**

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**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended to accept the newly identified CA land over 1012.9534 ha of non-forest land in Chiplun and Sangmeshwar Tehsils.

**(PARIVESH 2.0)****Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on  
24.03.2026****Agenda No.1****Proposal No. FP/AP/HYD/IRRIG/462719/2024**

**Proposal for seeking ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 diversion of 77.17 ha (originally proposed area was 50.17 ha.) (i.e., 46.42 ha of additional forest land in Gani Reserve Forest, Compt.No.116,117 & 118 of Somayajulapalle beat/ Section of Kurnool Range of Kurnool division and 30.75 ha of forest land in Gani Reserve Forest, Compartment No.113 & 115 in Gani beat/ Betamcherla section of Panyam Range, Nandyal division) for expansion of already diverted proposal for establishment of Integrated Renewable Energy Project, Pinnapuram in favor of M/s. Greenko Energies Pvt., Ltd., Hyderabad-Submission of additional information -Reg.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Chennai and Nodal Officer, Government of Andhra Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - (i) The proposed pumped storage project will comprise of two reservoirs to be constructed in existing natural depressions with low height embankments of average height 12-14m (with maximum height 40 m) to create the desired storage capacity. This Project is standalone in nature and both the reservoirs are located away from all existing natural water systems and have negligible catchment area. Water will be lifted one time from the existing Gorakallu Reservoir irrigation system and will be stored in the reservoirs to be constructed and used cyclically for energy storage and discharge. Evaporation losses, if any, will be recouped periodically. This Project envisages non-consumptive re-utilization of 1.30 TMC of water for recirculation among two proposed reservoirs for power generation.
  - (ii) The PSP project of M/s Greenko Energies Pvt., Ltd was granted final approval by the Ministry for diversion of 365.66 ha of forest land on

24.05.2022. However, the Regional Office, during its subsequent monitoring report observed that the user agency had committed violation in a forest area of 59.171 ha.

- (iii) Accordingly, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh vide their letter no.215 /Section-II/2025/2759432 dated 25.03.2025 had initially submitted the proposal for diversion of 50.17 ha. on the above-mentioned subject seeking approval of Central Government under section-2 (1) (ii) of the VAN (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- (iv) The said proposal of 50.17 ha was considered and recommended by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 26.05.2025 *inter-alia* stipulating penal provisions and directions to the State Government to ascertain the legal status of 45.304 ha land which is unclear between the Revenue and Forest Departments. The State Government should bring out the clear status of this land parcel and ensure that activities in this patch be taken up after ascertaining the land status and taking requisite clearances as per provisions of law. The Committee also recommended to obtain the NoC from the Water Resource Department for diversion of nala on east side of the proposed forest land.
- (v) The competent authority of the MoEF&CC, after examination of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee desired that proposal may be submitted after obtaining a report of the technical team regarding the legal status of 45.304 ha of disputed land
- (vi) Subsequently, the State Government concluded that out of 45.304 ha of disputed land, an area of 41.064 ha falls within the Gani Reserved Forest area. Out of 41.064 ha, the user agency has included 27 ha in the diversion proposal while the remaining area proposed to be surrendered back to the Forest Department.
- (vii) Accordingly, the State Government submitted the revised proposal involving total forest area of 77.17 ha comprising of 50.17 ha of land from the existing land already submitted and 27 ha from the 41.064 ha identified as Reserved Forest land.
- (viii) The summarized facts of the revised proposal are as under:
  - (a) Out of total 77.17 ha, forest land proposed for diversion, 45.377 ha involves violation of Van (Sanrakshan Eavam Samvardhan,) Adhiniyam 1980 comprising of 39.877 ha in Kurnool Forest Division, and 5.5 ha in Nadyal Forest Division while remaining area of 31.793 ha has been applied as fresh diversion of forest land.
  - (b) The State Government has reported that cases were booked against the user agency and chargeet have been filed against the persons responsible for violation. It is also reported that the common

disciplinary actions have been initiated against the forest department officials in Kurnool and Nandyal Division

- (c) The total number of project affected trees are 3180 comprising of 696 in Kurnool Division and 2484 trees in Nandyal Division.
  - (d) Area proposed for diversion does not forms the part of any Protected Area or ESZ.
  - (e) The user agency has identified 92.82 ha of non-forest land in Kurnool and Nandyal Division and additional degraded forest land of 75.90 ha in Kurnool Range has also been identified for raising afforestation in lieu of the portion of non-forest land unsuitable for raising compensatory afforestation.
- (ix) The Committee noted that as per the provisions of the Rule 13(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, the equivalent non-forest land is to be provided by the State. In the instance case against the requirement of 77.17 ha of forest and 92.82 ha of NFL has been identified. Therefore, the State Government may propose CA over equivalent non-forest land and afforestation over DFL should be considered only in case the NFL is unfit suitable for afforestation.
- (x) The Committee deliberated on State Technical Committee report wherein it was concluded that an out of 45.30 ha, extent of 41.064 ha falls within the Gani Reserved Forest area. It reported that after conclusion by the State Technical Committee, i.e., 41.064 ha as Reserved Forest, an extent of 27.00 Ha (Violated area 26.01 ha + Fresh area 0.99 ha) has been applied additionally for diversion for the project purpose by the User Agency in Kurnool (T) Division.
- (xi) The Committee also noted the submission made by the State Government wherein it was reported that of 18.054 ha which was temporarily utilized by the User Agency which was taken from the farmers on a temporary lease basis in accordance with the then existing revenue records (i.e.,DKT pattas erroneously issued pursuant to the 13th Notification dated 04.11.1942 as per State Technical Team report) in Sy.Nos.343, 344, 345, 346 and 357 is not required and not applied for diversion as this area is no longer required for the project and is vacated.
- (xii) The State Government has informed that the user agency has vacated the said land and also a letter has been addressed to the Collector & District Magistrate, Kurnool vide DFO, Kurnool Rc.No.1100/2018-H5, dt.29.10.2025 with a request to cancel all the DKT pattas issued in Gani Reserved Forest and the process is under progress. Soon after receipt of the cancellation of pattas, the same will be taken under the possession of the Forest Department.

- (xiii) It also reported that after conclusion by the State Technical Team the said land is a “Reserved Forest”, immediately the User Agency has vacated the land and removed all the temporary structures and equipment’s from the said land.
- (xiv) The Committee has reported that the user agency has furnished the undertaking for rehabilitation and restoration of the said forest land unauthorized utilized for no forestry activities for implementation of R&R at the cost of user agency as decided by the Ministry or any other officer authorized by them.
- (xv) The Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chennai has recommended the proposal subject to regularization of violated area invoking penal provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 based on the guidelines prescribing penal compensatory afforestation (PCA) in the cases involving-violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 dated 21.01.2026.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of ex post facto **‘in-principle’** approval for diversion of 77.17 ha (i.e., 46.42 ha of additional forest land in Gani Reserve Forest, Compt.No.116,117 & 118 of Somayajulapalle beat/ Section of Kurnool Range of Kurnool division and 30.75 ha of forest land in Gani Reserve Forest, Compartment No.113 & 115 in Gani beat/ Betamcherla section of Panyam Range, Nandyal division) for expansion of already diverted proposal for establishment of Integrated Renewable Energy Project, Pinnapuram in favor of M/s. Greenko Energies Pvt., Ltd., Hyderabad subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- (i) Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 against the erring officials shall be initiated by State Forest Department and a status report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval.
  - (ii) In accordance with the provisions of para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhiniyam by the user agency violation which shall be five times the NPV of forest land used in violation plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand and till the deposit is made by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.
  - (iii) The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory

afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.

- (iv) Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Chennai and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- (v) The remaining forest land unauthorizedly used for non-forestry activities shall be restored through appropriate reclamation and rehabilitation (R&R) measures, the cost of which shall be borne by the user agency. The State Forest Department shall submit a detailed R&R plan for the area under violation along with Stage-I compliance, and the same shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency.
- (vi) The State Government shall obtain NOC from the concerned department regarding diverting a Nala on the east side of the proposed area and submit it along with Stage-I compliance report.
- (vii) The State Government shall submit a Wildlife Management Plan for the conservation and protection of wildlife in the area, approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), along with the compliance report.

## **Agenda No. 2**

**Proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/QRY/456133/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 245.83 ha forest land in favour of M/s Shree Cement Limited for Datima Underground Coal Mining (block/ ML area of 807.91 ha) Project located at villages Rai, Datima, Kumda, Kharsura & Laxmanpur under Surajpur District, Chhattisgarh State- reg.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the

relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

- i. The Govt. of Chhattisgarh vide their letter No F 5-21/2025/10-2 dated 12.08.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 245.83 ha forest land in favour of M/s Shree Cement Limited for Datima Underground Coal Mining (block/ ML area of 807.91 ha) Project located at villages Rai, Datima, Kumda, Kharsura & Laxmanpur under Surajpur District of Chhattisgarh State.
- ii. The Datima Coal Block has been allotted to Shree Cement Limited by Ministry of Coal vide vesting order no.: NA-104/12/2023-NA dated 08-06-2023 permitting sale of Coal affiliates and related parties, utilization of coal for any purpose including but not limited to coal gasification, coal liquefaction, export of coal and captive consumption (at the company's cement plant at Shree Raipur Cement Plant (SRCP), Village Khaparadih, Tehsil Simga. District Baloda Bazar-Bhatapada, Chhattisgarh by road or rail-cum-road). The Proposal involves total area of 807.91 ha out of which 562.08 ha is non forest area and 245.83 ha is forest area.
- iii. The proposed land for diversion i.e. 245.83 ha (59.81 ha: Protected Forest, 108.28 ha: Revenue Forest and 77.74 ha: Reserved Forest) is having the canopy density of 0.4 of Eco Class III.
- iv. The total included in the proposal is 807.91 ha (including 562.08 ha of non-forest land).
- v. The land use plan of the subject proposal is as under:

Particulars	Land use as per Part-I		
	Non forest land (Ha)	Forest Land (Ha)	Total (Ha)
External Dump	0.2	0	0.2
Infrastructure Area (Road, Coal Stock yard, facility area, settling area etc)	2.31	Nil	2.31
UG entry			
Green belt	13.53	0	13.53
Undisturbed Area (Underground Mining)	546.04	245.83	791.87
Total	562.08	245.83	807.91

- vi. The State Government submitted that the proposal does not form part of the National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc.
- vii. Further, the State Govt. submitted that the project site lies outside the boundary of the protected area and beyond the default 10 km Eco Sensitive Zone. Therefore, Wild life Clearance from NBWL is not required, and the previously submitted application for the wildlife clearance has been formally withdrawn. Tamor-Pingle Wildlife Sanctuary is located at a distance of 28.352 Km from the proposed forest land.
- viii. The State Government submitted that the project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation. Hence, resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required.
- ix. The Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan have been approved by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, vide letter dated 08.04.2024. The Ministry of Coal issued the Lol/Vesting order/Mining Lease on 08.06.2023 for 30 years.
- x. The subsidence prediction report was prepared by CIMFR, which indicates a maximum tensile strain of 2.68 mm/m.
- xi. The State Government submitted that the proposal is for Underground Mining with no infrastructure activity is proposed on the Forest Land. Hence, CA is not required as per the provisions of the VSESA, 1980.
- xii. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:
  - a) No tree felling shall be carried out in the forest area. The User Agency shall undertake plantation, wherever feasible, in the diverted forest area at its own cost.
  - b) Mining activities shall be restricted to the approved area and carried out strictly in accordance with the mining plan approved by the Competent Authority.
  - c) In the event of future subsidence, the User Agency shall provide suitable land for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and deposit the applicable costs towards CA and Net Present Value (NPV), as required. The User Agency shall also submit an annual subsidence report in accordance with the progress of mining operations.
  - d) The User Agency shall submit a self-certified compliance report to the Regional Office, Nagpur, for record and monitoring.
- xiii. The State Government submitted that coal is a site-specific mineral, and the Datima Coal Mine has been allotted to Shree Cement Ltd. by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India vide Vesting Order dated 08.06.2023. The Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan have been approved by the Ministry of Coal vide letter dated 08.04.2024. It has further been stated that no forest land will be used or disturbed during the life of the mine, for which an undertaking has been submitted.

- xiv. The State Government submitted that the subsidence study conducted by Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) in October 2023 indicates a maximum tensile strain of 2.68 mm/m and maximum subsidence of 503 mm, which is well within the permissible limit of 20 mm/m, and therefore no adverse impact on the forest area is anticipated. The State Govt. also submitted the details of mitigation measures proposed for the underground Mine.
- xv. The State Government submitted that no additional forest land shall be required for fulfilling the requirement of Water, Mineral evacuation and electricity.
- xvi. The State Govt. submitted that Satellite imagery indicates the presence of a water-filled mine void within the Datima Mine Block. It has been clarified that this void does not form part of any forest land. The User Agency has stated that no mining activity has been undertaken by Shree Cement Limited prior to allotment of the block vide Vesting Order No. NA-04/12/2023-NA dated 08.06.2023, nor has any violation occurred in the said surface area. The said mine void was already disclosed in the Mining Plan approved by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, and the lease area/surface plan duly certified by CMPDI.
- xvii. The State Government has clarified that plantation activities have been carried out by the State Forest Department under various compensatory afforestation (CA) schemes/working plan by the State Forest Department on the land proposed for diversion.
- xviii. The State Government submitted that in this project no forest land used or disturbed throughout the life of the mine. So, no reclamation measures of the proposed forest land has been proposed. As this is an underground mining project, only 16.04 hectares of private agricultural land is required for surface infrastructure. The remaining 791.87 hectares (Non Forest land 546.04 ha & Forest Land- 245.83 ha.) of the lease area will remain undisturbed on the surface. The entire infrastructure facility area of 16.04 hectares is located on revenue land in Kumda village.
- xix. The State Government submitted that the proposal is for underground mine and no forest area is required for mining purposes. Therefore, enumeration of trees on the notified forestland is not required.
- xx. The State Government submitted that the Agriculture Land, Settlement, Roads etc. are not on the forest land proposed for diversion. Since, there is no violation on account of diversion of forest land, therefore action taken report is not required.
- xxi. The State Government has submitted that, as the project pertains to an underground mine, no tree felling is proposed in the project area. However, compensatory plantation of 100 saplings has been proposed over 0.100 ha in Compartment No. P-1736 of Surajpur Range. User

Agency has submitted an undertaking to deposit the requisite amount for plantation of 100 saplings.

- xxii. The Committee observed that as per the boundaries available on the PARIVESH portal, the Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary is located within 10 KM from the land proposed for diversion. However, as per the map and clarification provided by the CWLW, the Tamor-Pingle Wildlife Sanctuary is located at a distance of 28.352 Km from the proposed forest land.
  - xxiii. The Committee further observed that the State Government shall send the KML files of the Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary and its ESZ area and make necessary correction on the PARIVESH portal in consultation with the NIC.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, the Committee '**recommended**' the Stage-I/In-principle approval for diversion of 245.83 ha forest land in favour of M/s Shree Cement Limited for Datima Underground Coal Mining (block/ ML area of 807.91 ha) Project located at villages Rai, Datima, Kumda, Kharsura & Laxmanpur under Surajpur District of Chhattisgarh State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The proposed underground mine is likely to cause subsidence of 2.68 mm/m. Accordingly, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented by the State Government, at the cost of the User Agency, to reduce tensile strain on the surface.
  - ii. In case the subsidence level is more than what is now forecasted, the user agency shall pay the requisite NPV and Compensatory afforestation, as applicable under the Ministry's guidelines.
  - iii. In the event of any subsidence within the forest area, prompt safety measures shall be implemented by the User Agency in coordination with the State Forest Department.
  - iv. The State Government/User Agency shall submit the report on the subsidence to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry, every three years.
  - v. In any eventuality of mine collapse in future, the CA, NPV at applicable rate shall be charged from the date of grant of in-principle approval.
  - vi. The State Government shall ensure that the necessary correction on the PARIVESH portal in consultation with the NIC are done with regard to the KML files of the Timor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary and its ESZ area on the PARIVESH portal prior to Final approval/Stage-II approval.

## Agenda No: 4

### Proposal No. FP/CG/TRANS/423052/2023

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 12.001 Hectares of Forest Land for construction of 220 KV DCDS line from 220/132 KV Substation Chhuri to M/s SECL Gevra area - I & II Dipika, SECL Gevra project Distt Korba (RL-16 KM)- reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The Govt. of Chhattisgarh vide their letter No. F 5-22/2025/10-2 dated 12.08.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for construction of 220 KV DCDS line from 220/132 KV Substation Chhuri to M/s SECL Gevra area - I & II Dipika, SECL Gevra project Distt Korba (RL-16 KM).
  - ii. The State Govt. submitted that the project is expected to provide direct and indirect benefits to approximately 60 villages and around 3 lakh people. Further, it will support two major coal block projects, namely SECL Gevra and SECL Dipka, which are in the process of expanding their coal production and dispatch capacity through mechanised operations. To meet the increased power demand of these projects, a new 220 kV Double Circuit Double String transmission line is proposed from the nearest substation at Chhuri to the SECL Gevra area.
  - iii. The State Government further submitted that the implementation of the project will enhance coal production and dispatch efficiency, thereby improving power supply, particularly in remote and tail-end areas of Chhattisgarh. It will also facilitate timely and efficient coal transportation in key districts such as Korba, Bilaspur, Raipur, Raigarh, and other power-generating regions. The project aligns with the developmental

- objectives of the Government of India. The total forest land required for diversion is 12.001 hectares of revenue forest land.
- iv. The State Govt. submitted that the total land involved in the proposal is 12.001 Ha of forest land (3.133 ha as Unclassed Forest and 8.868 ha as Revenue Forest) and 41.404 Ha of Non forest land.
  - v. The proposed forest land for diversion i.e. 12.001 ha is having the canopy density of 0.4 of Eco Class III.
  - vi. The State Government submitted that the proposed forest area is for construction of 220 KV transmission line with 35 mtrs RoW.
  - vii. The State Govt. submitted that the proposed project does not fall within any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, buffer zone, elephant corridor, wildlife migration route, or notified Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).
  - viii. The State Government submitted that nine transmission line towers had been constructed on site (revenue forest land, the ownership of which lie with individuals), involving an area of 0.118 hectare of revenue forest land. It was further informed that the work had been carried out with the consent of the landowner after obtaining the Forest Rights Certificate. However, nine towers have been found erected without seeking prior approval under the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ix. Instead of furnishing the Action Taken Report under Sections 3A/3B of the Adhiniyam, the State Government has submitted that the User Agency has provided an undertaking to pay the penal NPV along with simple interest at the rate of 12%.
  - x. The Regional Office in its SIR submitted that considering the presence of avifauna such as Indian Myna, Blue Jay (Indian Roller), and Ring Dove in the region, the User Agency, in consultation with the Forest Department and at its own cost, shall implement appropriate mitigation measures, including installation of bird diverters/deflectors, to minimise the risk of bird collisions.
  - xi. The Regional Office in its SIR submitted that the proposed transmission line is aligned parallel to an existing transmission line; therefore, no significant adverse impact is anticipated from the project.
  - xii. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal for grant of *ex-post facto* approval for diversion of 12.001 ha of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for construction of a 220 kV DCDS transmission line from 220/132 kV Substation, Chhuri to M/s SECL Gevra Area-I & II, Dipka, SECL Gevra Project, District Korba, State of Chhattisgarh, subject to the following specific conditions:
    - a. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land shall be made free from all encroachments, duly demarcated, and fenced prior to

- commencement of plantation activities. The State Forest Department shall undertake plantation over the identified degraded forest land at a density of 1000 plants per hectare. In case the required number of plants cannot be accommodated within the identified area, the balance shall be raised in nearby degraded forest areas in accordance with the approved Working Plan prescriptions.
- b. The State Government shall initiate action under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 against the violators, and levy penalty, including Penal Net Present Value (NPV) and Penal Compensatory Afforestation (CA), as applicable, commensurate with the extent of forest area involved in the violation.
  - c. The User Agency shall, in consultation with the Forest Department and at its own cost, implement appropriate mitigation measures such as installation of bird diverters/deflectors to prevent bird hits.
  - d. The User Agency shall undertake plantation of dwarf species, preferably medicinal plants, under the transmission line corridor at its own cost, in accordance with the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 and relevant consolidated guidelines
- xiii. The CA has been proposed over the degraded forest land of 24.3359 hectares in Survey No. OA 638, Village and Block – Tanera, Range – Pasan, Tehsil – Poundi Uproda, District – Korba.
  - xiv. As per the Satellite imagery, encroachment in the form of agricultural practices have been found on the CA land. The RO in its SIR submitted that State Government shall ensure that all encroachments are removed from the identified CA land prior to commencement of plantation activities.
  - xv. The Committee observed that the Regional Office in its Site Inspection report reported that the proposed transmission line is aligned parallel to an existing transmission line.
  - xvi. The Committee further observed that the User Agency has committed the violation by constructing 9 number of towers over an area of 0.118 hectare of revenue forest land without prior approval of the Central Government under the provisions of the VSESA, 1980.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for diversion of 12.001 Hectares of Forest Land for construction of 220 KV DCDS line from 220/132 KV Substation Chhuri to M/s SECL Gevra area - I & II Dipika, SECL Gevra

project Distt Korba (RL-16 KM) in the Chhattisgarh State for want of following information:

- i. The State Government shall provide details and the current status of the existing transmission line running in parallel to the proposed line, as reported by the RO, Nagpur in its Site Inspection Report. Additionally, the State Government shall submit a detailed justification for establishment of new transmission line in parallel to the existing transmission line.

## **Agenda No. 5**

### **Proposal No. FP/GA/MIN/QRY/466437/2024**

**Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section of 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Vedanta Limited for Diversion of 5.3612 ha of forest area within Block-VII Cudnem Mineral Block-Vedanta Ltd., in Sy. No. 152 (p) of Cudnem Village, of Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District & Division.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDG, Regional Office, Bengaluru, and Nodal Officer, Government of Goa attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - (i) The State Government of Goa vide online proposal No. FP/GA /MIN /QRY/466437 /2024 submitted the above mentioned proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Vedanta Limited for Diversion of 5.3612 ha of forest area within Block-VII Cudnem Mineral Block-Vedanta Ltd., in Sy. No. 152 (p) of Cudnem Village, of Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District & Division.
  - (ii) The auction of Block VII Cudnem Mineral Block was conducted on 26/04/2023 and Vedanta Limited was declared as "Preferred Bidder." The Letter of Intent was issued on 12/07/2023, The extent of Mineral Block is

75.3004 Ha and is located in Cudnem, Onda and Sonus Vonvoliem Villages of Bicholim and Sattari Talukas, North Goa District, Goa State.

- (iii) The proposed production capacity is 0.5 MTPA of Iron Ore. Open cast mechanized mining method will be adopted.
- (iv) The Indian Bureau of Mines vide its letter dated 07/03/2024 has approved the mining plan.
- (v) The Government of Goa, Department of Mines and Geology has issued a letter of intent vide letter dated 12/07/2023 which is valid for three years from date of issuance
- (vi) It is reported that the forest land of 5.3612 ha is covering major part of the iron ore body. Out of 0.873 MT of total minable reserves 0.510 MT are in forest land. Therefore, without diversion of the said forest land mining activity will not be feasible, mining operations will be carried out as per the mining plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines. The User Agency has submitted that the instant project proposal is a site specific activity and has a positive impact on the economy. Also the project will create employment and livelihood opportunities to many in the surrounding villages.
- (vii) The proposed site of 5.3612 Ha forest land is recorded in the name Government of Goa Daman and Diu and Notified under Section 4 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 vide Govt. Gazette No. 38, Series III dtd. 18/12/2008.
- (viii) Facts of the case in brief are given as under:
  - (a) As per enumeration list of trees in the project site; there are 505 Nos. of trees present at the proposed site of 5.3612 ha. The actual number of trees required to felled area reported as 492
  - (b) There are 13 Nos. ficus species present as per the enumeration list; which are recommended for translocation to forest land adjacent to the project site.
  - (c) Canopy density of the site is above 0.7 for the area and under Eco-Class IV.
  - (d) The proposed site is not part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve or Elephant Corridor.
  - (e) The proposed site does not fall within Eco-Sensitive Zone of any Wildlife Sanctuaries.
  - (f) The said area has neither any protected archaeological/heritage site nor any strategic defense area.
  - (g) The User Agency has initially identified and uploaded an area of 5.3612 ha. of Non-forest land under Sy. No. 13/1 of Pissurlem village of Sattari taluka, Valpoi

- (h) Subsequently location of CA land has been changed and newly identified CA land is in an extent of 5.3612 ha in Sy. No..41/1 Codli Village of Dharbandora.
- (i) The State Government has stated that Eco-sensitive zone of Mhadei Wild Life Sanctuary is 1 km. The said proposal of forest land diversion is outside the eco sensitive zone of Mhadei Wild Life Sanctuary.
- (j) The Committee noted that user agency has uploaded the Wildlife Conservation Plan and SMC plan.
- (k) The user agency has uploaded the letter issued by the Directorate of Mine and Geology dated 16/12/2025, wherein it is clarified revised CA land identified in 41/1 of codli village, Dharbandora Taluk does not fall within any active mining lease
- (ix) The proposal submitted by the State Government was initially examined and sought certain clarification from the State Government on 18/07/2025. The State Government submitted the reply on 17.12.2025, wherein State Government inter-alia reported that proposal is a new Mining proposal as per the order passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dt. 07.02.2018 in S.LP. (c) No. 32138 of 2015.
- (x) The Director of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa vide letter no. 03/149 /2023/Major /Mines/1732 dated 26.08.2025 referred the Hon'ble High Court of Goa at Bomaby dated 13.02.2025 in WP No.. 708 of 2016 which stated as:
- “As a consequence, as no activity was carried out in the said area of 5.3612 hectares, the unconditional and irrevocable bank guarantee of 46.50 lakhs which was furnished by the petitioner in Writ Petition No. 708 of 2016 to the satisfaction of the respondent no. 3 and which was to be kept in force by the petitioners until further orders of this Court shall now stand released. Necessary steps forthwith be taken by the respondent no. 3 in Writ Petition no. 708 of 2016 for release of the bank guarantee which was furnished by the petitioner”.*
- (xi) The Committee noted that the State Government has not submitted its specific comments on Writ Petition (C) No. 998 of 2016, filed by Sociedade Timlo Irmaos vs. Union of India and Others which is pending before the Hon'ble High Court.
- (xii) The Regional Office, Bengaluru in its site inspection report recommended that CA land identified suffers from above shortcomings and cannot be accepted as such.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Goa. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Goa, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
- (i) The State Government should furnish specific comments on Writ Petition (C) No. 998 of 2016 filed by the erstwhile lessee clearly indicating that whether the extant area proposed for diversion falls within the ambit of said petition or otherwise. In case the forest land in question is *sub judice* the State Government should clearly mention the legal impediments, if any exists in the consideration of the proposal for approval under the Adhinyam.
  - (ii) The State Government should furnish its specific comments whether the erstwhile lessee has used the proposed land for non-forestry purpose in violation to Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. If so detailed action taken report against the violators etc.
  - (iii) The State Government has submitted the revised KML file of Land use plan for 38.996 ha only instead of entire lease area of 75.30. Therefore, the land use plan of entire lease area including the forest land proposed for diversion should be submitted along with its KML files.
  - (iv) The State Government should re-visit the suitability of revised CA sites in light of observations made by the Regional Office in its inspection report.
  - (v) The Regional Office, Bengaluru shall revisit its site inspection report and furnish the proper recommendation on the proposal including details of whether the matter is *subjudice* in the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa.

#### **Agenda No.6**

#### **Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/540964/2023**

**Sub:- Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department for regularization of 0.114 ha of already constructed link road from Khaprehra to Balhi 0/00 to 0/700 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble High Court of H.P in Village- Kathwari (43), Sub-district- Kotli, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/540964/2023)–regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF

(Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting.

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

- i. The proposal envisages diversion of 0.114 ha of forest land for regularization of already constructed link road from Khaprehra to Balhi 0/00 to 0/700 reported earlier under violation to hon'ble high court of H.P in Village- Kathwari (43), Sub-district- Kotli, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
- ii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is mentioned as Others. In this regard, The State Government informed that the status of forest land which is proposed for diversion is Jangal Mehfuja Gair Mehduda (DPF) Charagah Bila Drakhtan (CBD) Gair Mumkin Nali. But in the online Parivesh portal the same status has not available so, the same status has been mentioned/Specify in the 'Others'. The Vegetation density of 0 has been reported with Eco class 5 and no tree felling is involved.
- iii. The Component wise breakup of the area is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
1	ROAD	0.114	0.152
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.114</b>	<b>0.152</b>

- iv. The proposal is expected to generate 0 permanent employments and 2000 temporary employments.
- v. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 0.228 ha degraded forest land in Site Name- Block Randhara, Compartment/ Survey No. 53A/14, Village- Althu (112), Range- Sadar (Mandi), Tehsil- Mandi, District- Mandi, Mandi Forest Division. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vi. DFO, Mandi has mentioned in Part- II that this road is under violation. The proposal does not form the part of any Protected Area, or Eco-sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc.
- vii. DFO, Mandi has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
- viii. As per joint inspection report, a total 0.1140 ha violation on forest land has been made and the violation has been reported in the 2183 cases and reported to Hon'ble High Court of HP at S.No.311.

- ix. The State Government informed that the work of constructing drains and tarring of the road is pending. Hence the road status as "Still in Progress". The work of constructing drains and tarring of the road will be carried out as per the design, alignment and guidelines issued by the concerned authority. All work will be carried out without disturbing, damaging or violating the adjoining forest land and in full compliance with the VSESA, 1980.
- x. Further, this proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as under :
- "In the circumstances, we hope that the officials of MoEF or any other department of the Government of India shall not insist for compliance of furnishing the names, designations and complete addresses of the officers of the State Government responsible for past violations".*
- xi. The State Government informed that out of 2183 case 91 no. of cases are falling in Div.II of HPPWD Mandi 12 No. of cases has be approved and others are under progress.
- xii. As per DSS analysis, calculated area of shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is 0.114 ha. Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over degraded forest land. Total area of proposed CA land is found 0.228 ha (software calculated).
- xiii. As per DSS analysis, Nagru WLS is approximately 6.40 Km from boundary of proposed road. However, the State Government has mentioned in the proposal that no national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve buffer zone, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc., is located within 10 Km. from boundary of the forest land proposed to be utilized for prospecting or diversion. In the Site Inspection Report, Regional Office has mentioned that there is no protected area involved in the proposal.
- xiv. As per Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, the proposed site for the said project has already been constructed. In this case the total area worked out to 0.114 ha of forest land and 0.152 ha of private land totalling to 0.26606 ha. This road is already constructed and has been reported as violation and it appears at serial no. 311 in the list of 2183 cases reported as violation to Hon'ble High Court
- xv. The DDGF(Central), RO, Chandigarh in the Site Inspection Report stated that the instant proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009. The proposal is for regularization of already constructed link road from Khaprehra to Balhi under Mandi Forest Division and same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The committee took note of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in CWP No. 5600 of

2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as elaborated at (xii) above. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Himachal Pradesh recommended the proposal for grant of '**in-principle**' approval for diversion of 0.114 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD to regularise already constructed link road from Khaprehra to Balhi 0/00 to 0/700 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble High Court of H.P in Village- Kathwari (43), Sub-district- Kotli, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- ii. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- iii. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- iv. The User Agency shall obtain the requisite wildlife clearance and comply with all conditions stipulated therein, if applicable.

### **Agenda No. 7**

#### **Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/ 541657/2025**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department for regularization of 0.2696 ha of forest land for already constructed road from Kundi Nallah to Harizan Basti Dhanyari 0/00 to 1/200 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble High Court of H.P in Village- Dhaniari (45), Sub-district- Mandi, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/ 541657/2025)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - (i) The proposal envisages regularization of 0.2696 ha forest land of already constructed road from Kundi Nallah to Harizan Basti Dhanyari 0/00 to 1/200 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble high court of H.P in Village- Dhaniari (45), Sub-district- Mandi, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
  - (ii) The legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is mentioned as others. In this regard, the State Government has mentioned that the status of forest land which is proposed for diversion is Gair Mumkin Rasta, Charagah Billa Drakhtan, Gair Mumkin Nali, Jungal Mehfuja Gair Mehduda & Gai Mimkin Nala. But in the online parivesh portal the same status has not available, so that 'Other' status has been mentioned.
  - (iii) The vegetation density of 0 has been reported with Eco class V and no tree felling is involved. The Component wise break up of forest land is not submitted, however, the proposal is for regularization of already constructed road.
  - (iv) The proposal is expected to generate 6470 (man-days) permanent employment and 6470 (man-days) temporary employment.
  - (v) The compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 0.5392 ha degraded forest land in Site Name- Block Sadar, Compartment No. Beat Patroun, Survey No. 53A/14, Village- Althu (112), Range- Sadar (Mandi), Tehsil- Mandi, District- Mandi, Division- Mandi. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO. The detailed CA scheme with maintenance for 10 years is uploaded on Parivesh portal.
  - (vi) The DFO, Mandi has mentioned in Part- II that violation over an area of 0.2696 ha has been done by HPPWD from 2002-2009. Further, DFO in his site inspection report has mentioned that user agency has violated Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provisions. The user agency has already constructed 1200 mtr of road involving (0.2696 ha of forest land and 0.1803 ha Private land). The proposal does not form part of any Protected Area, or Eco-sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc.

- (vii) The DFO, Mandi has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/ endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.
- (viii) The State Government informed that that this road was actually an old village path, which was widened by the villagers around 2002. This work was not carried out by the present User Agency. The road has already been reported in 2183 cases as reported to High Court during 2012-13 and appears at S.No.299. As per joint inspection report the total length of road which has already been broken is 1200 mtr.in which 719 meter (0.2696 ha) passing through forest and 418 meter (0.1803 ha) passing through private land.However, this proposal has been submitted for regularization/ post-facto approval of the pre-existing road and the user agency undertakes to comply with all the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the conditions imposed by the competent authority.
- (ix) Further, this proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as under :

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

- (x) As per DSS analysis, Calculated area of shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is 0.2694 ha. Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over degraded forest land. Total area of proposed CA land is found to be 0.539 ha (software calculated).
- (xi) As per DSS analysis, Nagru WLS is located approximately 5.20 km from the boundary of the proposed road. However, the State Government, in Part-II of the proposal, has stated that the proposed forest area for diversion does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, or other protected area. Further, as per the Site Inspection Report (SIR) submitted by the Regional Office, Chandigarh, no protected area is involved in the proposal.
- (xii) As per the Site Inspection Report (SIR) submitted by the Regional Office, Chandigarh, the proposed site for the said project has already been constructed. In this case the total area worked out to 0.2696 ha of forest land and 0.1803 ha of private land totalling to 0.4499 ha. The construction work including the earth work and layering has been completed; however, the black topping has not been done. The instant

case is part of already constructed 2183 road in Himachal Pradesh, wherein, violation has been reported in Hon'ble High Court and it appears at serial no. 299 in the list of 2183 cases reported as violation to Hon'ble High Court.

(xiii) The DDGF (Central), RO, Chandigarh in the Site Inspection Report stated that the instant proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009. The proposal is for regularization of already constructed link road from Kundi Nallah to Harizan Basti Dhanyari under Mandi Forest Division and same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The committee took note of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as elaborated at (ix) above. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Himachal Pradesh recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 0.2696 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD to regularise already constructed link road from Kundi Nallah to Harizan Basti Dhanyari 0/00 to 1/200 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble High Court of H.P in Village- Dhaniari (45), Sub-district- Mandi, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- ii. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- iii. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.

- iv. The User Agency shall obtain the requisite wildlife clearance and comply with all conditions stipulated therein, if applicable.

### **Agenda No. 8**

#### **Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/541492/2025**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department for regularization of 1.3929 ha. of forest land for already constructed link road from Reur to Hawanigalu 0/00 to 2/500 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble High Court of H.P in Villages- Hawani (128) & Riur (122), Sub-district- Balh, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/541492/2025)– regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The proposal envisages regularization of already constructed link road from Reur to Hawanigalu 0/00 to 2/500 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble high court of H.P in Villages- Hawani (128) & Riur (122), Sub-district- Balh, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
  - ii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is mentioned as Others. In this regard, the State Government has informed that the status of forest land which is proposed for diversion is Jangal Mehfuja Gair Mehduda (DPF), Gair Mumkin Gohar & Charagah Billa Drakhtan. But in the online portal the same status has not available/shown, so that 'Other' status has been mentioned against the column no. 2 in online Part-II.
  - iii. The Vegetation density has been reported as 0 with Eco class V and no tree felling is involved.
  - iv. The component wise breakup of the area has been submitted along with the proposal wherein 1.3125 ha has been proposed for Road and 0.0804 ha is for Dumping.
  - v. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 2.7858 ha degraded forest land in Site Name- Beat Manjyahli, Compartment No. Block Rewalsar, Survey No. 53A/14, Village- Bag (181), Range- Sadar (Mandi), Tehsil- Balh, District- Mandi, Mandi Forest Division. CA scheme

with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.

- vi. DFO, Mandi has mentioned in Part- II that this road is under violation. Work has been done over an area of 1.3929 ha between 2001-2002. It is mentioned in Part- II that violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 has been done by HPPWD, whereas, user agency has mentioned in Part-I that the proposed road was constructed by local villagers by widening of old path during the year 2002. Violation reported to Hon'ble High court of HP and the proposed road appears in the list of 2183 cases at serial no.312 by the name (Reur to Hawanigaloo).
- vii. The proposal does not form the part of any Protected Area, or Eco-sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc. DFO, Mandi has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
- viii. As per DSS analysis, calculated area of shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is 1.392 ha. . The compensatory afforestation has been proposed over degraded forest land. Total area of proposed CA land is found 2.784 ha (software calculated).
- ix. The State Government has informed that the exact violation is 1.3929 ha which is clearly stated by the user agency in Part-I of the proposal, the already constructed road has a length about 2500 meters and involves a total of 1.3929 ha of forest land, with nil private land. The site inspection report also confirms that the entire road length exists on forest land was constructed during the said period by widening of an old village path, without obtaining prior approval under the FCA, 1980. Since the construction was carried out on forest land without statutory approval, the entire forest area of 1.3929 ha involved in the existing road is treated as violation area in the present proposal. The violation has already been reported in the cases reported to Hon'ble High Court of HP during the year 2012-13.
- x. Further, this proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as under :

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

- xi. As per Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Chandigarh, the proposed site for the said project has already been constructed. In this case the total area worked out 1.3929 ha of forest land and Nil ha of private land totalling to 1.3929 ha. This road is already constructed and

has been reported as violation and it appears at serial no. 312 in the list of 2183 cases reported as violation to Hon'ble High Court.

- xii. . DDG (Central), RO, Chandigarh in his Site Inspection Report has stated that the instant proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009. The proposal is for regularization of already constructed link road from Reur to Hawanigalu under Mandi Forest Division and same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The committee took note of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as elaborated at (x) above. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Himachal Pradesh recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 1.3929 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD to regularise already constructed link road from Reur to Hawanigalu 0/00 to 2/500 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble High Court of H.P in Villages- Hawani (128) & Riur (122), Sub-district- Balh, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-
- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
  - ii. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
  - iii. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.

#### **Agenda No. 9**

**Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/541223/2025**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department for regularization of 0.1288 ha. already constructed link road from Dhar to Kathyana 0/00 to 0/800 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in Villages- Kathyana (54) & Bir (50), Sub-district- Mandi, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/541223/2025)–regarding**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:-
  - i. The proposal envisages regularization of 0.1288 ha. of already constructed link road from Dhar to Kathyana 0/00 to 0/800 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble high court of H.P in Villages- Kathyana (54) & Bir (50), Sub-district- Mandi, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
  - ii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is mentioned as others. In this regard, the State Government has informed that the status of forest land which is proposed for diversion is Charagah Billa Drakhtan, Gair Mumkin Nala & Gair Mumkin Rasta. But in the online parivesh portal the same status has not available so, that 'Other' status has been mentioned.
  - iii. The vegetation density of 0 has been reported with Eco class V. No tree felling is involved in the proposal.
  - iv. The component wise break up of forest land is not submitted, however, the proposal is for regularization of already constructed road.
  - v. The proposal is expected to generate 36500 (man-days) permanent employment and 199740 (man-days) temporary employment.
  - vi. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 0.2576 ha degraded forest land Land bearing Survey No. 53A/14 namely DPF Patroun of beat Patons, Block, Sadar, Forest Range Mandi Forest Division. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO. Detailed CA scheme with maintenance for 10 years is uploaded on Parivesh portal.
  - vii. DFO, Mandi has mentioned in Part- II that violation over an area of 0.1288 ha has been done by HPPWD from 2001-2002. Further, DFO in his site inspection report, has mentioned that violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 has been done by HPPWD, whereas, user agency has mentioned in Part-I that the proposed road was constructed by local villagers by widening of old path during the year 2002. Violation reported

- to Hon'ble high court of HP and the proposed road appears in the list of 2183 cases.
- viii. The proposal does not form part of any Protected Area, or Eco-sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc. DFO, Mandi has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.
  - ix. As per DSS analysis, Calculated area of shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is 0.129 ha. The Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over degraded forest land. Total area of proposed CA land is found 0.257 ha (software calculated).
  - x. As per DSS analysis, Nagru WLS is located approximately 7.16 km from the boundary of the proposed road. However, the State Government, in Part-II of the proposal, has stated that the proposed forest area for diversion does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, or other protected area. Further, as per the Site Inspection Report (SIR) submitted by the Regional Office, Chandigarh, no protected area is involved in the proposal.
  - xi. The State Government has intimated that the road was constructed during the period 2001-2002 by widening an old village path. The existing road is approximately 800 meters in length and involves 0.1288 ha of forest land and 0.2392 ha of private land. The site inspection report also confirms that the road passing through forest land was constructed during the said period without obtaining prior approval under the FCA, 1980. Accordingly, since the construction on forest land was carried out without statutory approval, the entire forest area of 0.1288 ha involved in the existing road has rightly been considered as the violation area in the present proposal. The violation has already been reported in the cases reported to Hon'ble High Court of HP during the year 2012-13.
  - xii. Further, this proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as under :
 

*"In the circumstances, we hope that the officials of MoEF or any other department of the Government of India shall not insist for compliance of furnishing the names, designations and complete addresses of the officers of the State Government responsible for past violations".*
  - xiii. As per Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Chandigarh, The road under the instant proposal has already been constructed and work has been carried out in 0.3680 ha area including 0.1288 ha of forest land and 0.2392 ha of private land. The instant case is part of already constructed 2183 road in Himachal Pradesh, wherein, violation has been reported in Hon'ble High Court.

- xiv. The DDGF(Central), RO, Chandigarh in the Site Inspection Report stated that the instant proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009. The proposal is for regularization of already constructed link road from Dhar to Kathyans under Mandi Forest Division and same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The committee took note of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as elaborated at (xii) above. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Himachal Pradesh recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 0.1288 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD to regularise already constructed link road from Dhar to Kathyana 0/00 to 0/800 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in Villages- Kathayana (54) & Bir (50), Sub-district- Mandi, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-
- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
  - ii. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
  - iii. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
  - iv. The User Agency shall obtain the requisite wildlife clearance and comply with all conditions stipulated therein, if applicable.

### Agenda No.10

**Proposal No. FP/HR/SCH/497829/2024**

**Sub:- Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Right Bell Educational Foundation for non-forestry use of 0.0024 ha Protected Forest for access permission for Mother Teresa Modern Public School belonging to Right Bell Educational Foundation, on Pipli/Ladwa-Lohara road (ODR), RD:- 0.296 (LHS) at Village- Mathana, Tehsil- Thanesar, District- Kurukshetra in the State of Haryana (Online Proposal No. FP/HR/SCH/497829/2024)–regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Haryana attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:-

- i. The proposal envisages diversion of 0.0024 ha Protected Forest for access permission for Mother Teresa Modern Public School Belonging to Right Bell Educational Foundation, on Pipli/Ladwa- Lohara road (ODR), RD:- 0.296 (LHS) at Village- Mathana, Tehsil- Thanesar, District- Kurukshetra in the State of Haryana.
- ii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest. Vegetation density of 0 (zero) has been reported with Eco class 3. No felling of tree is involved in the proposal.
- iii. The component wise breakup of the area is as follows:-.

<b>Component</b>	<b>Forest Land (ha.)</b>	<b>Non-Forest land (ha.)</b>
Approach access	0.0024	2.2494

- iv. The Proposal is expected to generate 300 (man-days) permanent employment and 10 (man-days) temporary employment.
- v. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 0.1 ha degraded forest land (single patch) in Survey No. H43Q13, RF Seonti, Village Bahran, Division & District Kurukshetra. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vi. DFO, Kurukshetra has mentioned in Part- II that violation over an area of 0.0024 ha has been done by Shri. Kailash Chand by using kacha rasta. Damage report has been issued vide D.R. No. 058/0172 dated 10.12.2024. In inspection report, it is mentioned that user agency has violated provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Indian Forest

Act, 1927. Further, it is also mentioned that violation done by the user agency has been removed .

- vii. The Proposal does not form the part of any Protected Area, or Eco-sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc. DFO, Kurukshetra has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
  - viii. As per DSS analysis, calculated area of shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is 0.002 ha. Compensatory afforestation land has been proposed in a single patch over degraded forest land and its software-calculated area is found 0.133 ha. CA has been proposed along the canal.
  - ix. As per Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Chandigarh, User Agency has used forest area for approach to the school without prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. It was observed that at present school has constructed two gates through the forest strips. The User Agency is continuously using the entire forest land proposed for diversion and dedicated approach has been developed. Further, the present proposal is for expansion of the already existing gates at same place. As the gates have already been constructed and are operating since long time; the instant case is for post-facto approval per prevailing provisions under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, wherein, the forest land has been already used for non-forest purpose.
  - x. DDG (Central), RO, Chandigarh in the Site Inspection Report has stated that the proposal is for approach access to private School of the User Agency and has been recommended by the State Government, accordingly same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Haryana and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**deferred**' the proposal with the following observations:

The State Government shall submit a copy of notification notifying the Pipli/Ladwa- Lohara road as protected forest.

### **Agenda No.11**

#### **Proposal No. FP/JK/HYD/IRRIG/402507/2022**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited for non-forestry use of 197.27**

**ha. of Reserved Forest for construction of Kirthai- II Hydro Electric Project (820 MW) on Chenab river within the jurisdiction of Kishtwar Forest Division, District- Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir (Online proposal No. FP/JK/HYD/IRRIG/402507/2022) – regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:-
  - i. The proposal envisages diversion of 197.27 ha. of Forest land ( Reserved Forest: 191.95 Ha and Others: 5.32 Ha) for construction of Kirthai- II Hydro Electric Project (820 MW) by Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL) on Chenab river within the jurisdiction of Kishtwar Forest Division, District- Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir.
  - ii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is 191.95 ha of Reserved Forest and 5.32 ha of deemed forest. The Vegetation density of 0.4 & 0.6 has been reported with Eco class VI. 8723 number of trees are proposed to be felled for the instant proposal.
  - iii. The component wise land-use details (as per Site Inspection Report) of the proposal is as under:-

S. No.	Component		Legal Status	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest land (ha.)
1.	Submergence	98.95	52.62	4.01	155.58
2.	Project Components	69.76	-	-	69.76
3.	Clay Quarry	3.00	-	-	3.00
4.	Rock Quarry	9.74	2.95	-	12.69
5.	Muck Disposal Sites	15.82	-	-	15.82
6.	Colony area	-	-	8.00	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>197.27</b>	<b>55.57</b>	<b>12.01</b>	<b>264.85</b>

- iv. The Proposal is expected to generate 5,25,600 (man-days) permanent employments and 74,20,000 (man-days) temporary employments.

- v. The compensatory Afforestation is proposed over 251.12 ha (NFL & DFL) in 5 patches in Kishtwar District. details are as under:

Sl. No.	Patches	Tehsil	Range	Area (ha)
1.	Patch No. 01 (DFL)	Atholi (Paddar)	Paddar	54.00
2.	Patch No. 02 (NFL)	Kishtwar	Kishtwar	36.67
3.	Patch No. 03 (NFL)	Kishtwar	Kishtwar	46.90
4.	Patch No. 04 (Jar jungle)	Atholi (Paddar)	Paddar	41.45
5.	Patch No. 05 (NFL)	Atholi (Paddar)	Paddar	72.10
<b>Total</b>				<b>251.12</b>

Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO. CA scheme for 10 years is uploaded on Parivesh portal.

- vi. The Proposal does not form the part of any Protected Area, or Eco-sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the proposed area.
- vii. DFO has mentioned in Part- II that the area is sloppy from moderate to steep slope, as such during rock cutting, earth work some forest erosion is likely to occur. However, the user Agency shall construct retaining protection wall to avoid soil erosion. The User Agency has submitted the quarry restoration & muck dumping plan for slope stabilization of the project site.
- viii. DFO, Kishtwar has mentioned in Part- II that there is presence of Endangered Mammals species viz. Himalayan Tahr, Asiatic Black Bear and Himalayan Brown Bear come under the vulnerable category and only one species Asiatic Ibex (*Capra ibex*) belong to the Endangered Category as per the IUCN 2008. Besides, the presence of Spotted Forktail, Little Forktail, Koklass Pheasant were among the rarely sighted species, whereas Himalayan Monal was reported from high altitude nearby area by the local inhabitants, Accordingly, a Wildlife Biodiversity Management Plan, Habitation Management Plan & Animal Passage Plan of ₹144.00 Lakh has been Approved by Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K vide his No: WLP/Tech/2024/297-99 dt: 29.06.2024.
- ix. The project site is a natural habitat of *Pinus gerardiana* (Chilgoza Pine). The in-situ conservation plan to the tune of ₹87.56 lakh. has been proposed as an additional CA.
- x. DFO, Kishtwar has mentioned in Part- II that there is no violation of Adhinyam or guidelines. 20 families will be displaced out of 446 project affected families from 7 villages.
- xi. It is mentioned that BRO road connecting Paddar for 6.5 Km will be realigned due to submergence before impounding of reservoir.

- xii. The cost benefit analysis of the proposal with C:B ratio of 1:292.
- xiii. As per DSS analysis, calculated area of shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is 197.213 ha. Proposed forest land is not situated within 10 Km from any wildlife Sanctuary, National Park, Tiger Reserve and Tiger Corridor. The Compensatory afforestation has been identified in five patches [4: NFL (197.066 ha) and 1: DFL (54.02 ha)] and its software-calculated area is found to be 251.086 ha whereas area proposed for CA is 251.12 ha.
- xiv. The Advisory Committee noted that there are 02 clay quarry and 04 rock quarries part of forest proposal of Kirthai II HEP. The online application for obtaining approval and mining permission from Department of Geology and Mining, UT of J&K for all these quarry sites have been submitted and, presently, the applications are pending at Department of Geology and Mining, Jammu for further processing. The obtaining of approval from State Mining deptt. & preparation of mining plan is under process. The User Agency has assured that all the clearance for quarrying the material shall be taken well in time, before start of mining the construction material for the construction of project.
- xv. The J & K Government has provided list of existing HEPs on river Chenab along with their status and capacities. The projects are currently being developed and implemented by multiple agencies across the region. Kiru HEP (624 MW) of CVPPL and Kirthai-I HEP (390 MW) of JKSPDC is located at downstream and upstream of Kirthai-II HEP, respectively. There is no impact on the generation/ production capacity of existing hydroelectric projects due to upcoming of Kirthai II HEP.
- xvi. The TEA (Techno economic appraisal) to Kirthai II HEP accorded by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) vide letter dated 14.06.2019 and CEA vide letter dated 29.12.2021 has transferred the TEA of Kirthai II HEP in favour of CVPPL. Moreover, CEA has agreed vide letter dated 20.11.2024, to extend the validity of appraisal of Kirthai II HEP for further two years i.e. up to 13.06.2026. As per the appraisal accorded by CEA the installed capacity of Kirthai II HEP was 930 MW (Main power house 840 MW + Dam Toe PH 90 MW) and now the revised installed capacity is 820 MW (Main power house 800 MW + Dam Toe PH 20 MW). The capacity of main power house is revised based on updated revised water availability series for the period 1975-76 to 2021-22 duly approved by CWC. Further the capacity of dam toe PH (for utilising the e-flow to be released) is restricted to 20 MW due to topographical, geological, hydrological & hydraulic constraints together with slope stability, etc considerations. The CEA has accorded approval to CVPPL for revised installed capacity and design energy vide letter dated 01.09.2025.

- xvii. The J & K Government stated that Kirthai II HEP is under survey, investigation & clearance stage of development and at this juncture the approvals from State Dam Safety Authority (SDSA) and National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) is not required as per the Dam Safety Act 2021. This has been confirmed by the NSDA, Chandigarh in its mail dtd 14.05.2025, in case of FC proposal of Sawalkoat HE Project (1856 MW), Ramban of NHPC Limited. Further, it is intimated that the Kirthai-II HEP has been accorded approval from National Committee on Seismic Design Parameters (NCSDP) vide letter dtd 24.06.2024. Moreover, the requisite NOCs and clearances required for taking up project, are available with Kirthai II HEP project like clearance from GSI and NoC from State Geology department of J&K.
- xviii. The proposed area i.e. 15.82 Ha. of forest land for muck dumping sites have been critically examined in terms of their location, extent, ecological sensitivity, quantity of muck and nearer to source of generation, and it is confirmed that the requirement of forest land sought is the barest minimum necessary for the said purpose. The feasibility of shifting the muck dumping to non-forest land has also been duly explored; however, no suitable non-forest land is available in the vicinity. Moreover, since the land surrounding the project site is forest land and shifting of muck dumping site to far locations is not environment friendly too. In view of the above, the proposed use of forest land for muck dumping is unavoidable and confined strictly to the minimum area required.
- xix. The J & K Government stated that the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan for the project affected families and families to be displaced formulated has been formulated in the EIA & EMP report of project which has been recommended by the EAC, MoEF&CC in its meeting held on 15.04.2021. The acquisition of private land falling in the project, under the aegis of "The RFCTLARR Act 2013 (The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013) is under process. The approval of the R&R shall be taken afresh from the competent authority of state govt. in accordance with the relevant sections of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013, when the process reaches the prescribed stage.
- xx. Regarding the presence of proposal in in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone, the proposed forest land falls under Eco-class VI, characterized by moderate to dense forest cover, with habitations located in the surrounding area and an existing BRO road passing through the proposed site. The presence of dense forest or the Chenab River in the broader landscape does not render the site an HCV Zone, as the proposed area does not meet criteria for irreplaceability, critical habitat, or irreversible ecological impact. The project avoids ecologically sensitive patches, and the forest diversion is limited to the

minimum required area. Being a hydropower project, its site-specific in nature, with no feasible/viable alternative location, and is being implemented in the larger public interest. All prescribed environmental safeguards and mitigation measures, including compensatory afforestation, soil and water conservation measures, and wildlife protection measures, etc shall be implemented.

- xxi. The road visible in the proposed forest area is BRO road connecting Gulabgarh to Kishtwar. Due to construction of Kirthai-II HE Project, some portion of existing Kishtwar Gulabgarh- Sansari road from dam site to Kirthai village is likely to be submerged. The total length of existing road under submergence is about 6.5 km from Dam site. The project will do the realignment of existing Kishtwar Gulabgarh Sansari road well before commissioning of the project for smooth diversion of the traffic. The existing road will be utilized during construction of the project and at the same time the work on alternative road will be carried out so that Padder area could be connected to Kishtwar after construction of project. An MoU with BRO for RSTC & preparation of DPR for the road coming under submergence has already been signed on 04.11.2023. BRO had taken the forest land for construction of road, and due to the construction of project the road will submerged. Therefore, the portion of road falling under submergence has been included in the forest proposal for the use of Kirthai II HEP.
- xxii. As per DSS analysis, a solid structure is also visible in the Clay Quarry. In this context, J & K Government stated that the solid structure visible in clay quarry is a reservoir & slow sand filtration plant at Gulabgarh, Padder constructed on 0.015 ha & 0.029 ha of forest land, respectively, after getting approval vide orders no. 483-FST dated 13.12.2012 and no.421-FST dated 25.10.2019. There is no violation occurred at this site.
- xxiii. As per the report of District administration, Kishtwar dated 31.12.2025, the structure visible in the proposed CA site is house of local inhabitant and is situated along the boundary of the proposed CA site. It was suggested to exclude the portion containing the residential structure to avoid inclusion of inhabited areas and to include correspondingly available uninhabited area in same patch of land. Accordingly, this portion has been excluded and correspondingly available portion in same patch has been included. The updated kml of this NFL patch at Kishtwar of same area i.e. 36.67 ha has been uploaded in the proposal.
- xxiv. As per Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Chandigarh, Kirthai Hydro Electric Project Stage-II is a run of the river scheme on the River Chenab and is located in tehsil Padder, district of Kishtwar of UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The project is being implemented by Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL), a joint venture of National

Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) & Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC). The proposed dam site is located near Kirthai Village and Kishtwar town is about 58 Km downstream of this site. The UT Government of Jammu and Kashmir submitted this proposal for diversion of 197.27 ha of forest land for construction of Kirthai II HE Project (820 MW) in Kishtwar Forest Division in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir on PARIVESH Portal 2.0 seeking prior approval of Central Government under Van (Sanrakshashan Evam Samvardhana) Adhiniyam, 1980. This proposal is for diversion of 197.27 ha (191.95 Ha Reserved Forest + 5.32 Ha Deemed Forest) of forest land proposed for Kirthai-II Hydroelectric Project under Forest Division & District Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir.

- xxv. As per Site Inspection Report by RO, Chandigarh, the project site is located within a high mountainous gorge along the river Chenab characterized by moderate to steep slopes. The User Agency (UA) needs to exercise special caution during project implementation, as activities such as rock cutting and earthwork may lead to soil erosion. To mitigate these impacts, the User Agency is required to construct appropriate retaining/protection walls to prevent soil erosion.
- xxvi. As per Site Inspection Report by RO, Chandigarh, a total of 8723 number of trees are proposed to be felled in the proposed project. The removal of trees would definitely affect the ecosystem in general, especially in terms of increased run-off and soil erosion that may lead to landslides. However, the proposed project is of national importance for harnessing hydropower potential of Chenab River, and hence, some trade-off is required between the developmental activities and environmental conservation. Therefore, effect of removal of trees can be minimized by proper monitoring and safety measures as per standard conditions of approval.
- xxvii. As per Site Inspection Report by RO, Chandigarh, the total Catchment Area of Chenab River is 9987 ha. Free Drainage Catchment Area considered in CAT Plan is 1602.04 sq km. Total Cost of the CAT Plan: Rs. 30.69 Crore. The Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan has been approved by the J&K Forest Department vide letter No. PCCF/FCA/4935/6291-94 dated 23.01.2025.
- xxviii. As per Site Inspection Report by RO, Chandigarh, Kirthai II HEP, with an installed capacity of 820 MW, is to be developed on the Chenab River. A total of 197.27 hectares of forest land is proposed for diversion. Out of total 197.27 ha forest land; 191.95 ha is classified as reserved forest and 5.32 ha as deemed forest. The reservoir of the project begins near the Kijayee Village (at the confluence of Uffan Nalah), Padder, Kishtwar. The project site is located within a high mountainous gorge along the river Chenab characterized by moderate to steep slopes. The User Agency (UA) needs to exercise special

caution during project implementation, as activities such as rock cutting and earthwork may lead to soil erosion. To mitigate these impacts, the User Agency is required to construct appropriate retaining/protection walls to prevent soil erosion. The Full Reservoir Level (FRL) begins near the Kijrayee Village and the Dam site is proposed at village Kidroo. , while the Power house is located near the Lidrari Nalla . The project area is prone to landslides and require engineering and biological measures for stabilization.

- xxix. The project site features a dense forest comprising Pine species, Silver fir, Oak species and other temperate and broadleaf species. There are two clay quarry sites and three rock quarry sites are proposed in the project, which also lies inside the forest area. There are 07 muck dumping sites proposed in the project, which are located near the edge of the river Chenab. All the muck dumping sites are located inside forest land. As all the muck dumping sites are located near the banks of the River Chenab, appropriate engineering and biological measures are required to prevent erosion, siltation, and any adverse environmental impacts on the river ecology.
- xxx. The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central),RO, Chandigarh, has stated that the proposed project is of great public utility and is located on Chenab river. The electricity to be generated from the project, will improve the power scenario in the region, and likely to strengthen the economic condition of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, the project will generate employment which will benefit the local population. Hence, the proposal is recommended with general and specific conditions for hydroelectric project along with the following conditions: -
- a) As Chilgoza is endemic to this region, and as per the tree enumeration list, this species is being lost in large number due to diversion of forest land, the Forest Department must ensure to prioritize this species for plantation at the proposed CA site.
  - b) Clarification from UT Government of J&K w.r.t some households and a road passing through 36.67 ha NFL CA area located in Kishtwar town just above Dulhasti HEP, Residential Colony.
  - c) The strict monitoring of implementation of CAT plan and Wildlife Mitigation Plan by higher authority.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Haryana and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**deferred**' the proposal with the following observations:
- (i) The State Government has stated that the proposed project will not impact the generation capacity of existing hydroelectric projects on the Chenab River. However, no information has been provided regarding whether any Carrying

Capacity Study or Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) of the Chenab river basin has been conducted by any expert agency. Accordingly, the State Government shall: (i) Inform whether any Carrying Capacity and Cumulative Impact Assessment Study has been conducted for the Chenab River Basin. (ii) If conducted, submit a copy of the study report.

(ii) The State Government has submitted that approvals from SDSA/NDSA are not required at the present stage and that approval from the National Committee on Seismic Design Parameters has been obtained. However, details of the organization certifying structural safety of the proposed dam have not been furnished. Accordingly, the State Government shall (i) Submit details of the competent organization/authority that has certified the structural safety of the proposed dam. (ii) Provide a copy of the safety certificate, if issued. (iii) Submit a copy of the Disaster Management Plan prepared for the project, considering that the area is characterized by moderate to steep slopes and is prone to landslides.

(iii) Out of 197.27 ha of forest land proposed for diversion, 15.82 ha is proposed for muck dumping. The project also involves 67.58 ha of non-forest land. Accordingly, the State Government shall clarify whether any non-forest land involved in the project has been explored for muck disposal.

(iv) As per the Site Inspection Report by RO, Chandigarh, all the muck dumping sites are located near the banks of the River Chenab. Hence, appropriate engineering and biological measures are required to prevent erosion, siltation and any adverse environmental impacts on the river ecology. The State Government shall submit comments in this regard along with detailed mitigation measures.

(v) As per Minutes of Meeting dated 11.10.2023, JKPTCL was required to submit Memorandum of Change (MoC) of concurred DPR to CEA. However, the power evacuation plan has not yet been approved. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit copy of approval of the Power Evacuation Plan of the project.

(vi) As per Site Inspection Report by RO, Chandigarh, as Chilgoza is endemic to this region, and as per the tree enumeration list, this species is being lost in large number due to diversion of forest land, the Forest Department must ensure to prioritize this species for plantation at the proposed CA site. The State Government shall submit comments in this regard along with revised CA scheme for plantation of Chilgoza

(vii) The State Government has informed that applications for 02 clay quarries and 04 rock quarries are under process with the Department of Geology & Mining, UT of J&K. However, approval for quarrying and the Mining Plans have not yet been obtained. As per Para 7.2 (Point 5), Chapter 7 of the Van

(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, the approved Mining Plan is required to be submitted along with the proposal. Accordingly, the State Government shall: (i) Submit copies of approval of 02 clay quarries and 04 rock quarries. (ii) Submit copies of duly approved Mining Plans for all quarry sites.

### **Agenda No. 12**

#### **Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/524859/2025**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 3.986 ha Revenue forest land in Khasra No 6/1, 11 and 8 for underground Mining of Manganese ore by Jt.GM, MOIL Bhavan, 1-A, Katol Road, Nagpur-13, Maharashtra in North Ukwa Range under North Balaghat Forest Division, Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh State (Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/524859/2025) – reg.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter No File No PCCF/9/0003/2024-LM-PCCF dated 30.12.2024 forwarded a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 3.986 ha Revenue forest land in Khasra No 6/1, 11 and 8 for underground Mining of Manganese ore by Jt.GM, MOIL Bhavan, 1-A, Katol Road, Nagpur-13, Maharashtra in North Ukwa Range under North Balaghat Forest Division, Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh State.
  - ii. The Ukwa Mine is having a total mining lease area of 73.567 ha out of which 3.986 ha is under revenue forest land. The manganese ore horizon occurs in the lower part of sequence of meta sedimentary rocks of Sausar Group of Precambrian age. The Ukwa deposit is located, almost at the eastern end of the belt. Further eastwards the Sausar Group of rocks are covered by Deccan Basalts. To cater to the requirements of the mineral based industries, mining is the only way for

extraction of ore from the mineral deposit. Manganese is required in steel industries, Battery industries, Fertilizers, etc.

- iii. The area proposed for diversion i.e. 3.986 ha is having the canopy density of 0.4 (Dense Forest) of Eco Class III and Nil number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- iv. The State Government submitted that the proposed area is neither a part of any protected area nor it falls within 10 km of the nearest protected area. It also does not fall in any notified Wildlife corridor. Distance from Kanha National Park core, is - 24.850 KM and Kanha National Park buffer zone Boundary, is - 17.347 KM.
- v. There is a presence of Spotted deer, Barking deer, Jackal, Hares, Occasional movement of Leopards, etc. has been reported in the area. A site specific Wildlife Conservation Plan amounting to ₹324.862/- lakh has been found uploaded on the portal with signature and Stamp of the CWLW.
- vi. The component wise breakup of the land proposed for diversion is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Area (ha)
1.	Mining/ Infrastructure	2.975
2.	Safety Zone	1.011
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3.986</b>

- vii. The State Government submitted that the first mining lease was granted to MOIL for 20 years from 15.09.1985 to 14.09.2005. The second renewal was granted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Department of Mineral Resources, Bhopal vide letter No. F3-25/10/12/2 dated 27.09.2010, for a period from 15.09.2005 to 14.09.2025, along with surface rights. Subsequently, the State Government, vide order dated 16.05.2025, extended the validity of the lease by 10 years up to 14.09.2035.
- viii. Subsidence study has been carried out by the IIT, Kharagpur. As per Subsidence prediction report, the maximum possible subsidence in case of underground extraction of mineral under forest land at Ukwa mine has been examined and monitored by mine authorities and, found safe. The surface tensile strain worked out in 3-D subsidence prediction model for underground working with post filling at Ukwa Mine in forest land is predicted 0.66 mm/m. The above values are found to be quite safe considering the safe limits established for various surface properties in India.
- ix. The Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Ministry of Mines has carried out the necessary correction in the Mining Plan vide letter dated 16.12.2025. As per the revised Mining Plan, the total lease area is 73.567 ha, which includes 3.986 Ha of forest land.

- x. The State Government submitted that the subject proposal is for Underground Mining with no infrastructure activity on the Forest Land. Hence, CA is not required as per the provisions of the VSESA, 1980.
- xi. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal by saying that the mineral deposits are site specific in nature. Therefore, for extraction of these minerals has to be done by mining which also has to be site specific. Therefore, there can't be any alternative to the proposal.
- xii. The State Govt. submitted that MOIL had applied in 2002 for diversion of 1.983 ha of land in Village Ukwa to the Collector, Balaghat, who forwarded the proposal to the Divisional Forest Officer, North Balaghat vide letter dated 07.06.2002. The Divisional Forest Officer, North (T), Balaghat clarified that the said 1.983 ha land falls outside the jurisdiction of the Forest Department and that the building construction existed prior to the VSESA, 1980. Accordingly, no prior approval under the VSESA, 1980 was obtained for the said land.
- xiii. The State Govt. submitted that MOIL had applied for diversion of 3.986 ha of forest land in Village Ukwa in 2007–08 to the DFO, South (T), Balaghat; however, the proposal was not processed further. Subsequently, another proposal (No. FP/MP/MIN/18748/2016) was submitted to the Regional Office, Bhopal, which was returned on 07.01.2025 with advice to submit it to the Ministry as per the VSES Rules, 2023. The State Govt. has clarified that no work has been carried out on the proposed forest land.
- xiv. The State Govt. submitted that the documents earlier furnished pertained to other MOIL projects and were not related to the present proposal. It was further stated that applications for diversion of 3.986 ha were submitted at the DFO level in 2002 and again during 2007–08 as per the prevailing rules; however, the FCA diversion process was not completed. Accordingly, as forest clearance has not yet been obtained for the said area, the question of submitting compliance with conditions of earlier approval does not arise.
- xv. The State Govt. submitted the copies of relevant mining leases, stating that the originally granted lease was 258.4891 ha, which was later revised to 199.0673 ha in the present lease granted to MOIL. Further, the lease area of 73.567 ha was reduced to 69.581 ha during the second renewal after excluding 3.986 ha of forest land. However, as per the documents available on the PARIVESH, the area of originally lease granted is 259.4891 Ha for Gudma, Ukma, Lagma and Samnagpur.
- xvi. The State Govt. has submitted that the entire area proposed for diversion (3.986 ha) is for underground mining. Out of this, 3.886 ha will be used for plantation and 0.10 ha for road. The necessary corrections have also been made in Part-I of the PARIVESH portal.

- xvii. The State Government submitted that the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Ministry of Mines has carried out the necessary correction in the Mining Plan. As per the revised Mining Plan, the total lease area is 73.567 ha, which includes 3.986 ha of forest land.
  - xviii. As per satellite imagery of 2009, a kachha road was passing through the proposed forest land. Further, the latest imagery dated 05.03.2024 shows a metalled road passing through the area and connecting the MOIL substation. The State Govt. has stated that the road was constructed by the local Panchayat; however, details of prior approvals or information regarding violation for the existing metalled road have not been submitted.
  - xix. The State Govt. has clarified that prior approval of the Central Govt. for the Revenue Forest land within the lease boundary has not yet been obtained by the User Agency. However, mining has been carried out in the adjoining non-forest areas through the underground method.
  - xx. The Committee observed that the State Government has renewed the lease of 73.567 ha from 15.09.2005 to 14.09.2025, which includes the 3.986 ha Revenue forest land without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government under the VSESA, 1980 and that leads to the violation of the Adhiniyam.
  - xxi. The Committee further observed that a site-specific Wildlife Conservation Plan amounting to ₹324.862/- lakh has been approved by the CWLW.
  - xxii. The Committee further observed that the surface tensile strain worked out in 3-D subsidence prediction model for underground working with post filling at Ukwa Mine in forest land is predicted as 0.66 mm/m.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee recommended the **Stage-I/In-principle** approval for diversion of 3.986 ha Revenue forest land in Khasra No 6/1, 11 and 8 for underground Mining of Manganese ore by Jt.GM, MOIL Bhavan, 1-A, Katol Road, Nagpur-13, Maharashtra in North Ukwa Range under North Balaghat Forest Division, Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The proposed underground mine is likely to cause subsidence of 0.66 mm/m. Accordingly, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented by the State Government, at the cost of the User Agency, to reduce tensile strain on the surface.
  - ii. In case the subsidence level is more than that is now forecasted, the user agency shall be bound to pay the requisite NPV and

Compensatory afforestation, as required under the Ministry's guidelines.

- iii. In the event of any subsidence within the forest area, prompt safety measures shall be implemented by the User Agency in coordination with the State Forest Department.
- iv. The State Government/User Agency shall submit the report on the subsidence to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry in every three years.
- v. In any eventuality of mine collapse in future, the NPV at applicable rate shall be charged from the date of grant of in-principle approval.
- vi. The State Government shall ensure to implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Management plan as approved by the CWLW at the cost of the User Agency and the compensatory levies shall be deposited in the State CAMPA.
- vii. Action under section 3A and 3B shall be initiated by the State Forest Department against those responsible for violation of the Adhiniyam.
- viii. The State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhiniyam by the user agency which shall be five time the NPV of forest land plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand and till the deposit is made by the user agency into the account of State CAMPA.
- ix. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land for penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- x. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bhopal and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.

### **Agenda No. 13**

**Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRV/470497/2024**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 390.643 ha of forest land for the Marwatola-VI coal block mining (underground mining) project of M/s JSW Cement Limited, JSW Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra (East), MUMBAI, located in Umaria District of Madhya Pradesh State- reg.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter No F-1/892/2025/FP/MP/MIN/QRY/470497/2024 dated 24.10.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Diversion of 390.643 ha. (381.911 Ha) of forest land for Marwatola VI Coal Mine (Block Area: 763.00 ha) with Coal Production Capacity: 1.50 Million TPA located at villages: Malachua, Blockpadari, Raugarh, Bandhwa Bara, Kholkhamra & Sahapur, Tehsil: Pali, District: Umaria, Madhya Pradesh by M/s. JSW Cement Limited.
  - ii. The coal mine covers 763.00 ha across the villages of Shahpur, Raugarh, Malachua, Bandhwa Bara, Blockpadri and Kholkhamara in Tehsil Pali, District Umaria, Madhya Pradesh, and forms part of the Sohagpur Coalfield. The block has been allocated for commercial coal extraction, including captive use, coal gasification, coal liquefaction, export, and sale to affiliates. The mine has a peak rated capacity of 1.5 MTPA of average G9 grade ROM coal. Underground mechanized mining is proposed, employing the Bord & Pillar (B&P) or Room & Pillar (R&P) method with caving, using continuous miners. The coal grades range from G3 to G12, with an overall average grade of G9 based on GCV.
  - iii. The land proposed for diversion i.e. 390.643 ha (285.627 ha - Reserved Forest, 49.774 ha - Revenue Forest, 55.242 ha – Protected Forest) is having the following canopy density: 340.869 Ha: 0.6 of Eco Class III, 41.041 Ha: 0.4 of Eco Class III, 8.732 Ha: 0.4 of Eco Class IV.
  - iv. The number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is Nil.

- v. The State Government submitted that the proposal does not form part of the National park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc.
- vi. It has been further submitted that in the diverted forest land and nearby area; wild animals like tiger, leopard, sloth bear, cheetal etc. have their habitat. Direct and indirect evidences of sighting of wild animals were reported by the local forest staff.
- vii. The proposed forest land for diversion is located at a distance of 2.56 Km away from the Achanakmar-Bhandhavgarh Tiger Corridor.
- viii. Moreover, the CWLW, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide letter dated 01.08.2025 has approved the Wildlife management plan for 5 years with a financial outlay of ₹240.88 Lakh.
- ix. The State Govt. reported that State Govt. reported that the Project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation and therefore, resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required for this project.
- x. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Area (Ha.)	Non forest Area (Ha.)
1.	Underground Mining	390.643	360.037
2.	Infrastructure	0	9.47
3.	Green Belt	0	2.35
4.	Other Uses	0	0.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>390.643</b>	<b>372.357</b>

- xi. The State Government submitted that The Mining plan has been approved by the Ministry of Coal vide letter dated 28.08.2024. The Date of issue of Lol/Vesting order/Mining Lease: 08.06.2023.
- xii. The State Government submitted that the subject proposal is for underground mining. Accordingly, as per the provisions laid down under the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the CA land is not required.
- xiii. The subsidence study estimates the maximum tensile strain at 4.98 mm/m, which is within the permissible limit of 20 mm/m prescribed for underground mining in forest areas.
- xiv. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal subject to the following:  
The proposed mechanized underground coal mine will employ the Bord & Pillar (B&P) or Room & Pillar (R&P) method with caving and continuous miners, with a proposal to depillar with controlled caving. Controlled caving may lead to subsidence, and although no felling is proposed in the underground mine area, the vegetation, particularly trees, may be affected due to subsidence caused by depillaring. Further, the natural nala course may shift and ponds may drain if not

mitigated. The subsidence report submitted by the User Agency indicates that the maximum anticipated subsidence of 1798 mm may affect the surface topography after mining. Suitable drainage arrangements should be made to avoid water logging in the centre of subsidence troughs. Further, no depillaring should be carried out below surface structures, ensuring intact coal by maintaining a 25° angle of draw from all sides of water bodies/structures. The report also recommends continuous monitoring and detailed study of subsidence impacts. The proposal is recommended.

- xv. The Regional Office in its SIR submitted that hydrologically, the block is drained by two nalas, namely Arar Nala and Garnaha Nala, traverse the block. Their principal courses flow along the forest boundary from the southwest to the northeast, ultimately draining into the Son River.
- xvi. The State Government submitted that 35 captive and commercial coal blocks have been allocated/vested in Madhya Pradesh up to 2024–25, out of which only 7 blocks are currently operational. Further, as per the Coal Directory of India 2024–25, despite substantial coal reserves, domestic production has not been able to fully meet the country's demand, particularly for low-ash coal, leading to imports. Coal being a critical input for the power, steel and cement sectors, the State Government has justified that opening new coal mining leases is necessary to bridge the demand–supply gap and ensure energy security.
- xvii. The State Government submitted that the User Agency has submitted a proposal on the PARIVESH portal for diversion of 381.911 ha of forest land. However, as per field verification based on the MP Forest GIS Hub, Beat Map and the prevailing Working Plan toposheets, the affected area of Reserved/Protected Forest works out to 340.869 ha. Further, as per the letter of Tehsildar, Pali (No. 6043/Pravachak/2023 dated 19.10.2023), an additional 49.774 ha of Revenue Forest Land (Jhudi/Brushwood Jungle) is also falling within the proposed coal block. Accordingly, the total forest land affected under the proposal comes to 390.643 ha.
- xviii. The State Government submitted that 3.27 ha of land is required for the road and no additional forest land is involved, as the proposed road passes entirely through non-forest private and government land. During the construction phase, electricity will be supplied through DG sets, while during the operational phase power will be sourced from a proposed 132 kV EHV substation at Ghunguti, to be established by MPMKVCL/MPSEB for multiple coal blocks in the area, with the cost to be shared by the coal block allottees. A dedicated 33 kV substation is proposed to supply electricity for the Marwatola-VI coal block.

- xix. The State Government submitted that for the ground water extraction, the User Agency has obtained the NOC (No. NOC/MIN/MP/2024/952/N dated 26.12.2024) from CGWA.
- xx. The State Government submitted that the land use in the Mining Plan has been corrected under the category of “minor corrections” and approved by the Board of Directors of JSW Cement Limited on 15.01.2026, in accordance with the Ministry of Coal guidelines dated 30.01.2025. As per the revised Mining Plan, the total land involved in the proposal is 390.643 ha.
- xxi. The State Govt. submitted that, as per the prevailing Working Plan, 15.440 ha of encroachment already exists in Compartment No. RF-222 of Beat. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to maintain a safe distance from the railway line during mining operations. Regarding the NoC from Railway authorities, the User Agency submitted that the Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan for the Marwatola-VI coal block were approved on 28.08.2024 by the Coal Controller Organisation (Ministry of Coal), wherein a 45 m safety barrier from the railway line has been committed. It has further been stated that the railway line was not present within the lease area at the time of auction (Feb–Mar 2023) as per the block boundary map issued by the Ministry of Coal and appears to have been constructed during 2023–2024 after execution of the CMDPA on 29.03.2023. Accordingly, the User Agency has submitted that the railway alignment is a subsequent development within the forest block and therefore obtaining NoC from the Railways may not be applicable to the project.
- xxii. The State Government submitted that the subsidence prediction report has been prepared by the CSIR–Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research (CIMFR). The DFO, in his reply, has stated that the User Agency shall be fully responsible for any deviations or impacts arising in future due to Underground mining, for which an undertaking has been submitted by the User Agency.
- xxiii. The State Government submitted that 30 ha of plantation was carried out in 2024 under the Tenth Plan (external site plantation) in Compartment No. RF-222 of Beat Raugharh. Further, 40 ha of plantation has been proposed in FY 2026–27 under the CAMPA scheme for improvement of degraded forests in the same compartment. It was also reiterated that, as per the undertaking previously submitted by the User Agency, Marwatola-VI Coal Block is proposed to be mined through underground method and no surface rights over forest land will be taken under the forest land diversion proposal.
- xxiv. The Committee observed that the block is drained by two nalas, namely Arar Nala and Garnaha Nala, traverse the block. Their principal

courses flow along the forest boundary from the southwest to the northeast, ultimately draining into the Son River.

- xxv. The Committee further observed that as per the subsidence prediction report of the CSIR–Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research (CIMFR), the maximum tensile strain at 4.98 mm/m, which is within the permissible limit of 20 mm/m prescribed for underground mining in forest areas.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, the Committee recommended the **Stage-I/In-principle** approval for diversion of 390.643 ha of forest land for the Marwatola VI coal block mining (underground mining) project of M/s JSW Cement Limited, JSW Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra (East), MUMBAI, located in Umaria District of Madhya Pradesh State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The proposed underground mine is likely to cause subsidence of 4.98 mm/m. Accordingly, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented by the State Government, at the cost of the User Agency, to reduce tensile strain on the surface.
  - ii. In case the subsidence level is more than what is now forecasted, the user agency shall pay the requisite NPV and Compensatory afforestation, as required under the Ministry's guidelines.
  - iii. In the event of any subsidence within the forest area, prompt safety measures shall be implemented by the User Agency in coordination with the State Forest Department.
  - iv. In any eventuality of mine collapse in future, the NPV at applicable rate shall be charged from the date of grant of in-principle approval.
  - v. The State Government/User Agency shall submit the report on the subsidence to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry in every three years.
  - vi. The State Government shall ensure that the natural flow of the Arar Nala and Garnaha Nala, which are ultimately draining into the Son River shall not be disturbed and necessary mitigation measures shall be taken by the User Agency at their own cost.
  - vii. The Wildlife management plan for 5 years shall be implemented by the State Government and the cost shall be deposited in the State CAMPA.

#### **Agenda No. 14**

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

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

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter No. PCCF/6/0005/2024-LM-PCCF dated 15.10.2024 (uploaded on PARIVESH on 28.10.2024) forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 740.1592 ha Reserve Forest land in favour of Water Resource Department for the construction of Dam and Micro Irrigation System Under Munjari Major Irrigation Project under Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh State.
  - ii. The Munjari Irrigation project is located on Aheli river near village Munjari, Tehsil-Baroda, District Sheopur. The area is a low rainfall area and hence there is problem of drinking water well as irrigation to farm lands. Though, the Aheli river is a seasonal river, the project would help in impounding water for larger period of time in a year which would help the flora and fauna of the area and also serve for irrigation and drinking water requirement of the local people. Accordingly, the Madhya Pradesh Water Resources Department submitted a proposal for diversion of 740.1592 ha Reserve Forest land for the construction of Dam and Micro Irrigation System Under Munjari Major Irrigation Project in favour of Water Resource Department under Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh State.
  - iii. Legal Status of the forest land involved in the proposal is Reserve Forest having Eco-Class 3 & Canopy Density ranging from 0 to 0.3 (0 for 5.24 Ha, 0.2 for 524.793 and 0.3 for 210.126).

- iv. The proposed area for diversion is almost a flat ground with very thin layer of soil on the surface. At most of the places, rocky outcrops can be noticed. The area is very dry due to very low rainfall (750 mm). Due to this, flora and fauna including human population and local cattle are facing water scarcity. Thus, approx. 19000 population of 34 villages will be benefited due to instant project. The number of trees affected by the project is 20,761, as per the total enumeration conducted during Jan.-Feb., 2024. But, only 20,105 trees are proposed to be felled.
- v. The proposed diversion area is more than 10 km from Kuno National Park and more than 20 km from Chambal Gharial Sanctuary. It also does not fall in any notified wildlife corridor.
- vi. The component-wise requirement of land in the project is as under:

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

- vii. The proposed diversion area is located in Sheopur district, in the landscape of Kuno National Park—where the Government of India has initiated the Cheetah reintroduction project. Further, the DFO, Kuno (WL), Sheopur vide letter dated 20.11.2025 submitted that the proposed area for diversion is 43-44 KM away from the Kuno National Park and have no objection with respect to the instant proposal.

- viii. The State Govt. reported that the Project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation and therefore resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required for this project.
- ix. The Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh informed the committee that the Munjari Major Irrigation Project is proposed to be constructed on the river Aheli (near village Munjari Tehsil- Baroda, District Sheopur of Madhya Pradesh) which is a seasonal river, flowing mainly during rainy season and remains dry for rest of the year. Therefore, the project would help in impounding water for larger period of time, which would be useful for local flora, fauna, cattle and about 40,000 families. The Aheli river drains into Parvati river which ultimately drains into river Chambal. The catchment area at site location is 300.70 Sq.Km. Since this area is dependent on rain, scarcity, conditions exist all the time. Crop yield is very low. The project area needs water for domestic and agriculture purpose.
- x. The committee raised their concern regarding a large quantity of muck is expected to be generated as a result of construction of dam. Muck generated from excavation of any project component is required to be disposed in a planned manner so that it takes a least possible space and is not hazardous to the environment. It is of prime importance that muck disposal sites will have to be rehabilitated as soon as the disposal sites are full. In this regard, the Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh apprised the committee that in Munjari Irrigation Project the Excavated material will be fully utilised during construction of dam and small remaining will be utilised in levelling of land during construction of switch yard, Pumping Station, Power Station so there will be no muck remaining for disposal at other site.
- xi. The CAT plan has been submitted by the State Govt. on the PARIVESH portal.
- xii. The total command area of the proposal is 11575 ha.
- xiii. The State Government submitted that approval for construction of the proposed dam has been accorded by the State Dam Safety Organization vide letter No. 49B dated 22.01.2025, subject to certain conditions. Further, the User Agency, with reference to letters dated 07.02.2025 and 18.07.2025 issued by the Director, NDSA (Western Region), stated that under the Dam Safety Act, 2021, no specific consent or approval from NDSA is required prior to or during the construction stage of the dam.

- xiv. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over the 743.343 ha Revenue/ Non-Forest land in 13 patches of 5 villages and 330.392 ha of Degraded Forest land in 5 patches under Sheopur District of the Madhya Pradesh State.
- xv. The Regional Office recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- a) It is observed that construction of certain structures like Road, Switch Yard, Pump House, Control room and Distribution Chamber are proposed. While constructing these structures, it is suggested to minimize the number of tree felling as much as possible.
- xvi. It was informed to the Committee that the proposal was considered in Advisory Committee meeting held on 26.5.2025 wherein the Committee '*deferred*' the proposal for want of following information:
- a) The State shall submit the duly filled Part-IV of the application form on PARIVESH 2.0.
- b) The copy of approved CAT plan by the Principal CCF & HoFF or any other officer authorized by him for the purpose as per para 9.2 (vii), Chapter-9 of the Handbook of guidelines and clarification issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be submitted.
- c) The approval from the State Dam Safety Organization under the Dam Safety Act, 2021 has been obtained, however the recommendation of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has not yet been submitted. The state shall provide the same.
- d) The State Government shall clarify whether it is a single standalone project on the Aheli river or other projects in near future have been planned.
- e) The details about the command area, irrigation potential, present cropping pattern, total population of the villages to be benefitted and the likely impact of the project on cropping pattern in future is essential for evaluating the socio-economic benefits of the project. The State shall submit a detailed report on these aspects.
- xvii. The State Government has uploaded the point-wise information on PARIVESH portal on 21.7.2025. The State Govt. forwarded the recommendation of State Government in PART-IV, however, the same cannot be uploaded on PARIVESH due to some technical reasons. The State Government has also forwarded a copy of technically approved Catchment Area Treatment Plan.

- xviii. The State Government informed that as per letter dated 18.7.2025 of National Dam Safety Authority (NSDA)-Western Region, Pune, it is clarified that no specific concurrence or approval is required either prior to or during the construction stage of the dam under the Dam Safety Act, 2021. However, dam owners are mandated to undertake various statutory obligations as stipulated under the Act during and after the construction of specific dams.
- xix. The State Government has also submitted a certificate by Executive Engineer, Water Resources Division, Sheopur certifying that Munjari Major Irrigation Project is a single standalone project on the Aheli river and currently there is no other ongoing/upcoming project proposed on upstream or downstream of proposed munjhari dam.
- xx. The State Government submitted the detailed report about the command area, irrigation potential, present cropping pattern, total population of the villages to be benefitted and the likely impact of the project on cropping pattern in future is essential for evaluating the socio-economic benefits of the project.
- xxi. The proposal was again considered in Advisory Committee meeting held on 30.07.2025, wherein the Committee '*deferred*' the proposal for want of following information:
- a. The State shall explore the possibility of providing bigger NFL patches for CA and accordingly submit the revised CA scheme and related KML files/documents.
  - b. The State ensure that the non-forest land proposed for the compensatory afforestation is free from all encumbrances and suitable for management.
- xxii. The State Government has submitted the point wise information on PARIVESH portal vide letter dated 10.09.2025. It was submitted by the State Government that there is no availability of the bigger patches at the same place. The certificate dated 28.08.2025 from the District Collector regarding the non-availability of the bigger patches is also submitted along with the State Govt. letter dated 10.09.2025.
- xxiii. Further, it is informed by the State Government that the CA land proposed for the proposal is free from all encumbrances and suitable for the management. In this regard, the suitability certificate from the DFO Sheopur is also provided.
- xxiv. The proposal was again considered in the AC meeting held on 26.09.2025 and the committee After going through the facts of the

proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for want of following information:

- a) The proposed diversion area is located in Sheopur district, in the landscape of Kuno National Park—where the Cheetah reintroduction project has been started. Therefore, the State Government shall obtain comments/(NoC) from Project Cheetah under the NTCA, MoEF&CC.
- b) Given the large area proposed for submergence, it is essential to conduct a comprehensive study on the water flow in the river across seasons, the affected population and villages, the potential benefits of the project, and its downstream impact. The state shall submit a study report in this regard.
- c) With regard to Compensatory Afforestation areas the state has informed that the bigger patches are not available in the concerned district. In this regard the state shall explore the availability of bigger CA patches in the adjoining districts.

xxv. It was informed to the Committee that State Government vide letter dated 27.11.2025 submitted the reply on the observations. Further, this Ministry vide letter dated 09.12.2025 requested to examine the matter and submit the comments/recommendations. In response to this, the NTCA vide letter dated 12.12.2025 furnished the following reply to the Ministry:

- a) The proposed diversion of 740.1592 ha of Reserve Forest land for the construction of a dam and micro-irrigation system, including approach roads and pipelines under the Munjari Major Irrigation Project, falls within the greater cheetah landscape. Given the extensive use of this agro-pastoral landscape by cheetahs, due caution is required not only within the forest area but also in adjoining non-forest areas. The proposed area does not lie within the tiger corridor identified by NTCA, nor have tiger or leopard presences been reported there as per the All India Tiger Estimation Exercise 2022
- b) Diversion of forest land for linear and irrigation infrastructure can lead to habitat fragmentation, alteration of hydrological regimes, and disruption of wildlife movement patterns. Large mammals such as the tiger and cheetah require extensive ranges with unhindered access to water, forage, and migratory routes. Irrigation dams, if not scientifically designed with ecological safeguards, may exacerbate human–wildlife conflict and restrict animal movement, and can cause mortality due to drowning,

- road accidents, electrocution, or entrapment around reservoir embankments.
- c) At the same time, water availability is a limiting factor for wildlife in this landscape. Properly designed irrigation reservoirs, if developed with ecological sensitivity, can serve as supplementary water sources for wild animals, particularly during dry months.
  - d) Since the proposed area lies within the greater cheetah landscape, certain mitigation measure may be implemented by the user agency to avoid accidents of animals during the construction, execution as well as implementation phase before approval is considered.
  - e) A scientifically determined environmental flow regime must be maintained in the downstream river course to ensure the survival and ecological integrity of riverine habitats critical for the entire ecosystem.
- xxvi. The details regarding the hydrological report, affected population and villages, the potential benefit report has been submitted by the State Govt. As per the hydrological report, no population is affected in the proposed submergence area, and water in the river is present only during the monsoon season. The project is expected to have no significant adverse impacts on the environment or local communities. Also, the irrigation potential is as under:
- Current Rubi Cropped area: 4500 Ha (38.9%)
- Post project: 11575 Ha (100 %) i.e. 7075 Ha increase
- Sustained water availability: 54.62 MCM assured for agriculture, drinking and Industry
- Increased Green Cover: 48400 saplings (44 Ha) afforestation, 4400 saplings (4 Ha) at dam site, 1500 avenue saplings
- Groundwater recharge: 1.49 MCM via reservoir seepage.
- xxvii. The State Government submitted that the User Agency, vide letter dated 07.01.2026, has requested the State Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), to prepare a mitigation plan for implementing appropriate measures to avoid wildlife accidents during the construction, execution, and implementation phases. Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Director, State Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), vide letter dated

- 09.01.2026, has requested the User Agency to provide the requisite information for preparation of the mitigation plan.
- xxviii. Further, the State vide letter dated 12.03.2026, submitted that a brief mitigation plan for the Munjari Irrigation Project in Sheopur district has been prepared by the SFRI, Jabalpur's scientific team following a short field visit. It was further stated that preparation of a comprehensive mitigation plan would require a detailed study, including extensive field surveys and micro-level assessment of flora and fauna, which is likely to take approximately six months. Meanwhile, the brief mitigation plan is submitted for consideration.
- xxix. The Committee observed that the Aheli River is a seasonal (non-perennial) river, carrying flows only during the monsoon period of approximately three months, while the downstream stretch remains dry during the remaining nine months due to absence of natural inflows. During the monsoon season, adequate downstream flow is naturally available from rainfall and catchment runoff and, therefore, no separate environmental flow releases are proposed. However, during the non-monsoon period, it is proposed to release a total of 1.00 MCM of water over nine months through regulated releases, in accordance with the approved reservoir operation schedule. The proposed environmental flow regime has been determined based on the seasonal hydrology of the Aheli River and is stated to be adequate to safeguard downstream ecological conditions.
- xxx. The State Govt. submitted that efforts were made to identify equivalent non-forest land in nearby districts for the purpose of compensatory afforestation; however, no large, contiguous, and encumbrance-free land parcel could be identified. Considering the necessity to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe, the Collector, Sheopur District has provided non-forest land as proposed in the proposal.
- xxxi. The Committee observed that the Collector, Sheopur District, vide letter dated 28.08.2025, has informed that for compensatory afforestation against the forest land diverted for the Munjari Dam Construction Project, non-forest land measuring a total of 743.343 ha has been identified in villages Ranipura Mafi (401.01 ha), Garhla (57.296 ha), Karrai (179.307 ha), Kadwal (80.848 ha), and Dargawan (24.882 ha), and that no additional large contiguous land parcel is available at a single location. Further, the Divisional Forest Officer, Sheopur has certified that the entire 743.343 hectares of non-forest land so provided is free from all encumbrances and is fully suitable for compensatory afforestation.

xxxii. The Committee observed that a brief mitigation plan for the Munjari Irrigation Project in Sheopur district has been prepared by the SFRI, Jabalpur's scientific team following a short field visit and SFRI, Jabalpur shall submit the final comprehensive mitigation plan in six months.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, the Committee recommended the **Stage-II/in-principle** approval for diversion of 740.1592 ha Reserve Forest land for the construction of Dam and Micro Irrigation System Under Munjari Major Irrigation Project in favour of Water Resource Department under Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. The State Government shall submit the site-specific Wildlife Management Plan to the Ministry along with Stage-II approval. The Plan shall be implemented by the State Government at the cost of the User Agency, and the requisite levies shall be deposited in the CAMPA account.
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that the duly approved Catchment Area Treatment Plan and Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency and the compensatory levies shall be deposited in the account of CAMPA.

### **Agenda No. 15**

**Proposal No: FP/MH/IND/454750/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 937.077 ha forest land for Scientific exploration and excavation and systematic recovery of low grade iron ore (i.e. Hematite quartzite) from adjacent existing mines in Village Hedri, Bande & Parsalgondi, Round-Parsalgondi, Range-Etapalli of District Gadchiroli in the State of Maharashtra in favour of M/s Lloyds Metals And Energy Limited (Online No. FP/MH/IND/454750/2023):Change of CA Site (Non-forest land)- reg.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the

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

3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

- i. The Govt. of Maharashtra vide their letter No FLD-36A24/CR-100/F-10 dated 11.06.2024 forwarded a proposal on the subject cited above to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ii. The subject proposal was accorded the Stage-I approval vide this Ministry's letter dated 12.05.2025. Now, the State Government vide its letter dated 05.02.2026 has submitted that there is a change in proposed non forest land for Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of the one submitted before Stage-I. The initially submitted proposal (that was accorded Stage-I) included a non-forest land (NFL) CA land in Village Ovali, Taluka Chiplun, District Ratnagiri to the tune of 990.265 hectares (spread across 351 survey numbers). However, the revised Non forest land for compensatory afforestation (CA) that has now been submitted along with Stage- I compliance comprises 1012.9534 hectares of NFL across 133 survey numbers in nine different villages. These include Nandiwase, Kolkewadi, Durgwadi, Aakale, Tiware, and Ovali under Chiplun Tehsil; Sapirli and Shirgaon under Khed Tehsil; and Nigudwadi under Sangmeshwar Tehsil.
- iii. The Divisional Forest Officer of Ratnagiri (Chiplun) has also submitted the required site suitability certificate for the 1012.9534 hectares for compensatory afforestation. Accordingly, this identified land has also been successfully transferred and mutated in favor of the State Forest Department via a series of orders from the Office of the Collector, Ratnagiri (vide order No 02/2025, 03/2025, 04/2025, 05/2025 dt. 15.12.2025, order No. 06/2025 & 07/2025 dt. 31.12.2025, order No 02/2026, dt. 12.01.2026, order No. 08/2025 & 09/2025 dt. 05.01.2026, order No 01/2026 dated 12.01.2026 dated between December 15, 2025, and January 12, 2026).
- iv. The patch wise breakup of the Non forest land identified for the CA is as under:

Sl. No.	Village	No. of Patches	Area (Ha)
1.	Kolkewadi	1	118.88
2.	Durgwadi	4	103.0767
3.	Nandiwase	2	155.0558
4.	Sapirli	2	58.38
5.	Niguwadi	1	31.1868
6.	Aakle	1	39.5
7.	Shirgaon	3	58.322

8.	Owali	8	278.2455
9.	Tiware	1	170.3066
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1012.9534</b>

- v. This Ministry vide letter dated 25.02.2026 has requested the Regional Office Nagpur to conduct the Site Inspection for the newly proposed CA land. Accordingly, the RO Nagpur has forwarded the SIR vide letter dated 25.02.2026. The recommendations of the RO Nagpur are as under:
- The identified CA land is mostly contiguous, located adjoining the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, and falls within the proposed Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA) of the Western Ghats, which enhances its ecological importance and supports consolidation of forest areas in the region. In view of the recommendation of the State Government and the suitability of the revised non-forest land for CA purposes, the change of CA area is recommended for acceptance, subject to the following conditions:
- a) The State Forest Department shall implement the approved scheme for crop improvement and gap plantation in the identified CA land, at the cost of the User Agency, in a time-bound manner as per the VSS Rules, 2023.
  - b) After notification of the transferred land under the relevant provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or the applicable State Forest Act, the State Forest Department shall include the area in the approved Working Plan and incorporate necessary prescriptions along with the treatment plan under the CA scheme.
  - c) Regular progress reports on implementation of the CA scheme, including crop improvement and gap plantation, shall be submitted to the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur for monitoring and evaluation.
- vi. As per DSS analysis, out of total non-forest area as CA site, 150 ha of land is characterized with Very Dense Forest, 583 ha is Moderately Dense Forest, 144 ha is Open Forest and 135 ha is Non-wooded in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019.
- vii. The detailed compliance report as submitted by the State Government was also submitted before the Advisory Committee along with the detailed agenda note.
- viii. The Committee listened to the submission of the User agency for change of CA site. The previously identified CA land was based on willingness expressed by individual landowners. However, at the time

of transfer and mutation, several issues arose, including legal heir disputes, non-availability of landowners, and encumbrances with financial institutions, resulting in non-transfer of the originally proposed land.

- ix. The committee further observed that the User Agency retained 278.2455 ha of non-forest land in Owali village from the earlier identified area and procured an additional 734.8277 ha of non-forest land in nearby villages to compensate the remaining requirement. The User Agency ensured that the newly identified land is free from encumbrances. After due examination of legal status and suitability by the State Forest Department, the entire 1012.9534 ha has been transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department, which exceeds the required CA area by 75.8764 ha against the diversion of 937.077 ha under VSSA, 1980.
  - x. The Committee observed that out of the total 1012.9534 ha of non-forest land transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department, an area of 734.8277 ha possesses canopy density above 0.4, while 278.125 ha falls within the canopy density range of 0.1 to 0.3. and adjoining the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and is included in the proposed Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA) of the Western Ghats.
  - xi. The Committee further observed that the State Government submitted that a Site-Specific Wild Life Conservation Plan has been prepared with financial outlay of ₹1204.20 Lakhs, out of which ₹610.00 Lakh is to be spent by Project Proponent within the project area and ₹594.20 Lakhs shall be spent by Forest Department in buffer area. The State Govt. submitted that as per the demand the User Agency has paid ₹564.20 lakhs vide UTR No. HDFCR520250 92966562185 dt. 29/09/2025 and UTR No. HDFCH00747424897 dt. 19/01/2026. However, the said amount is not found paid on the PARIVESH portal. However, the UA has provided the documents along with the compliance report that the said amount has been paid by the UA in the official account of CF. Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking that they will spend Rs. 610.00 lakh within the project area for wildlife management as per the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the Govt. of Maharashtra.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, the Committee '**recommended**' to accept the newly identified CA land over 1012.9534 ha of non-forest land in Chiplun and Sangmeshwar Tehsils.

## Agenda No: 16

### Proposal No. FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/477051/2024

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 160.783 ha. forest land (3.626 Ha Private Forest and 157.157 Ha Reserved Forest) for construction of Shirawta Off Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (1800 MW) at Village Khandashi, Rakaswadi, Thoran, Jambhavali, Tal. Maval, Dist. Pune in the State of Maharashtra by M/s Tata Power Company Limited, Pune (FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/477051/2024)- reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The Govt. of Maharashtra vide their letter No FLD-1925/C.R.150/F-10 dated 11.09.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 160.783 ha. forest land for construction of Shirawta Off Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (1800 MW) at Village Khandashi, Rakaswadi, Thoran, Jambhavali, Tal. Maval, Dist. Pune in the State of Maharashtra by M/s Tata Power Company Limited, Pune.
  - ii. The total land requirement is 197.797 ha, comprising 160.783 ha of forest land and 37.014 ha of private land. A new upper reservoir is to be constructed and the existing Shirawta reservoir as the lower reservoir. The upper reservoir will be connected to the powerhouse by penstocks, and the lower reservoir will be connected by a tailrace tunnel. The total installed capacity is 1800 MW (5 x 300 MW + 2 x 150 MW), with non-consumptive recirculation of up to 14.97 MCM per day between the reservoirs.
  - iii. The existing Shirawta reservoir, an operational dam since 1920 across the Kundali River (a tributary of the Shima River in the Krishna basin), will serve as the lower reservoir. Its catchment area is 28.47 sq. km. In addition to inflow and precipitation from its own catchment, the Shirawta reservoir receives water from the Uksan reservoir via a tunnel and

diverts water to Walvhan Dam to feed the Khopoli Hydro Power Station (72 MW). The upper reservoir is proposed atop the Jambhivali-Thoran hillock ranges. Both reservoirs will be used cyclically for storage and generation. Initial filling and annual make-up water for losses will be sourced from the existing Shirawta reservoir.

- iv. The forest land involved in the proposal is having the canopy density of 0.7 (Very Dense Forest) of Eco-class I and 64729 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- v. The State Govt. reported that the project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation and therefore, resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required for this project.
- vi. The State Government submitted that the proposed land for diversion does not form part of any protected area. Further, no Wildlife sanctuary, National park, Tiger reserve and Tiger corridor is located within 10 KM distance from the forest patches proposed for diversion. As per DSS Analysis, As per the DSS, the nearest Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary is located at a distance of 19.98 Km and Karnal Sanctuary is at 34.48 Km away from the proposed forest land for diversion.
- vii. The proposed forest land for diversion is located within the proposed Eco Sensitive Area (ESA) as per draft notification of Kasturirangan Committee.
- viii. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest land proposed for diversion (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha.)
1	Approach Road to Components	11.662	2.357
2	Batching plant	0.402	0
3	Dump yard	0	20.245
4	Labour Camp	0	4
5	Magazine Area	0	0.507
6	Mat & Adit	0.821	0
7	Site Office	0	0.104
8	Surface Penstock	16.647	0
9	TRT, Power House	0.582	9.801
10	Upper reservoir	130.669	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>160.783</b>	<b>37.014</b>

- ix. The DCF Pune in its SIR recommended that a Wildlife Mitigation Plan is highly necessary, as the project area supports prominent wildlife such as Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), reptiles, and amphibians. The State Government submitted that a detailed Wildlife Management Plan has been prepared outlining various mitigation measures for conservation of wildlife in the project area, including provision for creation of wildlife corridors to

facilitate free movement of fauna. The Plan has been duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Maharashtra, vide letter No. 2343 dated 23.09.2025.

- x. For undertaking CA, an area of 160.783 ha of non-forest land from Gut Nos. 4/Mulapur/1 (38.605 ha), 19/Pimpri/82/103 (22.310 ha), 20/Ahirwadi/1 (34.540 ha), and 33/Bhadas Khurd/1 (31.241 ha and 34.087 ha), located at Village Tata Talav, Taluka Mulshi, District Pune has been identified. The State Govt. submitted that land is contiguous, suitable for management purposes, free from encroachment and encumbrances, and found acceptable as per the VSES Rules, 2023.
- xi. As the land already has tree cover with a density of 0.4, a Protection and Conservation Plan has been proposed over the entire 160.783 ha with a budgetary provision of ₹7.33 crore. The land is presently in possession of Tata Power, and the CA land suitability certificate, management plan, and the State Govt. has submitted Record of Rights.
- xii. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:
  - a) The State Government shall implement the site-specific Wildlife and Biodiversity Management Plan approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden at the project cost.
  - b) The State Forest Department shall ensure that gap planting is carried out in the open spaces of the identified non-forest area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation and shall implement a crop improvement plan for the existing vegetation at the cost of the User Agency.
  - c) The State Government shall ensure that muck is dumped only at designated sites in non-forest areas, and that no dumping takes place within forest areas.
  - d) Wherever feasible, the User Agency shall raise plantations of suitable tree species and undertake re-grassing on the bunds of the upper reservoir.
  - e) The User Agency shall implement controlled blasting and other mitigation measures and ensure that blasting material is not stored within forest areas.
- xiii. The State Government submitted that the proposed Pumped Storage Project is site-specific due to suitable topographical and geological conditions, adequate head difference over a short distance, and availability of sufficient water from the existing Shirwata Reservoir as the lower reservoir. Four alternative upper reservoir sites were studied, and Alternative-IV involving an area of 160.78 of forest land was identified as the most feasible option and recommended by the Central Electricity Authority.
- xiv. The State submitted that an existing double-circuit 22 kV overhead line at the dam site will be used for construction power, with a new 22 kV

line proposed along the road and penstock corridor, and that no additional forest land is required. For power evacuation, the project will be connected through a proposed 400 kV double-circuit transmission line to the CTU's upcoming 765/400 kV substation near Kalamb, with separate forest diversion proposals to be submitted, if required.

- xv. The State Government submitted that the Shirwata PSP has been granted Environmental Clearance by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), subject to obtaining Stage-I Forest Clearance (Proposal No. IA/MH/RIV/550476/2025). It was stated that during appraisal, MoEF&CC examined the project's location within the Eco Sensitive Area of the Western Ghats and constituted a Sub-committee for site inspection, based on whose recommendations Environmental Clearance was granted.
- xvi. The State further informed that mitigation measures prescribed in the EIA Report, Wildlife Conservation Plan, Muck Management Plan, Compensatory Afforestation Plan, and Environment & Ecology Monitoring Plan will be implemented during construction and operation, and that no significant or irreversible impact on local biodiversity is anticipated with these measures in place.
- xvii. The State Government submitted that a detailed Wildlife Management Plan has been prepared outlining various mitigation measures for conservation of Schedule -I wildlife species in the project area, including provision for creation of wildlife corridors to facilitate free movement of fauna. The Plan has been duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Maharashtra, vide letter No. 2343 dated 23.09.2025.
- xviii. The State Government submitted that the CAT plan is not required to the Shirwata Pumped Storage Project as it is an off-stream, closed-loop system with no defined catchment area, inflowing streams, or natural runoff. The upper reservoir, proposed on a plateau, will be filled only once during commissioning by pumping water from the lower reservoir, and thereafter water will be recirculated between the two reservoirs without dependence on external inflows; hence, no catchment stabilization or soil conservation measures are required.
- xix. The State Govt. submitted that an apparent overlap of 2.76 ha was observed with the forest-compartment boundary in the TRT and Powerhouse area during the DSS analysis. However, detailed verification of cadastral maps, forest compartment maps, and field inspection confirmed that this overlap is due to boundary-layer variation and map-scale generalization in the DSS dataset and does not indicate any additional forest land. The TRT and Powerhouse involve 0.352 ha (Gut No. 326) and 0.230 ha (Gut No. 327) of forest land, and 9.801 ha (Gut No. 441) of non-forest land, all of which are already included in the present proposal. Accordingly, the DFO has certified that the forest area

proposed for diversion remains unchanged at 160.783 ha, and the total project area, including non-forest land, remains 197.797 ha.

- xx. The State Government submitted that access to the muck disposal site will be through the existing Jambhawali–Kamshet State Highway and Shirde village road, which is entirely over non-forest land.
  - xxi. The State Government submitted that the adjoining land to Patch No. 4 belongs to Tata Power and that adequate right of way will be provided through Survey Nos. 249 and 250 of Village Bhadus Khurd, Taluka Mulshi, District Pune.
  - xxii. The State Government further clarified that, with respect to CA Patch No. 3 (Survey No. 20/Ahirwadi/1), satellite imagery indicates an apparent overlap with private land. In this regard, the Dy. Conservator of Forests, Pune, has submitted that the proposed CA land is free from encumbrances and that the issue of overlap, if any, will be resolved prior to the final handover. All land records and survey particulars shall be duly reconciled before handing over the land to the Forest Department.
  - xxiii. The land adjoining CA Patch No. 4 (Survey No. 33/Bhadas Khurd/1) belongs to Tata Power Company Limited. Adequate and permanent Right of Way shall be provided to the State Forest Department to access the said CA land through Survey Nos. 249 and 250 of Village Bhadas Khurd, Taluka Mulshi, District Pune. The access route plan along with an undertaking confirming provision of access has already been submitted.
  - xxiv. The Committee observed that the Central Electricity Commission vide its letter dated 01.09.2025 accorded its concurrence to the Detailed Project Report of the proposal.
  - xxv. The Committee further observed that the Water Resource Department has issued NOC vide letter no. 2985 dated 09/05/2025 for availability of water from Shirwata Reservoir to the instant proposal.
  - xxvi. The Committee further observed that the proposed land for diversion is falling in the Eco Sensitive Area of the Western Ghats.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, the Committee decided to **defer** the proposal and sought the following information:
- i. The State Government shall submit comments of the concerned division of the Ministry with regard to taking up the Pumped Storage Proposal (PSP)/Hydel proposals in the Eco Sensitive Area.

### Agenda No. 17

**Proposal No: FP/MH/MIN/QRY/407839/2022**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 17 ha Forest land for Mining lease of Naranda Block for Limestone Mining of Dalmia Cement Bharat Limited Korpana Road, Taluka-Korpana, District Chandrapur in the State of Maharashtra (Proposal No. FP/MH/MIN/QRY/407839/2022)- reg.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The Govt. of Maharashtra vide their letter No FLD-3623/CR-282/F-10 dated 20.10.2023 forwarded a fresh diversion 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 17 ha Forest land for Mining lease of Naranda Block for Limestone Mining by M/s Dalmia Cement Bharat Limited.
  - ii. The Naranda Limestone Mine is located in Naranda Village in Korpana Taluka of Chandrapur District of Maharashtra. The leasehold area is 71.01 Ha.
  - iii. Initially the Mining Lease for Limestone mining over 71.01 Ha area was granted to M/s Karamchand Thapar Bros (Coal Sales) Limited vide Government of Maharashtra Order No. MMN- 3685/31413(3890) Ind-9 dated 13/12/1985 for 20 years. The Mining Lease Deed was executed on 07/04/1986 and the lease was valid till 06/04/2006.
  - iv. Subsequently, Government of Maharashtra granted the Naranda Mining Lease in favour of M/s Prasad Lime Industries vide its Order No. MMN- 1006/C.R.2104/IND-9 dated 22/3/2007 for 20 Years i.e. up to 06/04/2026.
  - v. Later, M/s Murli Industries Ltd took over the Naranda Limestone Lease from M/s Prasad Lime Industries and applied for transfer of the lease. Government of Maharashtra vide its Order No. MMN-1007IC. R.2327/IND-9 dated 12/02/2008 approved the transfer of the lease in favour of M/s Murli Industries Ltd. Accordingly, on 23/06/2008 the Mining Lease over 71.01 ha area in Naranda Village was transferred in the name of M/s Murli Industries Ltd.

- vi. M/s Murli Industries Ltd., thereafter, modified the Mining Plan with Ultimate Capacity as 3 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) which was approved by Indian Bureau of Mines vide its Letter No. 314(3)/2008-MCCM(CZ)/MP-18 dated 04/11/2008. The mining of limestone from Naranda Limestone Mine was continued till Financial Year 2014-15.
- vii. Thereafter, M/s Murli Industries Limited ("MIL") went into financial distress resulting into stoppage of its mining and allied activities. Due to its inability to make payment of dues to the banks and other creditors, the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) was initiated against MIL in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 vide National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai Order dated April 05, 2017.
- viii. Meanwhile, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Maharashtra had issued a Show Cause Notice to M/s Murli Industries Ltd. vide its Letter No. STC/1049/SCN/2017/2120 dated 15/09/2017 as no reply from the Company was submitted, the Directorate of Geology & Mining vide its Order No. STC/1049/Part 1/2017/2468 dated 03.11.2017 declared the Naranda Limestone Lease over 71.01 ha as lapsed.
- ix. Later, M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited submitted its Resolution Plan for revival of M/s Murli Industries Ltd during the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP). The NCLT, Mumbai has approved the Resolution Plan of Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited (the Resolution Applicant) for the revival of MIL vide its Order(s) dated July 03, 2019 and July 22, 2019 and same has been upheld by National Company Law Appellate Tribunal ("NCLAT") vide its judgement dated January 27, 2020.
- x. The Government of Maharashtra vide its Letter No. MLV-C-402/2020/667 dated 27/02/2020 approved extension of the Mining Lease for Naranda Limestone Mine in favour of M/s Murli Industries Limited for further period up to 06/04/2036. The mining lease extension order dated 27.02.2020 under section 8(A) of MMDR 2015 was done in favour of Murli Industries Limited. As per the statement by Dalmia Cement, Dalmia Cement Bharat Limited was the successful resolution applicant declared by National Tribunal Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai Vide letter 03/07/2019 for take over and Revival of Murli Industries limited. Subsequently, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd had submitted the Composite Scheme of arrangement and Amalgamation Under section 230 & 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 to National Company law tribunal, court-V, Mumbai Bench & Chennai Bench for Amalgamation merger from Murli Industries Limited to Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited. The National Company law tribunal, Mumbai Bench vide order no. CA(CAA) No. 101/MB/2021 connecting with CP(CAA) No.219/MB/2021 dated 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022, sanctioned the said scheme of

Amalgamation (refer point no 20) and hence Murli Industries Limited (MIL) merged with its holding company, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited ("DCBL") with effect from 01.07.2022.

- xi. Afterwards, the mining lease of 71.01 ha was granted to the M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited. While carrying out the detailed exploration activity for mineral enhancement by the present user agency in the 17 ha virgin land. The activity of carrying, drilling was stopped by the forest official as the area was a part of forest compartment.
- xii. After getting an information of the forest area within lease, the user agency approached to the Dy.CF, Central Chanda, Forest Division for confirmation of the area because the 17 ha of land for which FC proposal has been submitted is classified as revenue land as per revenue records. The Dy.CF issued a letter no Desk/Survey/Land/2022-23/354 dated 3/06/2022 and confirmed that out of this 71.01 ha total mining lease area, 17 ha is forest land and falls in compartment no 190. Accordingly, suggested the user agency i.e. M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited to apply for the Forest clearance under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xiii. The Nodal officer, Govt. of Maharashtra further apprised the committee that the present forest land diversion proposal has been submitted for Limestone mining in the 17 ha Reserved Forest land for Cement Industry wherein the canopy density of the proposed forest land is 0.4 and 962 number of trees have been proposed to be felled.
- xiv. The component wise utilization of the proposed forest land is as under:

S. No	Component	Component wise Area (Ha)	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
1	Crushing Plant (Part)	1	0	1
2	Cement plant complex	7.13	0	7.13
3	Mine infrastructure area	0.3	0	0.3
4	Mine pits	20.43	0	20.43
5	Mineral Storage Area	0.45	0	0.45
6	Mine Road	1.6	0	1.6
7	Safety Barrier Zone	5.58	1.57	4.01
8	Undisturbed Area	34.34	15.43	18.91
9	Soil Dump	0.18	0	0.18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>71.01</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>54.01</b>

- xv. The committee noted that as depicted through satellite imagery, mining has taken place between 2013 and 2016 in an area over 3.0 ha in the Survey No 6 & 8. In this reference, the Nodal officer, Govt. of Maharashtra clarified that the mined area in Survey No. 6 and 8 is outside the proposed lease area and Survey No. 6 and 8 are not included in the notified forest area. As per Writ Petition 3669/2009, Survey no, 6 and 8 are disputed areas and it has been decided that the disputed areas should be considered as forest areas vide Government letter dated 09/06/2015. Therefore, the area of survey number 6 and 8 has been considered as forest area. However, since the mining in the said area was done before 2015 and the legal status of the land was private as per the records of Survey Nos. 6 and 8 before 2015, there is no violation of IFA, 1927.
- xvi. The State Government further clarified that the mine was discontinued during period from 2015 to 2021 and mining activity outside mining boundary was done before the Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited Management came into force. The mining operation within mining lease area is being carried out for captive consumption of limestone used for manufacturing of cement in cement plant which is adjacent to mining lease and also some part of plant falls in mining lease area. The Limestone generated from mines is being crushed through Impact crusher & subsequently transported through belt conveyor to stacker reclaimer, which is also falling in mining lease area for further processing of raw material.
- xvii. The State informed that the User Agency will maintain required safety zone of an area of 1.57 ha along the boundary within the area proposed for diversion and trees standing in the safety zone shall not be felled and the Mining shall be done as per the approved mining plan and reclamation shall be done accordingly and carryout re grassing as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order at the project cost.
- xviii. The committee observed that the non-forest area over an extent of 17.78 ha identified in Khasra No 1346, 1347,1348, 1349,1350, 1351,1352, 1409/1,1409/2,1410, 1411 at Village Owali in Ratnagiri District for Compensatory afforestation. The non-forest area identified for compensatory afforestation (CA) falls within the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) of the Western Ghats and most of the area is covered with dense vegetation, with a canopy density exceeding 0.5.
- xix. The Nodal officer also informed that the forest compartment No 90 & 91, Beat: Kasargatta, Range: Pombhurna, Central Chanda Forest Division under Chandrapur District has been identified for carrying out plantation work as the Non-forest land identified and given by the user agency for CA already bears canopy density of more than 0.5.

- xx. The committee noted that the RO, Nagpur has recommended the proposal subject to following specific conditions:
- a. Mining shall be carried out as per the approved mining plan, and reclamation shall be undertaken accordingly. Re-grassing shall be carried out as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, at the project cost.
  - b. Dumping shall be carried out only in designated areas, ensuring the required gradient and stabilization to prevent any spillover of dumped material.
  - c. The User Agency shall maintain the required safety zone within the forest area proposed for diversion. Trees standing within the safety zone shall not be felled.
  - d. Considering the canopy density of the proposed CA area, a scheme for the improvement of existing trees shall be implemented as per the provisions of the VSS Rules, 2023.
  - e. The State Forest Department shall ensure proper reclamation of the forest land before taking it back at the end of the mining lease period or project life, as applicable.
- xxi. The Committee observed that the proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 26.05.2025. The committee after detailed deliberation and discussion deferred the proposal for want of the following information from the State Government:
- a. It has been informed that during the survey and exploration the forest department identified the land to be a Reserve forest land. The time period since when the area is in the control of the user agency and the justification/ reasons as to why the same was not in the possession of the state forest department shall be submitted.
  - b. The lease has been renewed during the intervening period. The State shall examine and inform whether a violation of the provisions of Section 2(1)(iii) of the Adhniyam has taken place or otherwise
  - c. As per the component-wise breakup, the proposed landuse of the area has been mentioned to be safety zone and undisturbed area only. The justification of the present proposal in case the area is to be kept as undisturbed shall be submitted
  - d. The area has been proposed to be kept as undisturbed , however the trees are also proposed to be felled. The same is required to be clarified by the State
  - e. A discrepancy in the number of trees involved has been noticed in the application form and the site inspection report. The State shall examine the matter and intimate the exact number of trees involved in the proposal.

- f. Considering the canopy density of the proposed CA area, a scheme for the improvement of the forest crop shall be submitted as per the provisions of the VSS Rules, 2023
- xxii. In response to this, the State Government vide letter dated 29.09.2025 submitted the reply on the observations made by the Advisory Committee. The State Government submitted that the reserved forest area was notified on Govt. of Maharashtra Notification dated 11 July 2017. Previously, it was protected forest as per the notification of 16<sup>th</sup> October 1951 in possession of Forest Department. While granting mining lease by the Government of Maharashtra to the company, it was considered revenue land. Accordingly, the cement company came to work in the reserved forest area; they were not allowed to work at the regional level. After that, when the said reserved forest was surveyed & joint inspection the company accepted that the land was a reserved forest area and submitted a proposal of 17.0 ha under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- xxiii. The State Government submitted that Government of Maharashtra granted Mining Lease for Limestone over 71.01 Ha area in Village - Naranda, Tahsil - Korpana of Chandrapur District to M/s Karamchand Thapar Bros (Coal Sales) vide Order No. MMN-3685/31413(3890) Ind-9, dated: 13.12.1986 for 20 Years and the Mining Lease Deed was executed on 07.04.1986 with validity of lease upto 06.04.2006. The Mining lease was transferred from M/s Karamchand Thapar Bros to Prasad Lime Works through GoMS no. MMN-1006/C.R.2104/Ind-9, dated: 22.03.2007 and later Mining lease was transferred from Prasad Lime works to Murli Industries Ltd. vide order GoMS no. MMI 1007/C.R.2327/Ind-9, dated: 12.02.2008 & same has been executed on 23.06.2008. Subsequently, the Mining lease was renewed through GoMS order no MMN-1006/C.R.2104/Ind-9, dated: 22.03.2007 & same has been executed on 11.04.2008 with validity period upto 06.04.2026. Subsequently, the lease period was extended as per section 8A of MMDR Act 2015 with validity period upto 06.04.2036 in favour of Murli Industries Limited (Now Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd. It is clear from the above that since entire land in ML is revenue land even as on date as per revenue records, all renewals and transfers have been made in accordance with Acts/ Rules by GoMH. There is no violation of the provisions of Section 2(1) (iii) of the Adhinyam has taken place.
- xxiv. The State Government submitted that the proposed land of 17 ha. falling in forest category is kept undisturbed as on date and no mining activity has been done. The said area 17 Ha. is now being proposed for diversion with the intension to carry out mining activities for winning of limestone for captive use in cement plant, out of 17 Ha., 15.43 ha. of land will be under mining pit & balance 1.57 Ha. of land will fall under

7.5m safety barrier along the ML. The proposal is part of our approved Mining Plan from IBM, Nagpur.

- xxv. The State Government further submitted that the tree counts of total 1056 no's was mentioned at the time of application was counted for total entire area of 17 ha, However, the 17 ha. area has been divided into two parts, i.e. for Mining pit of 15.43 ha and 7.5m safety barrier Zone. In 15.43 ha. the tree count is 962 nos. & in 1.57 ha. of Safety Barrier the tree count is 94 nos, thus totaling to 1056 nos in entire 17 ha area. Hence, there is no discrepancy in number of trees counted.
- xxvi. The State Government further submitted that an area of 17.00 ha. of Degraded Forest land has been selected in Compartment. No. 90 & 91 for additional compensatory Afforestation in Chandrapur district.
- xxvii. The proposal was again considered in the AC meeting held on 02.12.2025 and the committee after detailed discussion and deliberation deferred the proposal for want of the following:
- a) As the area has been recorded as forest since 1951, the justification provided by the State Government that it was shown as revenue land in revenue records and therefore no violation has occurred, is not tenable. The State Government shall furnish a detailed chronology of facts, indicating the period during which the area remained under possession of forest department and the period during which it was taken over by the User Agency.
  - b) Plantation is visible in the area proposed for diversion. The State Government shall provide complete details of the plantation, including the period during which it was undertaken.
  - c) The existing cement plant is located outside the lease area of 71.01 ha. The State Government shall furnish the details of the total forest and non-forest land involved in the project, including that pertaining to the cement plant, along with a detailed land-use plan and layout for the entire project area.
- xxviii. In response to this the State Government vide letter dated 24.02.2026 submitted the following reply to the observations of the AC:
- a) The State Government submitted that the total lease area of the Naranda Limestone Mine is 71.01 ha, of which 17.00 ha is recorded as forest land in the forest records. It was further stated that, since the original grant of the mining lease until date, no mining activity has been carried out in the aforesaid 17.00 ha, and the land has remained under the custody of the Forest Department. The State Government has now submitted a fresh proposal seeking diversion of the said 17.00 ha of forest land for mining activities.
  - b) Justification and Detailed Chronology of Facts, including the period during which the area remained under the possession of the Forest Department/User Agency, is as follows:

- a. The area was notified as Protected Forest vide notification dated 16.10.1951 and has remained under the possession of the Forest Department. However, the land continues to be recorded as revenue land in the land revenue records.
  - b. Subsequently, in 1986, the initial mining lease was granted by the Government of Maharashtra, wherein the proposed area was considered as revenue land based on the land revenue records.
  - c. From the grant of the mining lease in 1986 to the present, the lessee has not undertaken any mining activity in the subject area of 17.00 ha due to ambiguity regarding its classification as forest land or revenue land. The said area has therefore remained undisturbed/virgin.
  - d. The area was later notified as Reserved Forest by the Government of Maharashtra vide notification dated 11 July 2017. However, even at that time, the land continued to be recorded as revenue land in the land records.
  - e. In 2022, the existing company, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, intended to undertake mining activities in the proposed area; however, the same was not permitted by the State Forest Department.
  - f. Subsequently, the proposed area was surveyed and jointly inspected by officials of the Forest Department (FRO, Wansadi) and representatives of Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited on 23.03.2022 and 07.05.2022. Based on the inspection, the DFO vide letter dated 03.06.2022 directed the company to obtain the necessary clearance under the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for undertaking mining activities in the subject area.
  - g. Accordingly, the company submitted a proposal for diversion of 17.00 ha of forest land under the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- c) The State Govt. has clarified that as per the records available with State Forest Department, no plantation has been carried out in the proposed area for diversion. The vegetation currently visible in the area is natural growth and not the result of any plantation activity.
  - d) The State Government submitted that the existing cement plant, along with the captive limestone mine, has been acquired by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited through the insolvency process of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The limestone mine is a captive mine established exclusively to meet the

principal raw material requirement, i.e., limestone, for the cement manufacturing unit.

- e) The mining lease was originally obtained by the previous owner through transfer, who subsequently established the cement plant. The cement plant has been developed over an area of 49 ha, which partly overlaps within the 71.01 ha mining lease area, while the remaining portion is located on private non-forest land near the Naranda mining lease area. The details of the total forest and non-forest land involved in the project, including land pertaining to the cement plant and its allied activities, land records, and the comprehensive land-use plan and layout for the entire project area, have been submitted by the State Govt.
  - f) The State Government submitted that the 17 ha. area proposed for forest diversion falls within the Naranda Mining Lease, which has a total lease area of 71.01 ha, as granted by the Government of Maharashtra for the mining of limestone, a site-specific mineral.
  - g) The said 17 ha area is proposed for diversion to undertake mining activities for extraction of limestone for captive use in the cement plant. As per the forest records, the proposed 17 ha falls under Forest Compartment No. 190.
- xxix. The Committee observed that total lease area of the Naranda Limestone Mine is 71.01 ha, of which 17.00 ha is recorded as forest land in the forest records. It was further stated that no mining activity has been carried out in the aforesaid 17.00 ha, and the land has remained under the custody of the Forest Department. The State Government has now submitted a fresh proposal seeking diversion of the said 17.00 ha of forest land for mining activities.
- xxx. The Committee further observed that the existing cement plant, along with the captive limestone mine, has been acquired by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited through the process of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) process. The limestone mine is a captive mine established exclusively to meet the principal raw material requirement, i.e., limestone, for the cement manufacturing unit.
- xxxi. The Committee further observed that the 17 ha. area proposed for forest diversion falls within the Naranda Mining Lease, which has a total lease area of 71.01 ha, as granted by the Government of Maharashtra for the mining of limestone, a site-specific mineral.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, the Committee recommended the **Stage-I/In-principle** approval

for diversion of 17 ha Forest land for Mining lease of Naranda Block for Limestone Mining of Dalmia Cement Bharat Limited Korpana Road, Taluka-Korpana, District Chandrapur in the State of Maharashtra with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. The State Government shall ensure that the dumping shall be carried out at the designated areas, ensuring the required gradient and stabilisation to prevent any spill over of the dumping material.
- ii. Considering the canopy density of the proposed CA area, a scheme for the improvement and silvicultural management of existing trees shall be implemented as per the provisions of the VSES Rules, 2023.

### **Agenda No: 18**

#### **Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/449153/2023**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU), Directorate of Mines & Geology, (Forest Diversion Cell) for non-forestry use of 55.44 ha of forest land existing within total mining lease area of 67.177 ha of Kalimati Manganese Block under Barbil Tahasil in village Badakalimati & Balda of Keonjhar District under Keonjhar Forest Division, Odisha (pre-embedded clearance)-reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The Government of Odisha has submitted the above-mentioned proposal on PARIVESH portal on 13.06.2024 for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU), Directorate of Mines & Geology, (Forest Diversion Cell) for non-forestry use of 55.44 ha of forest land existing within total mining lease area of 67.177 ha of Kalimati Manganese Block under Barbil Tahasil in village Badakalimati & Balda of Keonjhar District under Keonjhar Forest Division, Odisha.

- ii. The instant proposal is a case of pre-embedded forest clearance seeking prior approval from Central Government for diversion of 55.44 ha forest land involved within the total area of 67.177 ha land in Kalimati Manganese block in Keonjhar district of Odisha for mining and allied activities. The Kalimati Manganese block has been carved out of erstwhile Siljora-Guruda-Balda-Kalikati (SGBK) iron and manganese block in Keonjhar district. Originally, the SGBK iron and manganese block, over an area of 1011.50 ha (2499.4 ac) was granted in favour of M/s Serajuddin & Co in the year 1947. A number of quarries had been opened covering almost every deposit of the block and mining continued till 1982.
- iii. Subsequently, Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. (OMC) was appointed as an agent of the State Government vide letter dated 05.06.1982 for operationalization of the mines. After taking over the SGBK block, the OMC had undertaken detailed exploration for mine planning and development in the mineralized zone and carried out mining in different quarries already broken up by ex-lessee M/s Serajuddin and Co. in phased manner up to 23.11.2006. Government of Odisha carved out Kalimati Manganese block over 67.177 ha, out of SGBK block vide letter dated 06.10.2017 and reserved the said block for auction with pre-embedded clearance vide letter dated 24.11.2020.
- iv. The Ministry of Mines has emphasized that, in respect of greenfield mining projects, a policy framework may be evolved to facilitate auction of mineral blocks with **pre-embedded statutory clearances**, so as to obviate delays in the operationalization of mines post-auction. Such an approach is expected to significantly improve the ease of doing business in the mining sector, enhance investor confidence, and accelerate the contribution of the sector to the national GDP. It is further envisaged that availability of pre-embedded clearances would encourage wider participation in mineral auctions, thereby ensuring more competitive bidding and optimal value realization for the States.
- v. As a result, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued guidelines in this regard vide letter dated 29.04.2020 and clarified that the State Government/Union Territory administration may apply as project proponent seeking prior approval for use of forest land for non-forestry purpose under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After obtaining such approvals the State Government/Union Territory Administration may transfer the said approval (under relevant provisions of FCA, 1980 and rules and guidelines made thereunder) to a new user agency i.e. successful bidder.
- vi. Pursuant to the above clarifications of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub Section 2 (i)

of Section 20 A of the MMDR Act, 1957, issued detailed guidelines of pre-embedded clearances vide order dated 03.06.2020 and directed to the State Governments to set up a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) with a view to get pre-embedded clearances for the mines which are ready for auction. Accordingly, Steel and Mines Department, Government of Odisha, vide Notification dated 20.11.2020 notified that the Forest Diversion Cell in the Directorate of Mines would act as Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) to carry forward the implementation of guidelines issued by Central Government for auction of mineral blocks with pre-embedded clearances. Further, Government of Odisha vide letter dated 24.11.2020 directed for auction of the two blocks with pre-embedded clearances on pilot basis, namely Kalimati Manganese block and Unchabali iron and manganese block both in Keonjhar district.

- vii. Legal status of the proposed forest land is District Level Committee (D.L.C.) Forest – 53.828 ha and Revenue Forest – 1.612 ha.
- viii. The land proposed for diversion is having the canopy density of 0.5 of Eco Class I and 3986 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- ix. The State Government submitted that the proposed project area does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor etc. The distance of the project area from the Karampada Elephant Corridor is 18.92 Km.
- x. The DFO in its SIR reported that the proposed project area in village Kalimati Manganese Block of Keonjhar Forest Division is dwelling habitat for Bear, Barking Dear, Hyena, Porcupine etc. However, the movement of Wild elephants is occasionally observed in the proposed forest blocks applied for diversion. The State Government has recommended the proposal with the Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan.
- xi. The State Govt. submitted that the project does not involve displacement of any human habitation and therefore the Re-settlement and Rehabilitation plan is not warranted.
- xii. The component-wise breakup of the land proposed for diversion is as under:

Sl. No.	Components	Forest land (in ha)	Non Forest Land (in ha)
i.	Area under excavation	11.84	0
ii.	Overburden Dump/Waste Dump	10.039	3.076
iii.	Mineral Storage	2.311	0.689
iv.	Road	1.084	0.457
v.	Infrastructure (Weigh Bridge, Workshop, Office, Labour Colony, HEMM Parking etc.)	3.494	1.339
vi.	Mineral Processing Plant	1.787	1.013

vii.	Magazine	0.16	0
viii.	Water Body, Ground Water Recharge Pond	1.063	0
ix.	Safety Zone 7.5mts along the boundary	2.412	0.604
x.	Area under exploration and subsequently converted to mining and allied activities	21.25	4.559
	Total	55.44	11.737

- xiii. The State Govt. submitted that the reported violation pertaining to the mineral block proposed for forest diversion was examined in detail by a Joint Verification Committee headed by the Sub-Collector, Champua, with participation of officers from the Forest, Revenue, and Mines Departments. As per the Joint Verification Report, the reported violation over an area of 7.21 ha forms part of the legally broken-up area measuring 155.301 ha, which had been broken up prior to 1996 by the then lessee (i.e. before classification of DLC land), M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. (OMC Ltd.).
- xiv. The State Government further submitted that the proposed diversion area of 67.177 ha under the present proposal is a part of the said legally broken-up area of 155.301 ha. Accordingly, the reported violation does not involve any fresh or post-1996 unauthorised forest land breaking within the proposed area.
- xv. The State Govt. further submitted that the OMC Ltd. has undertaken the mining activities in the applied land until 23.11.2006. However, the user agency has not obtained the forest clearance under (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, although the diversion proposal submitted by the user agency over 305.282 ha was processed and transmitted onwards. Further, the Collector, Keonjhar has been requested to take necessary action for violation as per extant rule vide letter No.1787 dt.26.02.2024 and letter No.7539 dated 21.07.2025 of the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division.
- xvi. The State Government submitted that the Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has been approved by IBM vide File No.MCDRM/FL0Mn/8/2023-BBS-IBM\_RO\_BBS dated 18.07.2023 with validity of excavation proposal which will expire within 5 (five) financial year from execution of the mining lease.
- xvii. The CA land has been proposed over 55.44 ha of Non forest land in single patch in village Sudanga under Banspal tehsil of Keonjhar district. Additional compensatory afforestation over the degraded forest land of 42 ha has been identified in Baunsuli RF under Patna Range in a single patch.

- xviii. The State Government has proposed the Additional Compensatory Afforestation over 42.00 ha has been identified in Baunsuli RF under Patna Range to accommodate the balance seedlings of 21,000 nos. and the Additional Compensatory Afforestation scheme has been prepared as per one-time cost norm on Base Norm for the year 2024-25 with a maintenance period of 10 years in ANR model @500 seedlings/ha.
- xix. The CA land suitability certificate for raising CA and additional CA has been furnished by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division.
- xx. The Regional Office, Bhubaneshwar has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a. Total 3986 nos. of trees have been enumerated over proposed forest land and 2197 nos. trees standing over non-forest land of the project. Felling of trees will affect the general ecosystem of the area. Trees should be felled in a phased manner and when it is absolutely necessary to remove, to minimize the adverse impact on the ecosystem.
  - b. The project area is 18.92 Km distance from the Karo-Karampada Elephant Corridor. As, there is occasional movement of elephant in this area, Wildlife Conservation Plan with special emphasis to mitigate the adverse impact on elephant movement as well as conservation and protection of rare/endangered and other wildlife found in and around the proposed area is required. Besides, the user agency shall pay towards cost of Regional Wildlife Management Plan as per approved norm of State Govt.
  - c. Soil and moisture conservation plan may be implemented in the forest area around the mining lease area.
  - d. Out of 13.115 ha of area identified for OB dump, 10.039 ha is forest land. The user agency should explore possibility to identify non-forest land for OB dump.
  - e. Mining of manganese ore is site-specific activity. So, the proposal for diversion 55.44 ha forest land in favour of PMU (Forest Diversion Cell) Director of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Odisha (Pre-embedded) is recommended with 5 times Penal NPV and Penal CA for violation over 7.21 ha of forest along with general standard conditions and observations made above.
- xxi. The proposal was earlier considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 05.03.2025 and 26.09.2025. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation deferred the proposal for the want of certain additional information. The details of information submitted by the State Government subsequent to the discussion of the proposal in previous two meetings of the Advisory Committee, is as follows:
- a. The State Government submitted that the Ministry of Mines, Government of India has directed States to prepare mining blocks with

pre-embedded statutory clearances prior to auction. Accordingly, the Government of Odisha has processed the Kalimati Manganese Block for forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It has been clarified that no Lol or Mining Lease has been issued, and the block will be auctioned after obtaining all statutory clearances.

- b. The User Agency, i.e., the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Odisha, vide compliance dated 15.01.2026, submitted that the Kalimati Manganese Block covers 67.177 ha, including 55.44 ha forest land and 11.737 ha non-forest land. The block has been explored up to G2 level by Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd., and the Mining Plan has been approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines on 18.07.2023. It has been clarified that G1 exploration over 21.25 ha is only proposed and not mandatory for auction, hence the G2 level exploration and Mining Plan may be considered for forest diversion.
  - c. With regard to violation over an area of 7.21 ha, the State Government has submitted that the reported violation pertaining to the mineral block proposed for forest diversion was examined by a Joint Verification Committee headed by the Sub-Collector, Champua, with officers from the Forest, Revenue, and Mines Departments. As per the Joint Verification Report, the violation over 7.21 ha forms part of the legally broken-up area of 155.301 ha, which had been broken prior to 1996 by the then lessee, M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. (OMC Ltd.). The proposed diversion area of 67.177 ha is also part of this legally broken-up area. Accordingly, no fresh or post-1996 unauthorized breaking of forest land is involved.
  - d. The Committee observed that a Joint Verification Committee headed by the Sub-Collector, Champua, with officers from the Forest, Revenue, and Mines Departments, examined the mineral block proposed for forest diversion. As per the Joint Verification Report, the violation over 7.21 ha forms part of the legally broken-up area of 155.301 ha, which had been broken prior to 1996 by the then lessee, M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. (OMC Ltd.). The proposed diversion area of 67.177 ha is also part of this legally broken-up area. Accordingly, no fresh or post-1996 unauthorized breaking of forest land is involved.
- xxii. The Committee further observed that no Lol has been issued, and the block will be auctioned after obtaining all statutory clearances.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the **Stage-I/In-principle** approval for diversion of

55.44 ha of forest land existing within total mining lease area of 67.177 ha of Kalimati Manganese Block under Barbil Tahasil in village Badakalimati & Balda of Keonjhar District under Keonjhar Forest Division, Odisha with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- ii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Nagpur, as applicable.
- iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- iv. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- v. Regional Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared and shall be implemented at the cost of user agency. The applicable cost for implementation of the Regional Wildlife Management plan shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA.
- vi. The State Forest Department shall implement a duly approved soil and moisture conservation plan at the cost of the User Agency and the levies shall be deposited in the account of State CAMPA.

### **Agenda No: 19**

**Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/505523/2024**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 7.00 ha of forest land in respect of Raikela Iron Ore Mines of M/s Shiv Dutt Sharma in village Raikela of Koira Tahasil of Bonai Forest Division in Sundargarh District, Odisha-reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0029-2025-11516/FE&CC dated 20.05.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
  - ii. This Project is meant for the exploitation of the mineral of Iron Ore deposit occurring within the mining lease hold area of 14.933 hectares (DGPS area 14.564 hectares/ RoR area of 14.513 hectares) of Shiv Dutt Sharma in village Raikela of Koira Tahasil in Sundergarh District of Odisha.
  - iii. The total lease area is 14.513 ha; out of which 7 ha is forest land and the balance 7.513 ha, is of Non-Forest land. The mining lease was granted for a period of 30 years from 21<sup>st</sup> January 1982. The renewal for mining lease application was submitted to Govt. of Odisha on 12.01.2011 prior to one year of expiry of the lease.
  - iv. Subsequently, the Mining Lease was declared as lapsed by the State Government under provision of Section 4A (4) of MMDR Act, 1957. The revision application was filed by the Lessee challenging the said order and Hon'ble Supreme Court recommended that the lease might be considered, to have been saved from being lapsed and allowed for extension of the Mining Lease. Now, therefore considering the above matter, the Special Secretary to Govt. in Steel & mines Department, Govt. of Odisha has been pleased to save the aforesaid lease and issued a proceeding order accordingly vide Letter No.11505/SM-MC1-MISC-0122- 2022/SM, Bhubaneswar dated 16.11.2023.
  - v. As per Section 8A (3) of the MMDR Act, 2015, the lease is deemed to have been extended upto 20<sup>th</sup> January 2032. The mine is not under operation since 12.12.2011 for want of statutory clearances like Environmental clearance and forest clearance etc. Further, the mine had produced excess of Iron (as accessed by CEC) beyond permissive quantity and without obtaining prior environmental clearance during the year from 2000-01 to 2009-10.

- vi. The said mining lease area over 14.513 ha comprises of 6.409 ha of Revenue Forest and 0.591 ha of DLC forest land and 7.513 ha of Non-forest land.
- vii. The Mining Plan has been approved for a maximum production 0.38 MTPA of Iron Ore vide Letter No.RMP-2268/2023-24-IBM\_RO\_BBS dated 28.05.2024 of Indian Bureau of Mines.
- viii. The DFO, Bonai Forest Division has reported that the proposed area does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor etc. and also the applied area is not a part of any Eco-Sensitive Zone of any Protected Area. No archaeological monument/ heritage site/ defence establishment etc, are located in the applied area.
- ix. The Wild animals such as Tiger, Elephant, Sloth bear, Hanuman Langur, Indian giant squirrel, Jungle cat, Mongoose, Indian Hare, Fox, Rat, Wild pig, Jackal, Indian pangolin, Porcupine, Hyaena, Peacock and different kinds of snakes and birds have been noticed in the buffer area. The State Govt. and Regional Office recommended the proposal with Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan.
- x. The applied area proposed for diversion falls under Eco-Value Class-I and canopy density is 0.09.
- xi. With respect to the justification for locating the project in forest land, the State Government submitted that the area has been worked since 1982. The entire forest area which has already been broken up contains the main reserve of iron ore. The BF grade iron ore is confined to the broken-up forest area only; so, there is no other alternative to exploit the ore deposits of the forest land to cater to the requirement of iron and steel industries based in India and abroad. This ore body needs to be judiciously exploited to meet the growing demand of raw materials for indigenous steel plants, sponge iron plant, pellet plants, for utilisation of iron ore and also for export of low grade iron ore fines for conservation of minerals to earn foreign exchange for development of our country.
- xii. The component-wise break-up of the total forest land proposed for diversion is given below:

S. No	Purpose	Total forest Area (in ha)	Non-forest (in ha)	Total (in ha)
1	Mining	5.530	2.388	7.918
2	Dumping	0.725	0.905	1.630
3	Road	0.158	0.442	0.600
4	Processing/ Stacking Yard	-	1.220	1.220
5	Office RS & Other Infrastructure	-	0.400	0.400
	Sub-Total	6.413	5.355	11.768

6	Safety Zone	0.587	0.868	1.455
7	Area kept undisturbed	-	1.290	1.290
	Grand Total	7.000	7.513	14.513

- xiii. The CA land has been proposed over an area of 7.5 ha of Non-Forest Land under village Kundheidiha under Gurundia Tahasil of Sundargarh District in a single patch.
- xiv. The DFO, Bonai Forest Division has prepared the CA Scheme for planting @ 1000 seedlings per ha in AR Plantation mode with required SMC measures to be taken up including the provision of fencing around the plantation and watering provision with 20 years of maintenance. An financial outlay for CA scheme has been approved by Addl. PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) for Rs. 1,09,28,700/- as per one time cost norm.
- xv. The DFO, Bonai Forest Division has reported in his Site Inspection Report, that the project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation.
- xvi. It has been reported by the State Govt. that the User Agency has deposited Rs.54,29,010/- towards NPV over 7.437 ha of forest area.
- xvii. The period of validity of the lease was for 30 years i.e. from 21.01.1982 to 20.01.2012. The State Govt. further extended the lease validity up to 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2032. Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has been approved by Regional Controller of Mines, Government of India vide Letter No. RMP-2268/2023-24-IBM\_RO\_BBS dated 28.05.2024
- xviii. As reported by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division, the Mining Plan has been approved for a maximum production 0.38 MTPA of Iron Ore vide Letter No.RMP-2268/2023-24-IBM\_RO\_BBS dated 28.05.2024 of Indian Bureau of Mines. The Environment Clearance for 0.380 MTPA production of Iron Ore along with crushing & screening unit within the mine lease area of 14.513ha has been applied to the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) by the User Agency vide their application No. SIA/OR/MIN/519806/2025 dated 07.03.2025.
- xix. The State Government has reported that there is ample availability of electricity near the mines and the Lessee has obtained NOC from CGWA for withdrawal of ground water. Further, an existing village road is available which connects to the mining lease area. Therefore, no additional forest land is required for transportation of minerals from the mine.
- xx. The State Government has reported that regarding payment of compensation, the DDM, Koira has issues a demand notice dated 02.09.2017 to the lessee to pay a sum of Rs. 3,38,27,116.60 only, being the cost thereof towards compensation under Section 21 (5) of MMDR Act, 1957 for production of mineral for the period from 2000-01 to 2010-11 without/in excess of the Environment Clearance as rationalized by the CEC in pursuance of the judgment dated 02.08.2017 of Hon'ble

- Supreme Court in the matter of WP (C) No 114/2014 Common Cause Vrs Union of India & Others on or before 31.12.2017.
- xxi. Due to non-payment of compensation amount, a Certificate case was initiated against the Lessee by the Certificate Officer-Cum-Collector, Sundargarh vide Certificate Case dated 17.05.2018 under the OPDR Act, 1962. In pursuance of the order dated 02.05.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP (C) No 114/2014, the Director of Mines, Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide Letter No 4188/DM dated 17.05.2022 intimated the lessee, the required chart indicating the compensation amount along with applicable interest to be paid by him. Accordingly, the lessee deposited the principal compensation amount of ₹3,38,27,116.60. Apart from this, the lessee also paid the applicable interest amount totalling to Rs. 6,76,13,455.00. In this regard, the Collector & Certificate Officer, Sundargarh was intimated vide office Letter No 1066/Mmes Dt 28.03.2023 of the Deputy Director of Mines, Koira requesting therein for consideration of withdrawal of Certificate Case No 12/2018, filed against the Lessee Accordingly, the Certificate Case No 12/2018 has been dropped.
- xxii. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a. The State Government shall realise the penal NPV from the User Agency, at the prevailing rates, for mining activities carried out in violation of the FCA, 1980, for a period of approximately two decades. Further, the State Government shall initiate proceedings against the concerned authorities for violations under VSSA 1980, in accordance with the provisions of the VSSA, 1980.
  - b. The User Agency and the State Government shall re-verify the project's cost– benefit analysis.
  - c. In view of the presence of dense forest vegetation in the proposed non-forest Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site, the State Government shall implement a crop improvement scheme under Rule 13 of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. The entire CA area shall be fenced at the cost of the User Agency.
  - d. Considering the significant presence of wildlife near the project site, the State Government shall implement a site-specific Wildlife Management Plan, approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, at the cost of the User Agency.
  - e. The User Agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, a restoration schedule, and a schedule for the surrender of forest land, as stipulated in Standard Condition 2(1).
  - f. The State Forest Department shall implement an appropriate soil and moisture conservation plan, with all costs borne by the User Agency.
- xxiii. The committee observed that the proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025. The Committee after

detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and the CCF in the office of Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee *deferred* the proposal and sought clarification/information, the details of which are as follows:

- a. In response to the detailed chronology of the mining operations and mining lease since inception, the State Government submitted that the Mining Lease over an area of 14.933 ha. was granted by the Mining and Geology Department, Govt. of Odisha on 01.01.1982 and the lease deed was executed on 21 Jan 1982 for a period of 30 years i.e. up to 20 January 2012. The mining operations have been stopped from 26.11.2011 and remain suspended till date. Subsequently, the Special Secretary to Govt., Steel & Mines Department, Govt. of Odisha vide Letter No.11505/SM-MCI-MISC-0122-2022/SM, Bhubaneswar dated 16.11.2023 extended the validity of the Lease for a period of 50 years i. e. from 21.01.1982 to 20.01.2032. The State Government submitted that the date of commencement of Mining Operation was 25.06.1985 and the Surface Right was granted by the Collector, Sundargarh over an area of 9.37 Ac. on 16.2.1982 in 1st phase and over another area of 5.645 ha. on 16.2.1985 in 2<sup>nd</sup> phase. Thus, out of the total lease area of 14.933 ha. Surface Right was granted over an area of 9.437 ha in total comprising of 7.438 ha of Forest land and 1.999 ha of Non-Forest land. The State Government further submitted that as per joint verification conducted by the Revenue, Forest and Mining Department on 19.07.2010, 7.438 Ha. of Forest land in total was found broken up without having any forest clearance (As per DGPS survey 7.0 Ha). The Range Officer, Barsuan Range, vide his Letter No.291 Dt.23.06.2010, had intimated regarding raising of minerals in the Forest land over 7.437 ha. without having any Forest Clearance. Accordingly, the DFO, Bonai Forest Division had intimated the fact to the User Agency vide his Letter No.3536, Dt.28.06.2010 with a direction to stop the Mining Activities with a copy of the same to the Deputy Director of Mines, Koira vide Letter No.3538 Dt.28.06.2010 for necessary action. Original Mining Lease of Raikela Iron Ore Mines held by S.D. Sharma under Koira Tahasil, Sundargarh District was 14.933 ha. However, during a DGPS survey conducted on 05.01.2024 by a joint team of Odisha Space Applications Centre (ORSAC), Revenue, Forest and Mining Departments, along with representatives of adjacent lessees, the lease area was found to be 14.513 ha as per DGPS and RoR records. Out of this 14.513 ha, 0.786 ha was found to overlap with the surrendered lease area of Raikela Iron Ore Mines of late S.N. Mohanty, leaving a free area of 13.727 ha without overlap. The matter was examined by the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Odisha, which, after verification, accepted the lease area as 14.513 ha instead of the

originally recorded 14.933 ha. Accordingly, in the revised land schedule of 14.513 ha, the forest area involved is reported to be 7.00 ha.

- b. In response to the action taken under 3A/3B of Adhinyam, the State Government submitted that the violation period over forest land was 25.06.1985 to 26.11.2011. The State Government further submitted that the Action against responsible officials for violation could not be initiated as the concerned officials have either retired or passed away. Since the violation area falls under Revenue and DLC forest land, the Collectorate of Sundargarh has been requested to initiate legal action under relevant revenue laws, and further inquiry has been directed by the Additional District Magistrate, Sundargarh to determine the officials responsible.
  - xxiv. The Committee observed that the UA in compliance with the Common Cause vs Union of India (WP(C) No.114/2014) judgment dated 02.08.2017, the lessee deposited ₹5,26,87,819/- and ₹1,49,25,636/- as compensation with 12% interest in August and October 2022, respectively (Total: ₹67613455/-).
  - xxv. The Committee further observed that the State Government and the Regional Office recommended the proposal with Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan due to the significant presence of wildlife near the project site.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the **Stage-III-in-principle** approval for diversion of 7.00 ha of forest land in respect of Raikela Iron Ore Mines of M/s Shiv Dutt Sharma in village Raikela of Koira Tahasil of Bonai Forest Division in Sundargarh District, Odisha State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
  - ii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Nagpur, as applicable.
  - iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhinyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme,

suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.

- iv. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details and proof of the CA levies deposited in State CAMPA during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- v. The Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan duly approved by the CWLW shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency and the levies shall be deposited in the account of State CAMPA.
- vi. The State Forest Department shall implement a duly approved soil and moisture conservation plan at the cost of the User Agency and the levies shall be deposited in the account of State CAMPA.

### **Agenda No: 20**

#### **Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/457118/2023**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking ex-post facto approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.635 ha of forest land for Renovation and Expansion of RCMS (Regional Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd) infrastructure at Sripadaganjsahi, Baripada, Mayurbhanj District under Baripada Forest Division by M/s Baripada RCMS Ltd–reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0048-2025-17609/FE&CC dated 18.07.2025 has submitted the proposal mentioned in the above subject to the Regional Office through PARIVESH 2.0 portal on 23.07.2025.
  - ii. After the examination of the proposal, the Regional Office observed that the proposal involved regularization of encroachment under the

Adhiniyam, 1980, and informed the State Govt. on 29.07.2025 that as per Rule 10 (2) (iv) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, proposals for regularization of encroachment shall be dealt by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi. Therefore, the State Government was requested to submit the proposal directly to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, by modifying the proposal scenario in PARIVESH portal for consideration by the MoEF&CC.

- iii. Accordingly, the State Govt. through the PARIVESH portal on 05.08.2025, submitted the above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 to the Ministry.
- iv. The RCMS Limited, Baripada, registered in 1954 under the Orissa Cooperative Societies Act, has been operating on Government land at Sripadaganjsahi since its establishment. It functions as a Central Cooperative Society with 17 affiliated Primary Cooperative Societies, covering six Blocks and Baripada Municipality, which together include 94 Gram Panchayats and 1,095 villages. The Department of Co-operation (formed in 1991) oversees such societies to strengthen the cooperative movement in Odisha. The proposed project site lies within Baripada city and is easily accessible to farmers, commuters, and government officials, making it the most suitable and convenient location for public service delivery. Only 1.57 acres (0.635 ha) of forest land—without any forest growth—is required for activities that benefit rural communities through agricultural support and PDS services.
- v. The proposed forest land is having the canopy density of 0.1 of Eco Class III and 42 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- vi. The State Government submitted that the forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Elephant Corridors, Tiger Reserve etc. It was also reported that the proposed forest area does not come under eco-sensitive zone of any protected area.
- vii. The State Govt. further submitted that there is an occasional movement of Monkeys, Reptiles, Snakes, Lizards, Mongoose etc. are found within the proposed area. The proposed area is protected by a boundary wall and is located within Baripada city. Therefore, it does not form part of any important wildlife habitat.
- viii. The component wise breakup of the land proposed for diversion is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Area (ha)	Non-Forest (ha)	Total Area (ha)
a. Existing Land for Renovation				
1	Godown	0.1133	0.000	0.1133

2	Office	0.0283	0.000	0.0283
3	Parking	0.0607	0.000	0.0607
4	Kalyan Mandap	0.2023	0.000	0.2023
<b>b. Expansion Land</b>				
1	Godown	0.0728	0.000	0.0728
2	Office	0.0323	0.000	0.0323
3	Market Complex	0.1254	0.000	0.1254
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>0.6350</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.6350</b>

- ix. The State Government submitted that proposed forest area has been in use since 1953-54 i.e. prior to the commencement of the VSESA, 1980. As the existing buildings are in a very dilapidated condition, repair and renovation with certain extensions are required. Therefore, diversion of the proposed forest land is necessary for undertaking these works. During the site visit of the RO, the User Agency submitted documents to support their claim of using the forest land since 1953-54, including a certificate from the Tahasildar, Baripada, the Incumbency Chart of Secretary & President of Baripada RCMS Ltd., certificate of Registration of Amendment of Bye-Laws.
- x. The State Government submitted that a violation has been committed by the User Agency under VSESA, 1980, as the proposed area has already been in use since 1953-54. It has also been noted that the provisions under Section 1A(b) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 state that the Act shall not apply to land where the use had been changed from forest to non-forest purposes on or before 12-12-1996. The proposed land appears to fall under this category.
- xi. Since the proposal involves diversion of less than one hectare of forest land, no Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land has been proposed by the State Government. However, plantation of 100 seedlings is required as CA in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
- xii. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal by stating that as the User Agency has been in possession of the proposed site prior to the commencement of the Adhinyam, 1980, and in view of the provisions of Section 1A(b) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, the State Government's recommendation, and the public utility nature of the project, the proposal is recommended subject to the condition that, since the occupation of the forest land occurred before 1980, the applicability of penal provisions under the VSSA, 1980, may be determined by the competent authority in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act.
- xiii. The Committee observed that with regard to non-site specific activities such as godown, office, parking, and market complex over 0.231 ha of

forest land, the State Government has reported that RCMS Baripada has occupied 0.635 ha of forest land, which is surrounded by a boundary wall. The above constructions have already been made within the boundary, with some open spaces available; therefore, the proposed activities shall be restricted only to the available open space within the occupied forest area of 0.635 ha.

- xiv. The Committee observed that the State Government reported that the total 0.635 ha area has been surrounded by a boundary wall, which includes 0.404 ha already in use. The remaining 0.231 ha within the campus is an open space being utilized for godown, office, parking, loading and unloading of agro-based materials, and movement/operation of machinery. Accordingly, since the entire 0.635 ha is under the functional use of RCMS, the State Government has submitted that the whole area may be treated as area under violation.
- xv. The Committee further observed that the State Government has reported that the land has been in possession of a registered Cooperative Marketing Society (RCMS), Baripada since 1953, and the society has been functioning since 1954. At that time, the SDO held the post of A.O.-cum-President of RCMS, and the construction was reportedly undertaken on the oral instructions of the then SDO, as the VSESA, 1980 was not in operation and ownership documentation was pending. Further, as per the report of the Tahasildar, Baripada, 1.57 acres of forest land has been under occupation of RCMS since 1953, as reflected in the Yadast report obtained from the ASO, Baripada, which is also corroborated by the land settlement records. The present Khatian (land record) of the Tahasil also indicates that RCMS is located on the same land, and the incumbency chart shows that the society has been functioning since 1954. No other supporting documents are available.
- xvi. The Committee further observed that during 1975 settlement, an order dated 11.09.1975 directed recording the land in the name of RCMS; which was published in 1986, by which time the VSESA, 1980 had come into force and the land continued to be treated as forest land. The State Government has stated that RCMS is a long-standing public utility institution of the Co-operation Department serving farmers across six blocks of Baripada subdivision and that relocation would adversely affect public interest.
- xvii. The State Government referred the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in State of Maharashtra vs. Prakasha Khale dated 22.05.2025 (The Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed an order dt 22.05.2025 in which at para 138 (XIV), the court have directed state Govt. & U/Ts as under: "We further reiterate our direction to State Governments and Union territories to take steps to take possession of the land from the persons/institutions of such lands and hand over the same to forest department. In case it is found that taking back of the possession of the

land wouldn't be in larger public interest, the state governments/ Union territories should recover the cost of said land from the persons/institution in occupation thereof and use the said amount for the purpose of development of forests"), the State Government has requested post-facto approval for diversion of 0.635 ha of forest land considering the larger public interest involved.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the **Stage-I/In-principle** approval for diversion of 0.635 ha of forest land for Renovation and Expansion of RCMS (Regional Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd) infrastructure at Sripadaganjsahi, Baripada, Mayurbhanj District of Odisha State under Baripada Forest Division by M/s Baripada RCMS Ltd with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
  - ii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Nagpur, as applicable.
  - iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
  - iv. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.

### **Agenda No.21**

**Proposal No. FP/PB/OTHERS/505715/2024**

**Sub:- Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 0.1704 ha of Protected Forest for approach road to Sterling Castle Resort at Village- Bala Chack on MDR-103, CHKM- 118.473 (RHS) on Amritsar - Tarn Taran road, Tehsil & District Tarn Taran, in the State of Punjab (Proposal No. FP/PB/OTHERS/505715/2024)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Punjab attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:-
  - (i) The proposal envisages diversion of 0.1704 ha of Protected Forest land for construction of approach road to Sterling Castle Resort at Village-Bala Chack on MDR-103, CHKM- 118.473 (RHS) on Amritsar - Tarn Taran road, Tehsil & District Tarn Taran, in the State of Punjab.
  - (ii) The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest. The vegetation density has been reported as 0.7 with Eco Class 3 with 30 trees proposed to be felled.
  - (iii) The component-wise land use plan is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
1	Forest land for approach road to sterling castle resort	0.1704 ha	1.05 ha
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.170</b>	<b>1.05 ha</b>

- (iv) DFO, Amritsar has mentioned in Part- II that M/s Sterling Castle Resort Village Bala Chack has violated over an area of 0.17 ha. from 2014 to 2025. DR No. 15/295 Dated 04.11.2014 was issued. Further, the matter was filed in District Court and Chief Judicial Magistrate, Tarn Taran on 07.09.2017 in the matter of DFO Vs Sterling Resort ordered user agency to pay an amount of ₹2500/- under Indian Forest (Punjab) Amendment Act, 2004. The fine was paid thereafter. Further, DFO, Amritsar has mentioned in his inspection report that user agency has violated provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927.
- (v) The proposal does not fall within any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, or Eco-sensitive Zone, etc. DFO, Amritsar has mentioned in Part-II that there is no

presence of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

- (vi) The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 0.3408 ha degraded forest land in Land bearing survey No./compartment No."Sheron Dhotia Road Km 0-5 B/s" of village "Dhotian" "Tarn Taran" District. identified for Compensatory Afforestation.
- (vii) As per DSS analysis, calculated area of shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is 0.170 ha. Regarding CA land, earlier it was observed that the Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over degraded forest land. Total area of proposed CA land was found to be 0.006 ha (software calculated), whereas area proposed for CA is 0.3408 ha. In this regard, the State Govt. has uploaded revised KML file of CA and the compensatory afforestation land has been proposed along the road and its software-calculated area is found to be 0.358 ha.
- (viii) The State Govt. reported that as per the approved layout plan, an area of 0.1704 hectare has been taken which cannot be reduced nor can the 24 trees and 06 poles affected in this scheme be reduced.
- (ix) The State Govt. has also reported that the KML file created is based on the PWD map and used the forest area as little as possible. So the forest area and trees cannot be reduced as per PWD checklist from in the ruler area both sides are extended with Acceleration lane and Deceleration lane. So, due to this service line length in this project is 322 mtr as following:
  - Project Site front = 60 mtr.
  - Deceleration Lane  
70+50+30=120 mtr.
  - Acceleration Lane  
50+70+30=150 mtr.
  - Total Service Lane=330 mtr
- (x) The RO, Chandigarh in their Site Inspection Report has mentioned that, during inspection, it was observed that the User Agency had carried out breakage of Protected Forest land in 0.072 ha area (Length 60 meters and width 12 meters) in front of their property for construction of approach access without prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. The approach access is in use since 2014 and the user agency is continuously using the approach access till date. It is to inform that the proposed width of the proposal is 5.5 meters, thus the remaining area is required to be reclaimed by the Forest Department.

It was informed by forest officials during inspection that action under the IFA, 1927 has been taken, and a damage report was issued. As the approach access was constructed in year 2014, and as the approach

access is still in use, the case pertains to post-facto approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- (xi) DDG (C), RO, Chandigarh in the Site Inspection Report has recommended the proposal for consideration as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Punjab recommended the proposal for grant of '***in-principle***' approval for diversion of 0.1704 ha of forest land in favour of Shri Abhimanyu Mahajan, Amritsar, Punjab for approach road to Sterling Castle Resort at Village- Bala Chack on MDR-103, CHKM- 118.473 (RHS) on Amritsar - Tarn Taran road, Tehsil & District Tarn Taran, in the State of Punjab subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- ii. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- iii. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- iv. The State Government shall initiate action penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- v. National Highway Division, PWD (B&R) Branch, Amritsar has issued provisional NOC for temporary access permission on 28.10.2024 for a period of one year to the user agency. The validity of the said NOC is expired. The State Government shall submit valid NoC alongwith compliance of conditions of Stage-1 approval.
- vi. The area diverted shall only be used as an approach road to Sterling Castle Resort at Village- Bala Chack on MDR-103, CHKM- 118.473 (RHS) on

Amritsar - Tarn Taran road, Tehsil & District Tarn Taran, in the State of Punjab and cannot be used for any other activity including parking.

## Agenda No. 22

### Proposal No. FP/UK/OTHERS/563269/2025

**Subject: Proposal for *ex-post facto* approval of the Central Government under Section of 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority for non-forestry use of 0.425 ha. of Reserved Forest land in Chakrata Division for the CM GHOSANA-construction of Yamuna Ghat Near Yamuna Riverbed under block Kalsi Village Haripur, District Dehradun in the State of Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/OTHERS/563269/2025)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDG, Regional Office, Dehradun, and Nodal Officer, Government of Uttarakhand attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - i. Proposal involves *ex-post facto* approval of 0.425 ha of Reserved Forest in Chakrata Division for the CM GHOSANA-construction of Yamuna Ghat Near Yamuna Riverbed under block Kalsi Village Haripur, District Dehradun in the State of Uttarakhand.
  - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.425 ha is required for construction of Yamuna Ghat.
  - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.1 of Eco class V with no tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
  - iv. No compensatory afforestation has been proposed as the area is less than one hectare. However, plantation is proposed over 0.23 ha degraded forest land in compartment no. Kalsi 13 for planting 100 plants.
  - v. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.

- vi. Proposed forest area falls under Not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 2. However, as per Decision Rule 1, the proposed area falls within 250 meter buffer of Yamuna River.
- vii. As per site inspection report of Regional Office, Dehradun compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 0.23 ha degraded forest land in compartment no. Kalsi 13 for planting 100 plants. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided.
- viii. The State Government and Regional Office have reported no violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 citing the provisions of Guidelines given at para 1.7 (b) of the Consolidated Guidelines.
- ix. The Regional Office, Dehradun mentioned that Yamuna Ghat is already constructed on the site and therefore the proposal is for ex-post facto approval. Further, DDGF (C), Regional Office, Dehradun has mentioned in his recommendation that the provision of 1.7(b) of Van (Sanrakshan & Samvardhan) Rules 2023 says:
 

*“Proposals conceived in forest with the intention to avert imminent disaster and to mitigate or deal with the natural disaster as per the recommendation made by the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) should be examined and recommended by concerned the DCF (as a member of the authority) for limited period of time, till threat of the disaster vanishes. Such proposals should be formulated with minimum damage to trees and involvement of barest minimum forest area. Proposals conceived due to permanent change in the forest land use due to a natural disaster, should be submitted for ex-post facto approval by the DCF concerned within a period of 30 days from the date of such decision made by the DDMA.”*
- x. The DDGF (C), Regional Office, Dehradun has recommended the proposal along with detailed reasons stating provisions of 1.7(b) of Van (Sanrakshan & Samvardhan) Rules 2023. Further he has also mentioned that the proposal may be considered for ex-post facto approval however it may be noted that UA/ State Government has submitted/initiated the proposal after the expiry of 30 days i.e. on 26.12.2025.
- xi. The Nodal Officer informed the Committee that proposal has been submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines given under para 1.7(b) of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued by the Ministry. As per the provisions of the said guidelines, the proposal has been submitted for the ex-post facto approval of the Central Government without considering it a violation of the Adhiniyam.

- xii. The Committee noted that the proposal aims to serve public interest by enhancing safety. However, as examination of the proposal using time series, it was observed that construction activities were started from December 2018 onwards i.e. prior to order issued by the District Magistrate on 18.02.2025. Accordingly, the Committee opined that the proposal may be treated as violation of provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and penal provisions may be imposed while issuing in-principle approval by the Ministry.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '**in-principle**' approval for *ex-post facto* approval of 0.425 ha of Reserved Forest in Chakrata Division for the CM GHOSANA-construction of Yamuna Ghat Near Yamuna Riverbed under block Kalsi Village Haripur, District Dehradun in the State of Uttarakhand subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 against the erring officials shall be initiated by the State Government and a report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval.
  - ii. In accordance with the provisions of para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhiniyam by the user agency which shall be five times the NPV of forest land used in violation plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand and till the deposit is made by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.
  - iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation or Penal NPV, as the case may be, in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation or pay the Penal NPV, in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
  - iv. In case the Penal compensatory afforestation is proposed by the State Government, it shall be verified by Regional Office, Dehradun and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.

### **Agenda No. 25**

**Proposal No: FP/UP/OTHERS/465947/2024**

**Proposal for *Ex-post facto* approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.2679 ha Forest Land in favour of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Saharanpur for "Construction of RCC Drain on both side of NH 72A (Km. 7) via. Fatehpur Chutmalpur to NH-73 (Km. 31) in District Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh State-reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDG, Regional Office, Lucknow, and Nodal Officer, Government of Uttar Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - i. The Government of Uttar Pradesh had initially submitted the above proposal to Regional Office, Lucknow seeking *Ex-post facto* approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.2679 ha Forest Land in favour of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Saharanpur for "Construction of RCC Drain on both side of NH 72A (Km. 7) via. Fatehpur Chutmalpur to NH-73 (Km. 31) in District Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh State.
  - ii. The Regional Office examined the proposal and requested the State Government to submit the proposal to Ministry as being violation case.
  - iii. Accordingly, proposal has been received in the Ministry on 09.10.2025
  - iv. The proposal involves seeking ex-post facto approval for already constructed RCC drain line by the Public Works Department on both side of NH 72A (Km. 7) via. Fatehpur Chutmalpur to NH-73 (Km. 31) in District Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh State.
  - v. The total forest area proposed for diversion is 0.2679 ha. Out of which extent of violation has been reported as 0.0017 ha
  - vi. The State Government has reported that /Public Works Department, Saharanpur, was undertaken the construction of an RCC drain without obtaining prior permission from the Government of India. By constructing the said RCC drain across an area of 0.01703 hectares, a violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan.) Adhiniyam 1980, was committed. The said construction work was immediately halted by the forest personnel of the Shivalik Forest Division; subsequently, under Section 33 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, a case—Mohand Range Case No. 32/Mo/2023-24—has

- been registered against Mr. Praveen Gairi (Assistant Engineer, PWD Saharanpur) and Mr. Rakesh Kumar Rana (son of unknown parentage; Contractor), residing at Navin Nagar Colony, Saharanpur.
- vii. The user agency in justification note has reported project needs diversion of Forest land as the area suffers from water logging problems especially in rainy seasons. So to solve the water logging problem, PWD decided to construct the Drainage line. This proposed forest land is minimum and unavoidable.
  - viii. The forest area proposed for diversion is in two divisions viz: Shivalik Forest Division (0.269 ha), Saharanpur and Social Forestry Division (0.141 ha), Saharanpur. The vegetation density of the forest area proposed for diversion is 0.4 and 0.3 respectively.
  - ix. The number of trees required to be felled are mentioned 18 no. The species proposed for felling are mainly *Mangifera indica*, *Cardia mixa*, *Eucalyptus* etc.
  - x. It is reported that the forest area proposed for diversion does not forms the part of any Protected Area.
  - xi. The State Government has identified 0.5 ha. land in Budhaban forest Block, Compartment No.1a (West beat) Shiwalik Forest Division, Saharanpur for raising compensatory afforestation.
  - xii. The proposal submitted by the State Government was initially examined in the Ministry and Ministry had sought certain clarification from the State on 09.11.2025. The State Government submitted the reply. The information sought by the Ministry are as under: -
    - a) As per the DSS analysis, the user agency has not uploaded the complete KML file of the proposed drain because the details of Non-forest land required to construct the drain has been mentioned as Zero (0) in the online proposal. Therefore, the details of Non-forest land involved, if any, in the project needs to be updated in the online proposal and the KML files of the Non-Forest land involved shall be uploaded online.
    - b) The State Govt. shall furnish its comments whether the instant proposal involved violation of Indian Forest Act or Violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
    - c) As per the details submitted with the proposal, it appears that the date of online submission of proposal is 14/03/2024 whereas the user agency has carried out work in Violation on dated 16/03/2024. The State Govt. shall submit the detailed violation report along with justification in this regard. Furthermore, the action taken under 3A & 3B of the Van Adhinyam, 1980 against the person/ official responsible for issuance of working permission for carrying out un-lawful activity in the forest land.

- xiii. The State Government informed that the project does not involve any non-forest land.
- xiv. With regard to nature of violation is concerned, the State Government informed that the following:

*प्रकरण में वन (संरक्षण एवं सम्बर्धन) अधिनियम 1980 के अन्तर्गत प्रस्ताव आवेदित किये जाने के पश्चात प्रयोक्ता एजेन्सी द्वारा सक्षम स्तर से अनुमति प्राप्त किये बिना ही कार्य प्रारम्भ किया गया जिसके कारण वन (संरक्षण एवं सम्बर्धन) अधिनियम 1980 सपठित नियम 2023 के अन्तर्गत जारी समेकित गाइडलाइन के पैरा 1.16 के अनुसार कार्यवाही की गई है, तथा उक्त पैरा के बिन्दु (ii)(d) के आलोक में भारतीय वन अधिनियम 1927 की सुसंगत धाराओं के अन्तर्गत वन अपराध (एच- केस) पंजीकृत किया गया है, इस प्रकार उक्त प्रकरण में वन (संरक्षण एवं सम्बर्धन) अधिनियम 1980 के अन्तर्गत कार्यवाही प्रचलित है। अतः प्रकरण में वन (संरक्षण एवं सम्बर्धन) अधिनियम 1980 का आंशिक उल्लंघन किया गया है।*

- xv. The Committee noted the violation report submitted by the State Government, wherein it is reported that the user agency started the work without obtaining permission from the competent authority due to which action has been taken in the light Para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under Adhniyam. It is also reported that a forest offence has been registered under Sections 30 and 33 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and a case has been registered in the Hon'ble Court of Additional Chief Magistrate/First Court, Saharanpur. It also reported that upon commencement of work by the user agency, the Forest Department immediately initiated the above action as per rules. Therefore, no legal action is pending against the Forest Department officials/employees in the above case.
- xvi. The Regional Office, Lucknow in its site inspection report recommended the proposal with following observation:

*Upon inspection of the proposed Diversion site, it was found that RCC drain construction in an area of 0.017 ha. was already done by the contractor without necessary approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The work was stopped immediately by the concerned DFO and necessary action was taken under IFA, 1927. As the project area experiences waterlogging problems, particularly during the rainy season, the PWD has decided to construct a drainage line to address the issue. The diversion of notified Protected Forest land measuring 0.2679 ha falls along the road declared protected forest is unavoidable. Hence, the violation of Adhiniyam, 1980 may be regularized with penal provisions under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. DFO may be directed to take disciplinary action against concerned officials.*

The Committee noted that State Government has booked a case against the user agency under the IFA, 1927. However, no action has been taken against the officials of State Forest Department who failed to stop the violation.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee held detailed discussions with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Lucknow and Nodal Office, Uttar Pradesh. After examining the facts of the proposal, the Committee recommended grant of ex-post facto ***in-principle*** approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1)(ii) of the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980* for diversion of 0.2679 ha Forest Land in favour of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Saharanpur for "Construction of RCC Drain on both side of NH 72A (Km. 7) via. Fatehpur Chutmalpur to NH-73 (Km. 31) in District Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh State, subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions: -
- a) The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
  - b) The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
  - c) Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Lucknow and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
  - d) Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 against the erring officials shall be initiated by State Forest Department and a status report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval.

### **Agenda No.26**

**Proposal No: FP/UP/Petrol Pump/505912/2024**

**Subject: Proposal for *Ex-post facto* approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.1568 ha protected forest land in favour of M/s HPCL RETAIL REGIONAL OFFICE GORAKHPUR for Entry/Exit approach to HPCL Retail Outlet on Pharenda-Jarwal Road (SH-1A) in Km No. 207 (CH. No. 206.200 to 400, LHS) at Gata No-416, Village:-Parsa Gaudari, Tehsil:-Colonelganj, District:-Gonda, Uttar Pradesh State (Proposal No: FP/UP/PetrolPump/505912/2024)-regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Lucknow and Nodal Officer, Government of Uttar Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 26.01.2026. The committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDG (Central), RO, Lucknow, and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:
  - i. Status of action taken against the officers who were not able to stop the violation.
  - ii. The State Government may furnish the details of penal CA proposed in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry on 21.01.2026.
4. The above decision of the Advisory Committee was communicated to State Government on 12.02.2026. The State Government has submitted the reply on the aforementioned observations of the Advisory Committee. The State Government informed the following;
  - i. इस सम्बन्ध में अवगत कराना है कि तत्कालीन प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी द्वारा पत्रांक 3608/33-1 दिनांक 31-05-2025 द्वारा आख्या प्रेषित किया गया था जिसमें उल्लेख है कि "प्राविधानों के उल्लंघन का प्रकरण संज्ञान में आते ही प्रभाग के अन्तर्गत रेंज स्तर से पेट्रोल पम्प स्वामी के विरुद्ध विधिक कार्यवाही करते हुए उक्त के विरुद्ध वन अधिनियम 1980 के प्राविधानों का उल्लंघन के तहत एच-2 केस संख्या-65/2023-24 जारी कर अभियुक्त से प्रतिकर के रूप में ₹0-150000.00 (एक लाख पचास हजार मात्र) ई-3 संख्या-177/78 दिनांक-22-03-2024 द्वारा वसूल किया जा चुका है। अतः प्रकरण संज्ञान में आते ही विभागीय अधिकारी / कर्मचारियों

- ने अपने कर्तव्यों का अनुपालन किया गया था। उक्त प्रकरण में अधिकारी / कर्मचारी दोषी होने का कोई औचित्य नहीं है।" अतः उपरोक्त आख्या से सहमति व्यक्त की जाती है।
- ii. भारत सरकार पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय इन्दिरा पर्यावरण भवन नई दिल्ली का पत्र दिनांक-21.01.2026 के क्रम में प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी गोण्डा के पत्रांक-2216/33-1 दिनांक-17-02-2026 द्वारा प्रयोक्ता एजेन्सी को पत्र लिखा गया। जिसके क्रम में प्रयोक्ता एजेन्सी द्वारा शपथ पत्र दिया गया है, जिसमें उल्लेख किया है कि "हिन्दुस्तान पेटोलियम कार्पोरेशन लि० (एचपीसीएल) द्वारा मंत्रालय के उपयुक्त दिशा निर्देशों तथा प्रचलित नियमों के पूर्ण अनुपालन में दुगुना दंडात्मक एन०पी०वी० जमा किया जाएगा। प्रतिपूरक वनीकरण हेतु भूमि देना संभव नहीं है।" अतः इस विन्दु के अनुपालन में मंत्रालय के दिशा निर्देशानुसार दुगुना दण्डात्मक एन०पी०वी० की गणना संलग्न है।
  - iii. The Committee noted that user agency has furnished the undertaking to pay penal NPV as per Ministry guideline dated 26.01.2026.
  - iv. The Committed noted that that H-2 Case (No. 65/2023-24) was registered against the accused for violating the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam 1980, and a sum of Rs. 1,50,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) has already been recovered from the accused as compensation vide E-3 No. 177/78 dated 22-03-2024.
  - v. The Committed noted that State Government has not taken any action against the against officer's who failed to prevent the violation on the proposed forest land.
  - vi. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal for benefit of public at large subject to imposition of penal provision as per extant rules and guidelines.
5. **Decision of the Advisory Committee** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '**in-principle**' for ex-post approval for diversion of 0.1568 ha Protected Forest land in favour of M/s HPCL retail Regional Office, Gorakhpur for Entry/Exit approach to HPCL Retail Outlet on Pharenda-Jarwal Road (SH-1A) in Km No. 207 (CH. No. 206.200 to 400, LHS) at Gata No-416, Village:-Parsa Gaudari, Tehsil:-Colonelganj, District:- Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
  - ii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines.
  - iii. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Lucknow and report shall be sent to the

Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.

- iv. Action under Section 3A/3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be initiated against the erring officials and a report in this regard, be submitted by the State Forest Department at the time of submission of the proposal for Stage-II approval.

### **Agenda No. 27**

#### **Proposal No. FP/JH/REHAB/541432/2025**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 393.23 ha Forest Land for Relocation of core area villages in Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR) (North) (Kutku, Bhajna, Saneya, Khaira, Khurra, Chemo and other villages) in Garhwa District of Jharkhand State (Proposal No. FP/JH/REHAB/541432/2025)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Ranchi attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - i. Proposal involves diversion of 393.23 ha Forest Land for Relocation of core area villages in Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) (North) (Kutku, Bhajna, Saneya, Khaira, Khurra, Chemo and other villages) in Garhwa District of Jharkhand State.
  - ii. As per component-wise details submitted in the proposal, 315.70 ha each is required for house construction and agriculture land and 77.53 ha is required for community facilities (roads, irrigation, electricity, schools, hospitals, community centres, pasture land, cremation ground, etc.), totaling to 393.23 ha.
  - iii. Bisrampur and Baligarh Villages of Garhwa South Forest Division are selected for rehabilitation of said villages. As mentioned in site inspection report of DFO, Garhwa South, the land is required for rehabilitation of 780 families of 7 villages located at the core area of Palamau Tiger Reserve, part of which falls under the submergence

zone of North Koel (Mandal Dam) Project, at the rate of 1 acre per family, thus totaling 780 acres (315.65 hectares).

- iv. The PCCF-cum-Executive Director, Wasteland Development has mentioned in his inspection report that Mandal Dam Project was initiated in the early 1950s-1960s to supply water to nearby regions of the erstwhile Bihar. At its Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 341.00 m, six villages in Garhwa district-Bhajna, Kutku, Saneya, Chemo, Khura, and Khaira-along with one village in Latehar district, Meral, fall within the dam's submergence zone. To rehabilitate and resettle the 780 affected families from these seven villages, a compensation package of 15 lakh per family was approved. Since these villages also lie within the core area of the Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR), a proposal for diversion of 557.72 ha of forest land in the Garhwa South Forest Division was submitted by the Deputy Director, PTR North, on PARIVESH portal.
- v. The SIR of DFO Garhwa and CF Garhwa highlighted concerns of forest fragmentation due to diversion of few dense patches and a parcel of forest land getting sandwiched within the erstwhile proposal, which runs the risk of encroachment. Therefore, a decision was made to reduce the proposed area to 393.23 ha to accommodate only 7 villages, while duly addressing the concerns in the SIR.
- vi. The State Government informed that total area of Mandal dam project was 1628.75 ha (Forest area- 1007.29 ha and non-forest area- 621.46 ha). No villages being proposed for relocation is part of Mandal dam project. Out of 7 Villages being relocated, legal status of 6 Villages is non-forest land and that of one village is Forest Village. Proposed area for relocation does not fall within already approved WL/FC for Mandal dam project. There is no overlap of area of villages being relocated with already diverted forest area of Mandal dam project. However, as per DSS report portion of one Village is falling under submergence.
- vii. The non forest land and the traditionally used forest land by the villages are completely outside the submergence zone. Hence, effectively a total 4213.92 ha of land will be available throughout the year, resulting from relocation of proposed 7 villages. Moreover, a portion of non-forest land, which is part of Mandal dam submergence area is expected to be available in the drier months.
- viii. The relocation of the 7 proposed villages will not only make a significant area of 4213.92 hac as "inviolable wildlife habitat" in the core area of Palamau Tiger Reserve, but also will facilitate the long pending mandal dam project, which can become the water lifeline for the wildlife of Palamau Tiger Reserve(which includes Tiger, more than 180 elephants, gaurs etc), which faces serious water scarcity, being a drought prone area.

- ix. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.3 of Eco class III. Out of 193172 trees enumerated, 84,633 tree felling is involved during implementation of the project.
- x. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- xi. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area falls under Not In- High Conservation value Zone.
- xii. Compensatory Afforestation and NPV is not applicable as per provisions mentioned in consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Rules, 2023.
- xiii. The Committee was informed that NTCA vide letter dt. 11.03.2026 informed that NTCA has already issued the Protocol/ Guidelines for Voluntary Village Relocation from Notified Core/Critical Tiger Habitats of Tiger Reserves which includes different packages for the Voluntary Village Relocation. Further, vide order dated 17.11.2025 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in IA. No. 20650 of 2023 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 has also given directions regarding Voluntary Village Relocation from tiger reserves. Accordingly, it was informed that necessary action may kindly be taken in the matter as per guidelines issued by NTCA and directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- xiv. The Committee was further informed that Ministry of Home Affairs in their letter dated 14.11.2025 addressed to Ministry informed that they have set a national goal of eliminating Left Wing Extremism (LWE) by March, 2026. This campaign is currently in its crucial phase. Any displacement related measures could adversely impact security operations. Keeping in view the stability, peace building and continuity of security operation in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh states, it is requested to postpone the displacement of affected tribal communities for next 3 years.
- xv. The Regional Office submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhiniyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with following conditions:
  - (1) The State Forest Department shall ensure that the extent of forest land diverted for relocation does not exceed the area vacated in the core area of the Tiger Reserve.
  - (2) The entire vacated area shall be notified as Reserved Forest/Protected Forest (RF/PF) under the provisions of the Indian

Forest Act and, wherever required, formally transferred to the Forest Department.

- (3) Water stored in the Mandal Dam reservoir within the Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR) shall be made accessible and available for wildlife and reserve management by the State Government.
  - (4) Adequate and site-specific measures shall be planned and implemented to prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflict in the resettled area.
  - (5) Seasonal stream courses within the diversion area shall be preserved, as far as practicable, to maintain hydrological integrity and sustained inflow to the Kanhar River.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '**Stage I/in-principle**' approval for diversion of 393.23 ha Forest Land for Relocation of core area villages in Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR) (North) (Kutku, Bhajna, Saneya, Khaira, Khurra, Chemo and other villages) in Garhwa District of Jharkhand State subject to the general, standard and following additional condition:
- i. The State Government shall approach Ministry of Home Affairs separately for seeking approval before starting relocation process in view of the letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs vide letter No. 18015/72/2025-LWE-1 dated 14.11.2025.

### **Agenda No.30**

**(Proposal No. FP/TG/MIN /QRY/445053 /2023)**

**Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), Telangana State for non-forestry use of 615.3861 ha. of forest land for (converting UG rights to Surface rights to an extent of 270.178 ha. and 345.208 ha. of fresh forest land) for the grant of Goleti Open Cast Coal Mining Project at Asifabad and Bellampally division in KB Asifabad & Mancherial Districts, Telangana State (Online Proposal No.FP/TG/MIN /QRY/445053 /2023). –reg.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Chennai and Nodal Officer, Government of Telangana were present in the meeting.
2. The Committee noted that proposal was earlier considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 09.06.2025 and the Committee, after considering the various facts of the proposal desired additional information from the State Government viz; to exclude the void areas inside the proposed CA land

of Dorli-I and II rehabilitated OB dumps and submit revised CA along with requisite detail, copies of the RF/PF notifications for NFL identified against earlier diversions of 108.78 Ha, 9.00 Ha and of 6.5 Ha, to identify the twice DFL for raising CA as the identified NFLs are not suitable for raising Compensatory Afforestation, approved Wildlife Conservation Plan, land use change plan of the 283.714 ha area in BPA OC-II.

3. The Decision of the Advisory Committee was communicated to the State Government on 09.06. 2025. The Government of Telangana vide letter No. 4492/For.I(1)/2023 dated 28.02.2026 submitted additional information as sought by the Ministry on 09.06.2025.
4. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
5. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - (i) The total land requirement of proposed Goleti Opencast project is 1358.260 Ha Out of which 1135.843 Ha is Forest land and 222.417 Ha is Non-Forest Land. Out of 1135.843 Ha of Forest land, an extent of 283.14 .ha was already diverted for surface rights and 506.921 Ha was diverted with UG Rights. Balance land of 345.208 Ha is sought as fresh Forest land for surface rights/breaking under the extant proposal.
  - (ii) The instant proposal involves 615.386 ha of forest land which includes 270.178 ha (Out of 506.921 ha forest land already diverted for UG rights) of forest land for converting UG right to surface right which is part of closed underground mines namely Goleti No. 1 & 1A Inclines (closed on Dt.13.9.2018) and part of Goleti No.2 Incline (closed on Dt. 11.05.2002) and adding fresh forest land measuring 345.208 ha.
  - (iii) The State Government has informed that the proposed proposal is Goleti Opencast Mine is formulating by conversion of Goleti 1&1A Incline (Upto 280 m depth within UG area) to OC and amalgamation of BPA OC-II Expansion Project. The BPA OC-II is closed in the year 2021 as per approved Mine Closure Plan (MCP). M/s.SCCL has stated that the area of 236.76 Ha proposed for retention of underground rights is required for monitoring underground atmospheric conditions till the opencast operations in the remaining area is completed. At a later stage this area will be proposed for opencast. However, it will also be examined for underground coal gasification depending on the viability of the technology at that time. As per the proposal, the UA shall make no use of the surface of this area.
  - (iv) The State Government has identified Non-Forest Land to an extent of 616.001 Ha (in two patches) on rehabilitated overburden dumps of Dorli OCP-I & II mine in Asifabad and Tiryani Mandal which is falling in Asifabad Forest division. Out of total 616.001 ha originally identified, not suitable/viod area is calculated as 166.201 ha.
  - (v) The user agency has requested 15 per cent concession as per rule 13 and 14 of schedule -II of VSESA Rule 2023, stating that CA land is adjacent to

- Kawal Tiger Reserve and Tiger Corridor. Accordingly, 67.47 ha has been sought as rebate.
- (vi) The User Agency has additionally identified balance 98.37 ha, of Non Forest land viz, 37.25 ha of CA of has been identified in NFL OB dump in Peddapalli District and 63.143 has been handed identified in Sy. No. 228/1 Zaffergadh village, Janagaon district this land is handed over to forest department for JVR OC –II Project at the time of submitting the proposal.
  - (vii) The CA scheme for 63.143 Ha has been prepared in CA DFL, since, the identified CA NFL is having good growth with density 0.4 and the CA DFL is identified in Compt.no. 144, 145, 1612E, 75 in Etutunagaram North range of WLM Etutunagaram division of Mulugu district for an amount of Rs.279.65763 Lakhs. The said plantation has been raised and maintained till 2nd year and some SMC works has been executed.
  - (viii) The State Government has further stated that user agency proposed the CA on the DFL over an extent of 356.0 ha. (10 patches) in Mancherial District and 70.0 ha (4 patches) in Asifabad District for balance as per the proviso to Rule 13 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. The user agency has calculated the double the extent of short fall of 356 ha against the short fall of 176.79 ha.
  - (ix) On the matter of diversion of nallahs in the proposed area, M/s SCCL has informed that there are 2 nallahs flowing through the project area namely Sonapur nallah and Narsapur nallah. Sonapur seasonal nallah is originating in the quarry area no diversion is required and Narsapur nallah is proposed for diversion. The tributary/ seasonal nallah will be diverted as per the scientific study report submitted by Prof. Rajibmaity, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur - 721302 and study concluded that there will not be any adverse impact due to diversion of this nallah. Further, it is informed that SCCL has also applied for NOC for this diversion from I&CAD, State Government which is under consideration. When the works will be taken up, the forest department will be informed and necessary imitative measures will be taken up by SCCL as per the requirement of the forest department.
  - (x) With regard to Wildlife Mitigation Plan, it is reported that M/s.SCCL has informed that the Wildlife Mitigation plan is being prepared by the CEFNARM, Dulapally and they have taken up the project work for preparation of the Wildlife Mitigation Plan for the said proposal. The CEFNARM has completed the required field survey, and the preparation of the detailed report is presently under process and the SCCL has submitted the Brief note on highlighting the broad framework of Wildlife Mitigation Plan of the Goleti Opencast Mine Project. Once the approval of WLM plan by the CWLW is approved the same will be submitted to MoEF & CC and to be uploaded in PARIVESH 2.0
  - (xi) With regard to change in land use of 283.714 ha is concerned, State Government has stated that M/SCCL has submitted the proposals for Change of Land use for the 283.714 Ha to the PCCF(HoFF) on 11.06.2024 and forwarded to the District Forest officer, Asifabad and District Forest Officer Mancherial on 21.06.2024.However, the MoEF &CC, Gol has issued Guidelines dated 26.12.2024 regarding Clarification on the mining proposals involving change in the land use of forest land as per approved Mining Plan Wherein it is stated at one para that " The User Agency shall

provide a copy of aforesaid modified Mining Plan approved by the Competent Authority referred to in para (ii) to the concerned Regional Office for information and record in all such cases."

- (xii) The Mining Plan (including Mine Closure Plan) of Goleti OCP was approved by the Ministry of Coal vide F.No. 34011/3/2020-CPAM, dated 18.11.2020. In the approved Mining plan, the SCCL mentioned the land-use change for the forest lands regarding existing land use and proposed land use for the Goleti opencast project. Further, while submission of application for diversion of 615.386 ha in PARIVESH, SCCL submitted details regarding present land use and proposed land use as per the approved Mining Plan. As per the table given for existing land use and proposed land use there is change in land use only and there is no change in the total forest area earmarked for carrying out mining within diverted forest land forming part of the already approved original mining plan. As per the guideline dated 26.12.2024, the SCCL has submitted approved mining plan to the IGF(C), MoEF & CC, Gol, IRO, Sub office, Hyderabad vide Ir.No.BPA/EST/F-36/2025/371 Dt. 23.10.2025 regarding the change of Land use .Further, it is also mentioned that SCCL has explored possibilities of Handing over of diverted forest land of 283.714 ha after completion of dumping and reclamation and an extent of 106.00 ha will be handed over to the forest department after completion of dumping & reclamation In 10 years from the date of commencement of the Goleti OCP.
- (xiii) The DDGF (Central) has recommended the proposals with certain conditions
- (xiv) With regards to rebate sought by the State Government citing the proximity of the area to Kaval Tiger Reserve, the Committee observed that as per the DSS analysis, the proposed CA land is not contiguous to the Tiger Reserve or Corridor. Hence, the rebate of 67.67 ha sought by the State Government for the proposed CA land is not consistent with the provisions of VSESA 1980 and VSES Rule 2023.
- (xv) The committee noted that the proposal submitted by the State Government further required deliberation on road map/progress of the project proposal including change in land use, which may be presented by the State Government whenever the proposal would be considered before the AC.

**6. Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Chennai and Nodal Officer, Government of Telangana deferred the proposal for obtaining the following information from the State Government:

- (i) The 15 per cent rebate claimed by State Government stating that the NFL identified is contiguous to the Tiger Reserve is not tenable, as the NFL identified is not contiguous to the Tiger Reserve or Corridor as per the DSS report. Therefore, the State Government has to identify suitable Non Forest Land for raising the Compensatory Afforestation against 166.16 ha which is identified as void area out of 616.16 ha. The detailed CA scheme, KML file of the CA land and Map etc has to be submitted.
- (ii) As per the DSS report, proposed CA in Dorli-II is falling in the Protected Forest. Therefore, the State Government is requested to re-verify the same and the Non Forest CA land which is free from all the encumbrance needs to be identified and proposed.

- (iii) Regional Office, Chennai would re-verify the revised CA land to be identified by the State Government and submit the report.
- (iv) The State Government shall submit its considered view on the submission made by the user agency with regards to proposal for change in the land use.

**(Confirmed through E-mail)**

Dr. K R Sree Harsha  
(non-official Member)

**(Confirmed through E-mail)**

Shri Nityanand Srivastava  
(non-official Member)

**(Confirmed through E-mail)**

Dr. Mehraj AS  
Deputy Commissioner (NRM)  
(Member)

**(Confirmed through E-mail)**

Shri Manoj Pant  
(non-official Member)

**(Confirmed on file)**

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

**(Confirmed through E-mail)**

Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey  
Additional Director General of Forests  
(WL)  
(Member)

**(Confirmed on file)**

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

**(Approved)**

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