



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



**MoM ID** FC/MOM/AC/473103/2025  
**Agenda ID** FC/AGENDA/AC/788435/2025  
**Title of Meeting** 12th AC meeting  
**Meeting Venue** Krishna Conference Hall  
**Meeting Mode** Physical  
**Meeting Dates & Time** Start Date : 02/12/2025  
End Date : 02/12/2025

**List of AC Members:**

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

**Proposals considered during Meeting:**

**1. Project Name** Beautification and Renovation work in Kaila Devi Temple Jheel Ka Bada, Bayana, Bharatpur  
**Proposal Number** FP/RJ/OTHERS/509218/2024  
**User Agency** Chhailbihari Sharma  
**Forest Land Area (Ha)** 4.487  
**Division** Bharatpur Territorial 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.

**2. Project Name** Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling Waste-pit and Approach Road of Exploratory location AA-ONO-212-KPA-A

**Proposal Number** FP/TR/MINOIL/514247/2024

**User Agency** JAGDEV SINGH NEGI

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 2.2068

**Division** North District Forest 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.

**3. Project Name** Diversion of forest land for construction of Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility at Payong, Melli, Namchi District by Health & Family Welfare Deptt. GoS

**Proposal Number** FP/SK/OTHERS/514965/2024

**User Agency** Dr Manoj Mishra

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 2.4281

**Division** Namchi 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:**

Deferred.

**4. Project Name** Diversion 0.263 ha for construction of Border Intelligence Post at Sherathang by the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau, Govt. of India

**Proposal Number** FP/SK/DEF/483603/2024

**User Agency** D T Sherpa

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.263

**Division** Gangtok 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.

**5. Project Name** Diversion of 63.73 Ha of forest land for regularization (8.0 ha in Gangtok District, 39.84 ha in Namchi District and 15.89 ha in Pakyong District) pre- 1980 settlements in Forest Land-Conversion of Forest Village into Revenue Village in the State of Sikkim by RDD, GoS

**Proposal Number**

FP/SK/OTHERS/484235/2024

**User Agency** C S RAO

**Forest Land Area (Ha)** 56.67

**Division** Gangtok 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.

**6. Project Name** PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF DEWAS III & IV DAMS, TEHSIL GOGUNDA, DISTRICT UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN STATE

**Proposal Number** FP/RJ/WATER/464011/2024

**User Agency** MR MAHENDRA SINGH CHARAN

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 174.1106  
**Division** Udaipur (North) Territorial 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 02.12.2025 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** Diversion of Forest Land for Rehabilitation of Bhairupura Village from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to Kumhariya, Forest Block- Devli Main under Forest Division- Tonk in the State of Rajasthan

**Proposal Number** FP/RJ/REHAB/414712/2023

**User Agency** Mahendra Kumar Sharma

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 198.488

**Division** Tonk Territorial 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:**

Deferred.

**8. Project Name** Access for path to the site of Perch dam reservoir's already diverted land proposed to be re-diverted for the purpose of restoring the reservoir's original capacity and further processing the desilted material.

**Proposal Number** FP/PB/REDIV/469166/2024

**User Agency** Harmanpreet Singh

**Forest Land Area(Ha)**

**Division** SAS Nagar 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.

**9. Project Name** Sijimali Bauxite Mines  
**Proposal Number** FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024  
**User Agency** Purnendu Pandey  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 708.204  
**Division** Kalahandi 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 02.12.2025 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.

<b>10. Project Name</b>	Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/OR/HYD/IRRIG/500690/2024
<b>User Agency</b>	Jogesh Chandra Sahu
<b>Forest Land Area(Ha)</b>	107.596
<b>Division</b>	Kalahandi South Division
<b>Recommendation</b>	Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

<b>11. Project Name</b>	Diversion of 100.797 ha.(100.439 ha lease area + 0.358 ha. for connecting road & 11 KV Power transmission line) of forest land in respect of Kedesala North East Iron Ore Block of M/s. Rungta Mines Ltd.
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/OR/MIN/QRY/500511/2024

**User Agency** HIRAK MAZUMDER

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 100.797

**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** Proposed Kottameta Limestone Mine (Auctioned Block) (ML Area: 802.25 ha) with total excavation of 7.6 million TPA (Limestone Production Capacity – 3.0 Million TPA, Soil 0.5 Million TPA and Waste 4.1 Million TPA) along with 1000 TPH Crusher located at Village – Katamater, Tehsil & District – Malkangiri, Odisha by M/s. Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd.

**Proposal Number** FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445466/2023

**User Agency** Karthikeyan V

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 575.16

**Division** Malkangiri Division

**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

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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:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**13. 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** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**14. Project Name** Saidongar-1 Karjat (3000 MW) Off-stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project  
**Proposal Number** FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/515850/2024  
**User Agency** Basavraj Shivchalappa Munnoli  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 233

**Division** Alibag 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.

**15. 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** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**16. Project Name** SHAKKAR PENCH LINK COMBINED PROJECT PHASE-1 HARD DAM  
**Proposal Number** FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/483015/2024  
**User Agency** D S Thakur Thakur  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 513.4  
**Division** Chhindwara East(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.

**17. Project Name** Damini underground Coal Mine  
**Proposal Number** FP/MP/MIN/QRY/504139/2024  
**User Agency** B K Jena  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 9.621  
**Division** Shahdol South(T) Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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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.

**18. Project Name** Kalamba Tank  
**Proposal Number** FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/468270/2024  
**User Agency** Govind singh Mandloi  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 50.745  
**Division** Sendhwa(T) 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:**

Deferred.

**19. Project Name** Proposed Pathora West Coal Block (Sohagpur Coalfield) has an area of 640.520 ha and the project area is 554.0843 ha with targeted production capacity of 0.80 MTPA (Peak-rated capacity of 1.2 MTPA) located in the Villages of Ghunghuti, Githauri, and PatnarKalan, Tehsil Pali, District Umaria, State Madhya Pradesh. It is an underground mechanized Coal Mine.

**Proposal Number** FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464461/2024

**User Agency** shravan kumar Goyal

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 149.6878

**Division** Umaria(T) Division

**Recom  
menda  
tion** Deferred

**Brief Description of Project:**

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**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

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**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**20. Project Name** MINING LEASE FOR TIKAR BAUXITE PHASE-1 (28.379 HA.)  
**Proposal Number** FP/MP/MIN/QRY/437171/2023  
**User Agency** Pawan Kumar Mittal  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 31.4161  
**Division** Rewa(T) 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:**

Deferred.

**21. Project Name** MACHIGARH PYROPHYLLITE AND DIASPORE DEPOSIT

**Proposal Number** FP/MP/MIN/QRY/508237/2024  
**User Agency** AJAYPAL SINGH PARMAR  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 10.07  
**Division** Tikamgarh(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.

**22. Project Name** M/S Marshall Small Hydel Power Project  
**Proposal Number** FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/516717/2024  
**User Agency** katta sitaram reddy  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 9.08  
**Division** Rewa(T) 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:**

Deferred.

**23. Project Name** Construction of Road, RCC drain, high level causeway for the existing mud road. In addition, dining hall and pump house construction at Kouchugal Sri. Muneshwara swami temple Survey No: 53, Majara Mylanahalli Kavalu, Mylanahalli village , Solur Hobli , Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District.

**Proposal Number** FP/KA/ROAD/487310/2024

**User Agency** Panchayath Development Officer Banavadi

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.3865

**Division** Bangalore Rural 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.

**24. Project Name** Widening to 2L+PS from Km 71.00 to 104.00 of Sarjapur to Pattadakallu on Bhanapur-Gaddankeri section of NH 367 in the State of Karnataka. Job No NH-367-KNT-2022-23-972

**Proposal Number** FP/KA/ROAD/464144/2024

**User Agency** Narendra Sharma

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 4.1479

**Division** Bagalkot 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.

<b>25. Project Name</b>	River Bed Dredging
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/HP/MIN/QRY/523305/2025
<b>User Agency</b>	Vanish Thakur
<b>Forest Land Area(Ha)</b>	13.281
<b>Division</b>	Parbati Division
<b>Recommendation</b>	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.

**26. Project Name** Re -Diversion of 0.807 Hectares Forest land for laying of 200 MM diameter underground carbon steel pipeline from RD 5.75 to RD 23.70 on Bahadurgarh - Jhajjar Road, Haryana

**Proposal Number** FP/HR/REDIV/469434/2024

**User Agency** RAMANDEEP SINGH

**Forest Land Area(Ha)**

**Division** Jhajjar(Central Rohtak) 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 02.12.2025 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.

**27. Project Name** Construction of 2 lane Relief Highway from Ghoripur to Delhi Border (Near Hareveli Village) Section from Ch. 57+250 (Panipat-Sonipat at District Border) to Ch. 82+700 (Barwasni) Falling in Sonipat Distt. Including Improvement with Bituminous Overlay from Ch. 82+700 (Barwasni) to Ch. 104.042 (Delhi Border) in the State of Haryana

**Proposal Number** FP/HR/ROAD/467134/2024

**User Agency** Ajit Singh

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.5627

**Division** Sonipat 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 02.12.2025 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.

**28. Project Name** Diversion of Forest land falling in PLPA area in Sector-21C-II, 21C-III with Gym Khanna Club, Sector-44-47, Sector-45 & Sector-46, Faridabad

**Proposal Number** FP/HR/OTHERS/497879/2024

**User Agency** Jagdev Singh

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 67.68

**Division** Faridabad 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 02.12.2025 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.

**29. Project Name** Construction of Headwork & Cannals of Baroda Khurd Minor Tank Scheme in Karranala river near village Baroda Khurd in Tehsil and Block Sahaspur Lohara of District Kabirdh

am

**Proposal Number** FP/CG/HYD/IRRIG/536341/2025

**User Agency** N K CHOUHAN

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 82.25

**Division** KAWARDHA 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 02.12.2025 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.

**30. Project Name** Hajipur- Sugauli New Rail line project

**Proposal Number** FP/BR/RAIL/532531/2025

**User Agency** Vishal Anand

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 2.76

**Division** Tirhut 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 02.12.2025 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.

**31. Project Name** Diversion of 3.73 Ha. of Forest land for drilling four no. of wells DJM, Well A, Well B, Well C at old Plinth of Bogapani-2in the Upper Dehing Reserved Forest (West Block) under Digboi Forest Division, Assam

**Proposal Number** FP/AS/MINOIL/432400/2023

**User Agency** RUPAM JYOTI SUTRADHAR

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 3.73

**Division** Digboi Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025 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 02.12.2025 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.

**32. Project Name** Underground Storage Facility

**Proposal Number** FP/AS/DEF/518961/2025

**User Agency** Ajay Rana

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 299.201

**Division** Nagaon Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025 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 02.12.2025 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.

**33. Project Name** Diversion of 148.15 ha. of forest land In compartment no.620 of Robertson RF, Anakapalli Forest Division of Anakapalli District in Visakhapatnam circle of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of New Project of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) In favour of Controller, BARC, Mumbai. Detail

**Proposal Number** FP/AP/OTHERS/455305/2023

**User Agency** Jayashree S

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 148.15

**Division** Anakapalli

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025 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:**

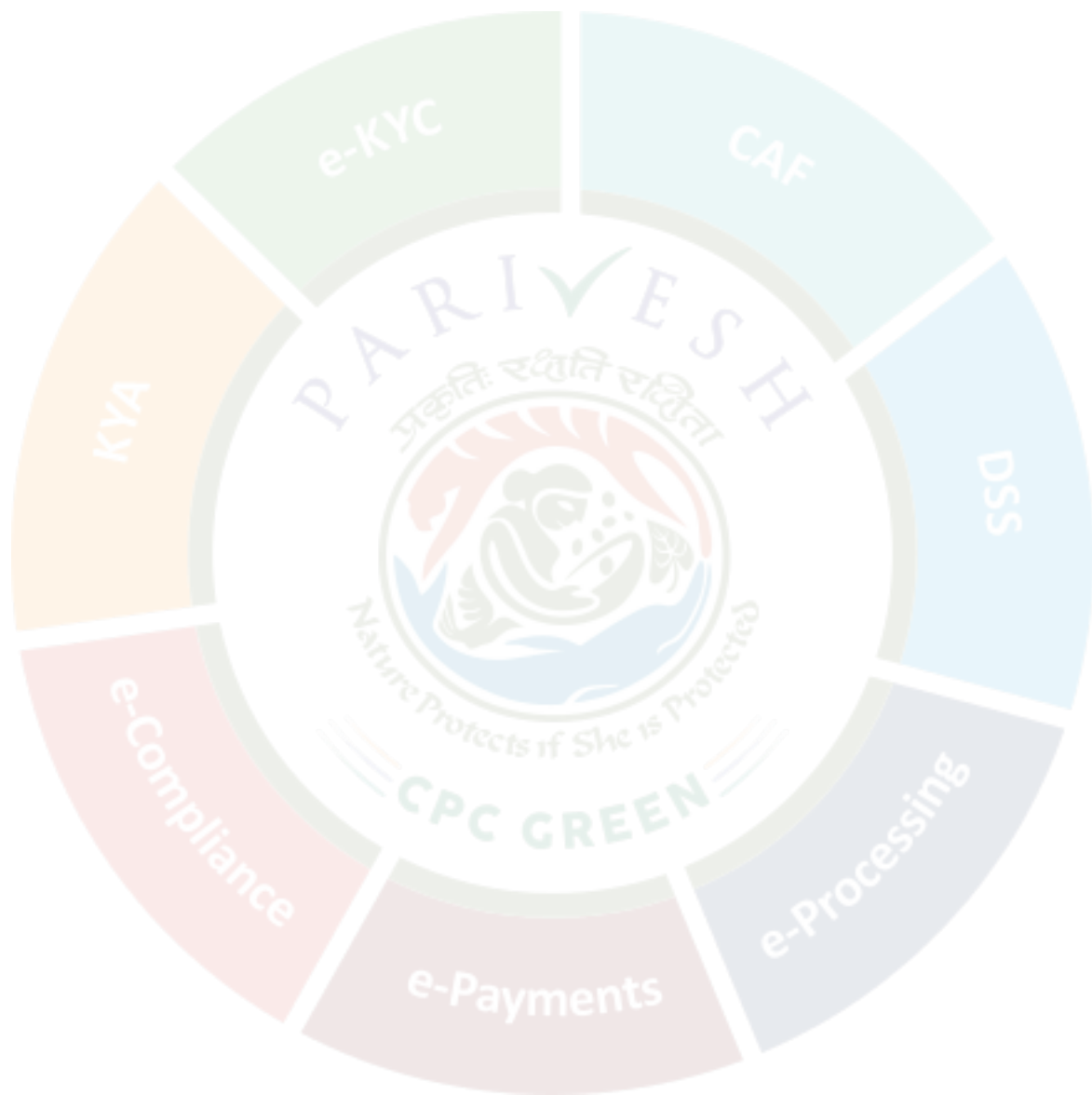
N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025 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.



**(PARIVESH 2.0)**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on  
02.12.2025**

**Agenda No. 1**

**Proposal. No. FP/AP/OTHERS/455305/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for approval of the Central Government under Section of 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 for diversion of 148.15 ha. of forest land in Compartment No. 620 of Robertson RF, Anakapalli Forest Division of Anakapalli District in Visakhapatnam circle of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of New Project of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in favour of Controller, BARC, Mumbai (Online No. FP/AP/OTHERS/455305/2023)– regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained 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 AIGF (Central), MOEF&CC Sub-Office Vijaywada of Regional Office, Chennai and officials from Government of Andhra Pradesh attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The proposal is for diversion of 148.15 ha. of forest land in Compartment No. 620 of Robertson RF, Anakapalli Forest Division of Anakapalli District in Visakhapatnam circle of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of New Project of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in favour of Controller, BARC, Mumbai.
  - ii. Component wise break up are as under:

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Proposed activities</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>
1.	No activities proposed and the area will be left undisturbed without any felling of trees	120.32
2.	Construction of zonal boundaries, zonal patrolling roads, effluent lines storm water drains and area development	16.97
3.	Construction of Jetty for sea water pipelines & effluent pipelines, pump house, zonal boundaries, zonal patrolling roads, effluent lines, storm water drains and area development	6.94

4.	Construction of compound wall, patrolling road and watch towers	3.92
<b>Total</b>		<b>148.15</b>

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.3 of Eco class IV with 1722 tree felling during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- v. No violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 have been reported. Certificate to this effect has been submitted by DFO concerned.
- vi. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area does not falls into High Conservation Value Zone.
- vii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 150.84 ha non-forest land in Survey No. 843 (20.31 ha), 44/100 (58.74 ha) and 1 & 327 (71.79 ha), Tehsil Madugula & Devarapalli, Division- Anakapalli, District- Anakapalli. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO. It is also mentioned that CA land already bears vegetation of 0.4 density, there shall not be an additional requirement of planting of trees, but a programme for improvement of forest crop shall be implemented by Forest Department in a time-bound manner. Improvement of existing growth through ANR model planting, tending and cultural operations, SMC works and protection works such as construction of boundary pillars, fire line creation and maintenance are proposed under CA scheme.
- viii. The Committee was informed that it is mentioned in the proposal that Gol has decided to locate this Strategic project near Visakhapatnam based on security reasons. The site selection was approved by the Atomic Energy Commission as it suffices the requirements for the nuclear project. 1207 hectares of revenue land is already acquired for the project and the 148.15 hectares of forest land proposed for diversion is adjacent to the acquired land and lies between the project site and sea which is required to create buffer zones for safety and security.
- ix. The Committee was further informed that after examination of the proposal in the Ministry, certain shortcomings viz. State Government shall submit the KML for the NFL area of 1207Ha that is part of the complete project, the State Government shall submit the complete KML of Pudikantha RF land and other adjoining forest land, the status of old proposal in PARIVESH 1.0 and reasons for submitting fresh proposal through PARIVESH 2.0 portal,

delay in submission of the forest land diversion proposal, State Government shall submit the EC granted to the said project and The component wise KML file of the proposed forest land along with approved land use plan etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 06.09.2025. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.

x. The State Government submitted its reply online on 03.11.2025 and informed following:

a) The DFO, Anakapalli has submitted that, User agency vide their reply to EDS raised by PSC-the meeting on 22-12-2023, had requested to waive off the uploading of the project area kml file considering the fact that the project is strategic in nature. A plot plan showing the position of Non-Forest Land and the forest land under diversion was uploaded by the user and same is uploaded herewith in PARIVESH portal at relevant column.

b) KML file of instant forest land and adjoining land which is part of the instant forest land is submitted.

c) Reasons for the delay in submission of the proposal are as under:

1. Mutation of land records.
2. State reorganization
3. Introduction of online process and the corresponding Resurvey of the total land again through DGPS and authentication of the maps.
4. District reorganization.
5. Resolving discrepancy in the CA land in Thatiparthi.

Further, user agency have replied that reasons for applying in Parivesh 2.0 as below:

The earlier proposal which was uploaded in PARIVESH-1.0 portal was delisted/deleted by the ministry automatically as the proposal was not accorded any clearances by then. Hence the proposal was once again submitted in PARIVESH-2.0 as per the directions received by User agency from Monitoring Cell.

d) It is reported that, the user agency has submitted an undertaking that the Environmental Clearance was obtained for their project vide Ref No:J-14011/3/2010-1A.II(N) dt.28th May 2012 and CRZ clearance also obtained vide Ref.No.961/CZMA /2011, dt. 17.08.2011. Considering the fact that the project is strategic in nature, user agency has requested to waive off the uploading of the EC online.

e) It is mentioned that DFO, Anakapalli has replied that, the user agency has requested to waive off the uploading of the KML file pertaining to proposed land use considering the fact that the project is strategic in nature. However, user agency has submitted a sketch showing the proposed developments in the proposed forest land under diversion.

- xi. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Chennai on 09.09.2025. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chennai. Summary of the same are as under:

**1. Project Information**

1.1 Name of the proposal:

Diversion of 148.15 ha of Forest land in Compartment no. 620 of Robertson RF, Anakapalli Forest Division of Anakapalli district in Visakhapatnam circle of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of New project of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in favour of Controller, BARC, Mumbai

1.2 Area: 148.15 Ha

1.3 Division Name: Anakapalli

1.4 Agency Name : Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Department of Atomic Energy, GOI

1.5 Official of State present during Inspection:

1) Sri M Samuel, DFO, Anakapalli

2) FRO, Anakapalli

1.6 Date of Inspection: 09.09.2025

**2. Site Inspection Report**

2.1 Legal status of Forest Land: Reserve Forest

2.2 Total Forest Area(ha): 148.15

The total extent of the proposed forest land is 148.15 Hectares. Boundary demarcation pillars were erected and points numbered. No construction activity was observed in this land by the user agency.

BARC is setting up a new campus on the East coast near Visakhapatnam based on strategic reasons. The selection of site was based on recommendations of Site Selection Committee and approved by Atomic Energy Commission. Of this 1207 hectares of revenue land is already acquired for the project. The 148.15 hectares of forest land proposed for diversion is adjacent to this acquired land and lies between the project site and Sea. It is to be highlighted that 120.32 Hectares out of the 148.15 Hectares proposed for diversion will be left undisturbed and will serve as buffer zone required for security and safety reasons. Only 27.83 hectares of forest land is planned to be developed for project purpose like routing of services and effluent discharge line, sea water lines, construction of jetty, security watch towers, compound wall and patrolling roads.

User agency will be able to secure the perimeter after the diversion of the forest land. Planned construction works in the Revenue land are

nearing completion and the commissioning of the same is dependent on the completion of the compound wall.

**3. Whether the proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential)**

Proposal involves construction of Perimeter Compound wall, Zonal security fencing, Patrolling roads, Pump house, Watch towers, drains, Service lines and Area development works.

4. **Wildlife:** It is reported wild boar, Hares, Mongoose and Snakes are present in the proposed site

**5. Vegetation**

6.1 Total number of trees to be felled: 1,722 out of 21,244

**6.2 Effect of Removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:**

The trees are not felled in the area close to the sea and does not have any effect on the general ecosystem. Of the area

**6. Important Species**

7.1 Species-wise local/scientific names (extracted from Part-II uploaded by DFO)

*Anacardium occidentale* – JeediMamidi

*Eucalyptus* spp - Neelagiri

*Moringa oliefera* - Thogara

*Acacia auriculiformis* - Acacia

*Pangamia pinnata* - Knuga

*Ficus bengalensis* - Marri

*Caurina equisitifolia* - Casurina

*Prosopis juliflora* - Sarkar Tumma

*Borasis flebilifer* - Taatichettu

*Azadirachta indica* - Vepa

*Syzigium cumini* - Neredu

**7. Compensatory Afforestation:**

7.1 Whether Land or Compensatory Afforestation is suitable from a plantation and management point of view: Yes

7.2 Whether Land or Compensatory Afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances: Yes

7.3 Whether Land or Compensatory Afforestation is important from Religious/Archeological point of view: No

7.4 Land identifies for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, and whether patches are compact or not: 3

7.5 KML file of CA land: Provided

7.6 KML file of Additional CA land: NA

7.7 Upload photographs or pdf: Will be uploaded

7.8 Total financial outlay: ₹3.5435 Cr (as per part-II by DFO)

7.9 Recommendation of Regional Office on proposed land for CA:  
Recommended

**8. Whether the project is site specific: Yes**

PROJECT SPECIFIC DETAILS:

9. Hydel NOT APPLICABLE

10. Details of mining NOT APPLICABLE

11. Violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023  
(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) adhiyam

11.1 Total area proposed for diversion :148.15  
Ha

11.2 Extent of area out of proposed diversion is in violation :Nil

11.3 Period of violation :Not  
applicable

11.4 Whether violation is still continuing :Not  
applicable

12. Whether the proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons  
:No

13. Comments should be furnished :Not  
applicable

14. **Cost benefit ratio:** Not applicable as this is a Strategic R&D Centre of Govt. Of India. This centre will help in nation building by carrying out research in nuclear field with applications in Energy security, Health, Agriculture, Water etc. and other Strategic applications as mandated by Govt of India.

**15. Recommendation of the PCCF/ State Government:**

15.1 Recommendation of PCCF :Recommended

15.2 Recommendation of the State Government :Recommended

**16. Recommendations of DDG:** Recommendation are as under:

i. BARC is setting up a new campus on the East coast near Visakhapatnam based on strategic reasons. The selection of site was based on recommendations of Site Selection Committee and approved by Atomic Energy Commission. Of this 1207 hectares of revenue land is already acquired for the project. The 148.15 hectares of forest land proposed for diversion is adjacent to this acquired land and lies between the project site and Sea. It is to be highlighted that 120.32 Hectares out of the 148.15 Hectares proposed for diversion

will be left undisturbed and will serve as buffer zone required for security and safety reasons. Only 27.83 hectares of forest land is planned to be developed for project purpose like routing of services and effluent discharge line, sea water lines, construction of jetty, security watch towers, compound wall and patrolling roads.

- ii. User agency will be able to secure the perimeter after the diversion of the forest land. Planned construction works in the Revenue land are nearing completion and the commissioning of the same is dependent on the completion of the compound wall. The total extent of the proposed forest land is 148.15 Hectares. Boundary demarcation pillars were erected and points numbered. No construction activity was observed in this land by the user agency.
  - iii. Proposal involves construction of Perimeter Compound wall, Zonal security fencing, Patrolling roads, Pump house, Watch towers, drains, Service lines and Area development works. Total number of trees to be felled: 1,722 out of 21,244. The trees are not felled in the area close to the sea and does not have any effect on the general ecosystem. The project is Site Specific.
  - iv. The project is a Strategic project of Govt. of India and the DPR is protected from disclosure. Environmental clearances were obtained for the first and second phase of the project vide "J-14011/3/2010-1A.II(N) dated 28.05.2012" and "J-11013/24/2015-1A-I(D) dated 12.07.2019.
  - v. CRZ clearance was accorded by AP Coastal Zone Management Authority vide Lr.No.56/APCZMA/2017 dated 27.10.2017 which includes construction of Jetty to route 1900mm dia Inlet and Out fall pipelines carrying sea water and effluent discharge pipelines.
  - vi. Site inspection of the CA lands was carried out by AIGF, Sub Office Vijayawada on 08.09.2025. The CA land was given at three locations and having canopy densities of more than 0.6 which is acceptable from the management point of view. The CA land was handed over to the Forest Department by the year 2012 as per the Proceedings of the District Collector, Visakhapatnam vide Rc.No.3856/2008/E1 dated 23.06.2012 and as per the instructions in these proceedings, the entries were made in the revenue records by the respective Mandal revenue authorities. The CA land can be accepted.
17. **Any other information relating to the project:** The project is a Strategic project of Govt. of India and the DPR is protected from disclosure.

Environmental clearances were obtained for the first and second phase of the project vide "J-14011/3/2010-1A.II(N) dated 28.05.2012" and "J-11013/24/2015-1A-I(D) dated 12.07.2019. CRZ clearance was accorded by AP Coastal Zone Management Authority vide

Lr.No.56/APCZMA/2017 dated 27.10.2017 which includes construction of Jetty to route 1900mm dia Inlet and Out fall pipelines carrying sea water and effluent discharge pipelines.

17.1 Site Inspection report:

Site inspection of the CA lands was carried out on 08.09.2025 accompanied by the following:

- 1) Sri M Samuel, DFO, Anakapalli
- 2) FRO, Chodavaram
- 3) Sri LC Naidu, Chief Architect, BARC Vizag from User agency

The details of the CA land are given below patch wise:

**Sammeda CA Land :**

Located in Sammeda village, Devarapalli mandal, Anakapalli district. The extent of this patch is 58.74 Ha and is part of a small hill. This land is adjacent to Pedakota RF in Jeenabadu range, Paderu division. The canopy density of the vegetation is around 0.7.

**Vadalametta CA Land:**

Located in Madugula village, Anakapalli district. The extent is 20.31 Ha and is part of a small hillock. This land is adjacent to Madugula RL. The canopy of the vegetation is more than 0.6.

**Tatiparthi CA Land :**

Located in Tatiparthi village of Madugula mandal, Anakapalli district. The extent of this patch is 71.79 Ha and is part of a hill. This land is flanked by Sanakaram RL on one side and by Polavaram CA land on the other side. The DGPS Survey and map authentication is completed. Boundary demarcation pillars were erected and numbered in all the above patches of CA land. The Canopy density of the vegetation is more than 0.6.

The CA land was handed over to the Forest Department by the year 2012 as per the Proceedings of the District Collector, Visakhapatnam vide Rc.No.3856/2008/E1 dated 23.06.2012 and as per the instructions in these proceedings, the entries were made in the revenue records by the respective Mandal revenue authorities. The CA land can be accepted.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the AIGF (Central), Sub-Office Vijaywada of Regional Office, Chennai and officials from Government of Andhra Pradesh, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 148.15 ha. of forest land in Compartment No. 620 of Robertson RF, Anakapalli Forest Division of Anakapalli District in Visakhapatnam circle of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of New Project of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in favour of Controller, BARC, Mumbai subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:

- i. No land use change shall be considered for non-site specific activities in future on the diverted land.
- ii. KML file of Pudikantha RF shall be submitted along with Stage- I compliance report.

### **Agenda No. 3**

#### **Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/432400/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Oil India Ltd. for non-forestry use of 3.73 ha of Reserved Forest land for drilling four no. of wells DJM, Well A, Well B, Well C for exploration of crude oil and Natural Gas at old plinth of Bogapani-2 in the Upper Dehing Reserve Forest (West Block) under Digboi Forest Division, Tinsukia District in the State of Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/432400/2023)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DIGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, note the following:
  - (i) Proposal involves diversion of 3.73 ha of Reserved Forest for drilling four no. of wells DJM, Well A, Well B, Well C for exploration of crude oil and Natural Gas at old plinth of Bogapani-2 in the Upper Dehing Reserve Forest (West Block) under Digboi Forest Division, Tinsukia District in the State of Assam.
  - (ii) As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.86 ha is required for approach road and 2.87 ha for plinth area.
  - (iii) Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.3 of Eco class I with 65 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
  - (iv) Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. However, the DFO, Digboi has mentioned that the proposed area is part of Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve. The PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Assam has recommended the proposal with following conditions:
    - (a) The PP shall resort to minimal tree felling.
    - (b) No adverse impact shall be caused to the wild animals and their habitat.

- (c) The PP shall take adequate measures against all kinds of pollution likely to be caused by implementation of the project including disasters like oil & gas leakage or explosion of the well.
  - (d) 2% of the total project cost shall be deposited as Corpus Fund to be utilized by the CWLW for Wild Life Conservation & Management and Mitigation of Human-Animal Conflict including preparation of plans.
  - (e) Wild Life Conservation Plan and Wild Animal-Human-Conflict Mitigation Plan shall be submitted within 3 months after receipt of 2% of the total project cost of Corpus Fund.
- (v) No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificate to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
  - (vi) As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area does not fall into High Conservation value Zone.
  - (vii) Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 3.75 ha non-forest land inside compensatory afforestation land bank of 830 ha which is located adjacent to Burahchapory Wildlife Sanctuary under Nagaon Wildlife Division, Nagaon. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
  - (viii) The life of mineral oil reservoir is 20 years, the mining lease was approved on 26.11.2009 for 20 years which is valid till 25.11.2029. Four boreholes of 400 m<sup>3</sup> drill cut has been proposed. As per DSS, size of each well is measured as 0.00012 ha.
  - (ix) The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings which were conveyed to the State Government 16.04.2024 and 8.01.2025.
  - (x) The State Government on 12.12.2024 and 10.11.2025 submitted online reply inter-alia informing the following:
    - (a) An area of approximately 0.4 ha out of 3.73 ha of forest land proposed for diversion has been encroached by tea gardens by local people which has been evicted on 15.09.2025. Also, approximately 200 ha of forest area has been evicted in last 3 years under this division.
    - (b) M/s Oil India Ltd. had drilled a well (Bogapani Well no-2) in this proposed diversion area in the year 1978 i.e. before the enactment of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. Accordingly, no approval was obtained for the Bogapani Well No.2. The user agency now proposed drilling of four bore wells in the plinth where Bogapani Well no.2 was already drilled.
    - (c) The Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with certain conditions.

- (xi) No violation of the Adhiniyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
  - (xii) The Regional Office also submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhiniyam. The Regional Office in its recommendation inter-alia recommended for regularization for forest and environment clearance of the existing development wells in the old Bogapani-2 plinth as the wells are still active and producing. The Regional Office also recommended that 2% of the project cost shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA which will be utilized to prepare and implement elephant centric wildlife mitigation plan.
  - (xiii) The Committee noted that charging of 2% cost norms is an optional arrangement which is to be exercised when the preparation of plan is delayed due to unavoidable reasons which are beyond the control of user agency and the State Government. In the instant case, the State Government should make effort to prepared Plan and submit the same to the Ministry before Stage-II approval.
  - (xiv) As regards regularization of the bore well area corresponding to Bogapani Well no-2, the Nodal Office informed the Committee that the said area is part of the extant proposal and separate proposal for the regularization of the said area is not required.
  - (xv) With regards to violation, the Committee, taking note of DSS observations, found that there has been prominent construction or land breaking activities in the area from January 2019 onwards which constitutes violations. The State Government needs to ascertain the exact area worked out or broken up by the user agency in violation of the Adhiniyam i.e. without obtaining the prior approval of the Central Government after 25.10.1980 and accordingly, penal measure may be stipulated in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry.
  - (xvi) As regards the court case mentioned by the Regional Office in their inspection report, the Nodal Officer informed that the said court case is pending in the Hon'ble NGT and is related to grant of Environment Clearance.
  - (xvii) The Committee, keeping in view the safety concerns related to such activities in the forest areas, opined that the user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department should keep the forest area of optimum width along the boundary of the area proposed for diversion clear of vegetation as a fire control lines.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 3.73 ha of Reserved Forest for drilling four no. of wells DJM, Well A, Well B, Well C for exploration of crude oil and Natural Gas at old plinth of Bogapani-2 in the Upper Dehing Reserve Forest (West Block) under Digboi Forest Division,

Tinsukia District in the State of Assam subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:

- i. A comprehensive site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared and implemented at the cost of the user agency to reduce the adverse effect of project on wildlife. This will also include a comprehensive Human–Elephant Conflict Monitoring and Mitigation Plan. The preparation of the Wildlife Management Plan and monitoring of its implementation shall be done by Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The plan shall include systematic monitoring of human–elephant interactions, research on habitat use and conflict drivers, and capacity-building programmes for local communities, forest managers and developers to ensure effective conflict prevention and management.
- ii. The safety zone of 7.5 meter wide strip along the inner boundary of impact areas of a drilling bore hole(s) or oil well pad shall be maintained by the user agency as a green belt by undertaking plantations or allowing the natural regeneration to come up. In addition, the hazardous zone around the bore well, oil pads or pipelines or other ancillary infrastructure should be maintained by the user agency during the exploitation or transportation of mineral oil as per the norms stipulated in the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, and rules framed thereunder.
- iii. The State Government shall assess the exact area worked out or broken up by the user agency in violation of the Adhinyam i.e. without obtaining the prior approval of the Central Government after 25.10.1980 and accordingly, penalty shall be levied in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry.
- iv. The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
- v. Legal proceedings under section 3A and 3B of the Adhinyam or Indian Forest Act, 1927 of local Act, as applicable, shall be initiated by the State and a report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval.
- vi. The user agency shall abide by the direction to be passed in OA no. 19 of 2014 which is under consideration of Hon'ble NGT.
- vii. Recommendations made in the Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas (2022-23 (Safety and Security of Oil Installations of Public Sector Oil companies with specific reference to Baghjan Blow -out incident) shall be strictly adhered to by the user agency to avoid disaster in future.
- viii. The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department should keep the forest area of optimum width along the boundary of the area proposed for diversion clear of vegetation as a fire control lines.

## Agenda No. 4

Proposal No: FP/BR/RAIL/532531/2025

**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 2.76 ha Protected forest land for construction of Hajipur- Sugauli New Rail line project under Muzaffarpur District of Bihar State.**

1. The agenda for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), RO, Ranchi attended the meeting while the Nodal Officer, Bihar State was not 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 Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The Government of Bihar vide their letter No. 4/Van Bhumi-126/2025-3947/Pa.Va.Ja.Pa. dated 24.07.2025 submitted the above mentioned proposal through online PARIVESH seeking Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ii. The proposed forest land falls under Tirhut Forest Division, Muzaffarpur District. The canopy density of the proposed forest land reported as 0.1 with Eco-class 3 wherein total 33 number of trees reported to affected due to the instant project.
  - iii. The proposed diversion of 2.76Ha forest land is to facilitate laying of new railway line in Deoria-Sahebganj, section/block of Hajipur-Sagauli New Rail Line Project in the canal of Jatauliya minor sub-tributary in Sahebganj block, Dist-Muzaffarpur Bihar. The Non-forest land required throughout the project has already been procured by user agency.
  - iv. The proposed diversion of 2.76Ha forest land is to facilitate laying of new railway line in Deoria-Sahebganj, section/block of Hajipur-Sagauli New Rail Line Project. Non-forest land required throughout has already been procured by user agency. In this section, around 900 m of new track laying is planned on land where an irrigation canal was running throughout. The user agency was required to shift the existing canal section of this length (about 900 m) so that new rail line could be laid up upon this linear section.
  - v. The canal, of width about 20 m and adjacent land (linear strip of 10-15 m both sides) is under ownership of Water Resources Department (Gandak

Project), Government of Bihar. The linear strip both sides the canal is notified as Protected Forest as per Notification Number 485E dated 15/4/1994 by Government of Bihar. The user agency has informed to barter this piece of land from WRD and started the work of new line laying without obtaining prior approval of competent authority to do non-forestry works in a notified forest land belonging to the ownership of some other department than State Forest Department. Start of this non-forestry work on notified forest came to the knowledge of State Forest Department and thereafter, the application for involved forest land diversion was made/applied (on 21/6/2025).

- vi. The State Government has informed that on the report of Range Officer that the trees were along Jitwalia Minor canal, a notified protected forest, and that soil filling on the canal embankments had taken place in violation of the Indian Forest Act and Forest (Conservation) Act, DFO Tirhut directed the Range Officer to get the work stopped, informed Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (CAMPA)-cum-Nodal Officer, Bihar, and directed officials from the Water Resources Department and Railways to explain the situation of work getting started without approval. It was emphasized to them that any tree felling or transplantation in protected forests requires prior clearance through the PARIVESH Portal. An offence was subsequently registered by the Forest Guard. Offence was registered under Indian Forest Act on 19/04/2025. Offence Report No 02 by Forest Guard. Offence Report has also been submitted to ACJM 1st Muzaffarpur West on 19/04/2025. At present, a Forest Case has been lodged under Indian forest Act 1927 against the Railway officials, East Central Railway Muzaffarpur.
- vii. The committee noted that the State Govt. has submitted survey reports etc . However, the copy of NoC from the land owing agency i.e. Water Resource Department, Govt. of Bihar for the instant Railway project has not been submitted. It is noted that cabinet has accorded the approval vide letter no. 6/Kha Ma-Muzaffarpur (Rail)-06/2024 dt. 20.12.2024 for transfer of canal land to railways. The land belonging to canal department has been transferred to railways and the railway land has been transferred to canal for construction of the diverted canal.
- viii. The component wise land use details submitted with the proposal is as follows:

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Forest Land (ha)</b>	<b>Non-forest Land (ha)</b>
1	Formation	2.76	742.33

- ix. As per DSS analysis, the satellite imagery of the proposed area is available since 2012. The State Government has informed that the proposal under consideration is a fresh forest diversion case. It has also been stated that the proposed forest land was declared as Protected Forest under the Forest and Environment Department Notification No. 1441 dated 15.11.1994.

However, there is a lack of information regarding whether the Jatauliya Minor Sub-Tributary Canal was constructed before or after 15.11.1994.

- x. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has been proposed over degraded forest land in a single patch comprising an area of 7.5 ha located under Banka District of Bihar State.
  - xi. The site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Ranchi. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Ranchi. As per SIR, considering the profound utility of railways in the holistic development of northern Bihar, the project may be considered for recommendation subject to following conditions:-
    - a. The user agency shall be imposed with penal NPV as highlighted in the consolidated guidelines and the DFO shall be authorised by central government to take cognisance for the violation of V(S&S) A, 1980.
    - b. User agency shall resubmit the online application by including complete alignment of the ongoing track construction with component wise break ups in forest and non-forest areas and CA related undertakings in it.
    - c. Railway and WRD shall submit undertakings that at no other locations canal side area is required for the present project. A similar undertaking from Road Construction Department of the state would be solicited to establish that no road-side protected forest is falling at any location in the present project alignment. The State Forest Department shall jointly survey the entire course of proposed track route to ensure that at no other location forest land is involved in the project.
    - d. Linear strip both sides along the diverted/realigned canal shall be restored as green belt and preferably notified as Protected Forest by the state government. User agency shall also bear the cost of signboards installation at several locations depicting presence of forest area in these canal side protected forests as per the direction by DFO.
    - e. User agency shall ensure that shifting/realigning the canal does not compromise with the prior capacity of the canal or does not jeopardise any public utility component. The WRD shall continuously monitor the implementation of the realignment work to ensure the facility is restored to its previous capability in best possible way.
    - f. User agency shall deposit the cost of plantation along the realigned/diverted canal side to State Forest Department.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Ranchi, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 2.76 ha Protected

forest land in favour of Ministry of Railway for construction of Hajipur- Sugauli New Rail line project under Muzaffarpur District of Bihar State subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:

- i. The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
- ii. The State Government shall initiate action against violations in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as applicable.
- iii. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.
- iv. The legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion shall not be changed. Further the linear strips on both sides of the diverted/realigned canal shall be restored as a green belt and notified as Protected Forest under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant section(s) of the local Forest Act, before issuance of final approval by the state Government.

## **Agenda No. 5**

### **Proposal No FP/CG/HYD/IRRIG/536341/2025**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 82.25 hectares of forest land in the Sahaspur Lohara forest range of Kawardha Forest Division for the construction of Barodakhurd Minor Reservoir and Canal Construction Project by Water Resources Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh under Kabirdham District of Chhattisgarh State.**

1. The agenda for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), RO Nagpur and the Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Chhattisgarh 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 before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. The Govt. of Chhattisgarh vide its letter No F 5-27/2025/10-2 dated 12.09.2025 submitted 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 82.25 hectares of forest land in the Sahaspur Lohara forest range of Kawardha Forest Division for the construction of Barodakhurd Minor Reservoir and Canal Construction Project by Water Resources Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh under Kabirdham District of Chhattisgarh State
- ii. The State has informed that the construction work of Baroda Khurd Minor Tank Scheme is proposed at Karranala near village Baroda Khurd of Tehsil and Block SahaspurLohara under Kawardha Assembly Constituency of Kabirdham District.
  - iii. The total water holding capacity of the Tank is 8.4072 million cubic meters. Under the scheme, the Main & Saddle earthen dam, waste weir, Spill Chanel and canal work, including main canal, distributary canal and minor canals are proposed. Under the head work, the length of the main + Saddle earthen dam is 1070.0 meter (including waste weir) and the maximum height of the dam is 23.70 meter & Main canal of 12.78 km and minor canals are proposed in Scheme.
  - iv. The proposed forest land falls in Kawardha Forest Division wherein 82.25 ha forest land is required for the execution of the project out of which 77.461 ha is Protected Forest and 4.789 ha is Revenue Forest.
  - v. The proposed forest area is having canopy density of 0.6 (Eco Class-3) and total 12382 number of trees present in the proposed forest land out of which 11798 Number of trees have been reported to be felled.
  - vi. The CWLW, Govt. of Chhattisgarh vide letter dated 15.07.2025 informed that the proposed forest land for diversion is located outside the ESZ of Bhoramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary at a distance of 2.321 Km and the proposed project is located at a distance of 10.337 Km from the Kanha To Indravati Corridor.
  - vii. The Nodal officer apprised the committee that the forest land required for the construction of Barodakhurd minor reservoir is minimal and essential. With the construction of this project, the region will experience an increase in biodiversity likewise year-round water availability for wildlife, and an improvement in the water level, which will clearly support plant growth. Moreover, the local residents will receive drinking water, and local farmers will get irrigation facilities for 1980 hectares of land for their agricultural activities, along with other basic amenities.
  - viii. The component wise land use details submitted with the proposal is as follows:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)</b>	<b>Non-forest Land (ha)</b>
1	EARTHEN MAIN DAM	3.906	4.95
2	EARTHEN SADDLE DAM	1.7	0
3	SPILLWAY AND SPILL CHANNEL	1.18	0.891
4	SLUICE GATE WITH UNDERGROUND BARRAL	0.25	0.075
5	CONTROL ROOM	0.27	0
6	BASIN EXPANSION FOR INCREASING STORAGE IN SUBMERGENCE AREA	8.672	4.8
7	SUBMERGENCE AREA	66.207	12.654
8	FEEDER CANNAL	0.065	0.018
	<b>Total</b>	<b>82.2499</b>	<b>23.3880</b>

- ix. As per the DSS analysis 53.141 ha area (as per the KML file) of the canal which is required to be constructed for further distribution of water from the proposed dam has not been included in the proposal. In this regard, the Nodal officer, Govt. of Chhattisgarh informed the committee only canal portion which is part of present diversion proposal has been included in the proposal and the further distribution of water through canals are located in the Non-Forest land and the said area will be required after the completion of dam. Hence, the Non-forest land for the canal component has not been included at present by the Water Resource Department.
- x. For compensatory afforestation, a total of 82.25 hectares of non-forest land has been proposed, comprising 37.46 hectares in Village Nagpura of Durg Tehsil, 11.79 hectares in Village Sorm of Patan Tehsil, 20.00 hectares in Village Khapri of Ahiwara Tehsil, and 13.00 hectares in Village Aheri.
- xi. After the scrutiny of the proposal in the Ministry, certain shortcomings were observed and the information was requested online from the State on 07.10.2025.
- xii. The State Government submitted its reply online on 10.11.2025 and informed following:
  - a. The user agency had identified three alternative construction sites and based on the technical requirements of the project, the site selected in the present proposal was found suitable by the Chief Engineer, Mahanadi-Godavari Basin, Water Resources Department, Raipur. Thereafter, the proposed site was re-evaluated by the VNIT Nagpur and approved accordingly. The present site selection is based on the fact

- that involves the least area of the forest land and the minimum tree felling.
- b. Out of 82.249 ha forest land, 8.672 ha forest land has been proposed for the site for basin expansion within the submergence zone with an intent to increase storage in the submergence area and the area proposed for basin expansion will lie below the Lowest Sea Level (LSL), due to which it will remain submerged permanently.
  - c. An open canal system has been proposed for irrigation purposes which does not require electricity for its operation. Two head regulators have been proposed for operating the canal, and since the gates are small, they are designed to be operated manually. A small gate has also been provided in the spill channel, which will likewise be operated manually.
  - d. The Muck-Disposal Plan of the Barodakhurd Minor Reservoir Project has been approved by the Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, Durg vide letter dated 15.10.2025 and the forest land will not be utilized for muck disposal during construction phase of the project.
  - e. The area proposed for compensatory afforestation is revenue land under the jurisdiction of the Collector, District Durg, where plantations have already been undertaken under various State Government schemes. The Collector, District Durg, has issued a No Objection Certificate vide order dated 05.09.2024 for transferring this revenue land in favour of the Forest Department. The DFO, Durg, inspected the said land and issued a site suitability certificate, confirming that the area is free from encroachment. The Office of the Collector, Land Records, Durg, through letter dated 06.08.2025, has also instructed the concerned authorities to mutate the above 82.25 hectares of revenue land in favour of the Forest Department.
- xiii. The committee observed that compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 12 patches out of which 9 are smaller than 10 ha and 6 patches are below 5 ha. the committee observed that smaller patches contiguous to forest areas may be accepted, however isolated patches which are less than 5 ha will not be suitable for management.
  - xiv. The Nodal Officer informed that the holistic proposal has been submitted by the state. The canal is proposed to be constructed entirely in Non-forest land and there is no involvement of forest land in the construction of canal.
  - xv. The site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Nagpur. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Nagpur. As per SIR, considering the recommendation of the State Government and the public utility nature of the project, the proposal is recommended for consideration under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, subject to the following specific conditions:

- a. The State Government shall implement the Catchment Area Treatment Plan at the project cost and constitute a monitoring committee to oversee its execution.
  - b. (b) The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) scheme shall be implemented as per the provisions of the VSS Rules, 2023, and the guidelines issued thereunder. The Non-Forest Land (NFL) area shall be properly fenced to protect the plantation and prevent possible encroachments.
  - c. (c) The User Agency shall ensure that trees existing between the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) and FRL 4 are not felled. Tree felling, wherever permitted, shall be carried out under the supervision of the Forest Department.
  - d. (d) The User Agency shall ensure that muck is utilized to the maximum extent possible, and the remaining quantity is disposed of outside the forest area in an environmentally sound manner.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Nagpur and the Nodal officer (FCA), Government of Chhattisgarh recommended the proposal for grant of **'in-principle'** approval for diversion of 82.25 hectares of forest land in favor of Water Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh in the Sahaspur Lohara forest range of Kawardha Forest Division for the construction of Barodakhurd Minor Reservoir and Canal Construction Project by Water Resources Department under Kabirdham District of Chhattisgarh State subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:
- i. The user agency shall furnish a report from the State Dam Safety Organization (SDSO) as applicable regarding all technical aspects wrt the dam. The recommendations shall be implemented by the user agency to avoid any possible unforeseen conditions.
  - ii. Further, the State Government shall obtain approval of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) as applicable on the recommendations made by the State Dam Safety Organization (SDSO) and submit the same along with the compliance of Stage I approval.
  - iii. The User Agency shall ensure that trees existing between the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) and FRL- 4 are not felled.
  - iv. The User Agency shall ensure that muck is utilized to the maximum extent possible, and the remaining quantity is disposed of outside the forest area in an environmentally sound manner.
  - v. The Catchment Area Treatment Plan approved by the PCCF(HoFF)/ competent authority shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency.
  - vi. As per DSS analysis 19.46 ha non forest land involved in the project was found overlapping with the forest boundary. In this regard, the state shall take up the matter with FSI for the correction of digital boundaries.

### **Agenda No. 8**

**Proposal No. FP/HR/OTHERS/497879/2024**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran for ex-post facto approval of 67.68 ha (originally proposed 22.35 ha) of areas notified under Section 4 of PLPA land in Sector 21C-II, Sector 21C-III with Gym Khana Club, Sector- 44-47, Sector-45 & Sector- 46 for construction/development of Gym Khana club, green belt, tourism site, service road, college site, institutional site, Regional labour institute, fire station, water works, petrol pump, police station etc. under Forest Division & District Faridabad in the State of Haryana (Online Proposal No. FP/HR/OTHERS/497879/2024)-regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Haryana attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The proposal is for ex-post facto approval of 67.68 ha (originally proposed 22.35 ha) of areas notified under Section 4 of PLPA land in Sector 21C-II, Sector 21C-III with Gym Khana Club, Sector- 44-47, Sector-45 & Sector- 46 for construction/development of Gym Khana club, green belt, tourism site, service road, college site, institutional site, Regional labour institute, fire station, water works, petrol pump, police station etc. under Forest Division & District Faridabad in the State of Haryana.
  - ii. Component wise break up are as under:

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Component name</b>	<b>Proposed area</b>	<b>Software calculated area</b>
1.	Sec 21C	41.586	41.527
2.	Gymkhana club, greenbelt, Tourism site & service rd	3.097	3.093
3.	Sec 46	0.4795	0.479
4.	21 c ii A	0.134	0.134
5.	21 c ii B	0.2636	0.263
6.	Sec 21 c ii C	1.4683	1.466
7.	Sector 45	4.7835	4.777
8.	Dividing rd sec 44 and 47	4.436	4.43

9.	College site sec 44-47 area	4.6112	4.605
10.	Institutional site sec 44-47	4.5756	4.569
11.	Regional labour institute	0.7258	0.725
12.	Fire station	0.0708	0.071
13.	Water works & police stn sec 44-47	1.3587	1.357
14.	Petrol pump sec 44-47	0.09	0.09
<b>Total</b>		<b>67.68</b>	<b>67.586</b>

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.1 of Eco class III with no tree felling proposed to be felled during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposed area for diversion is around 3.16 Km from Asola Bhati WLS.
- v. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- vi. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area does not falls into High Conservation Value Zone.
- vii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 135.56 ha degraded land notified under Section 4 & 5 of PLPA, 1900 in Sector 44-47. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- viii. The Committee was informed that the proposal involves violation, DFO, Faridabad has mentioned in Part- II that user agency has violated the provisions of Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 over an area of 67.68 ha from 1990-1994 and utilized the forest land for non forestry purpose without any prior approval of Central govt. under section 2 of Forest Conservation Act. The User agency HSVP Faridabad, has now applied for post facto approval. DFO, Faridabad has mentioned that regarding violation done, the user agency has submitted their detailed reply justifying that no individual officer can be held responsible for the project. Reply of the user agency is as under:
  1. It is submitted that no individual officer can be held responsible for this project in the background of the facts and circumstances of the usage of the PLPA lands taken place in the past considering that the non forest use in the present case has been undertaken in accordance with the general perception of the state (of not treating areas notified under PLPA section 4/5 as forest).
  2. Moreover, the guidelines dated 29.12.2023 prescribed by the MoEFCC in respect of PLPA land do not prescribe for fixing up responsibility on

individual officers (and/or even penal compensatory afforestation) in respect of the proposals falling in category of the said guidelines.

3. It is also relevant to submit that the present proposal seeking approval under the FC Act has been submitted in view of the honourable Supreme Court Order dated 21.07.2022 as otherwise the project area could not have been considered as forest land as the notification dated 18.08.1992 for 30 years has already expired and also in view of the PLP(Haryana amendment act 2019) which specifically provided that areas forming part of the master development plan could not form part of the notifications issued under PLPA.

Further, it is also mentioned that notices were issued to the Estate officer, HSVP, Faridabad vide order no 2648 and 2653 dated 08.12.2022 by DCF office. After issuing of notices to concerned department, HSVP has applied for ex-post facto approval for diversion of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act.

- ix. The Committee was informed that initially the proposal was submitted for ex-post facto approval of 22.35 ha, subsequently, the area for ex-post approval was increased to 67.68 ha.
  - i. The Committee was further informed that Ministry, after preliminary scrutiny of initial proposal i.e. 22.35 ha., certain shortcomings were observed and the same was communicated to the State Government on 04.11.2024. Reply to EDS raised by the Ministry was received from the State Government on 19.06.2025. Examination of the same revealed that incomplete information was submitted by the State Government and the same was conveyed to the State Government on 26.07.2025. Reply to EDS raised by the Ministry was received from the State Government on 20.09.2025. Examination of the same revealed that information on details of plots falling under Sector 21 C-II, CA details viz. site suitability certificate and CA scheme for the additional area, component wise KML file and Ministry received a letter of Conservator of Forests addressed to Nodal Officer, Haryana stating that the total area of all Sectors where violation has happened in the instant proposal is 67.58 ha., accordingly, the State Government was requested to look into the information provided in the letter and provide necessary comments and the same was communicated to the State Government on 25.09.2025.
- x. The State Government submitted its reply online on 23.10.2025 and informed following:
  - a) Component wise details along with KML file has been submitted. Component wise details are as under:

Sl. No.	Component name	Proposed area	Software calculated area
1.	Sec 21C	41.586	41.527

2.	Gymkhana club, greenbelt, Tourism site & service rd	3.097	3.093
3.	Sec 46	0.4795	0.479
4.	21 c ii A	0.134	0.134
5.	21 c ii B	0.2636	0.263
6.	Sec 21 c ii C	1.4683	1.466
7.	Sector 45	4.7835	4.777
8.	Dividing rd sec 44 and 47	4.436	4.43
9.	College site sec 44-47 area	4.6112	4.605
10.	Institutional site sec 44-47	4.5756	4.569
11.	Regional labour institute	0.7258	0.725
12.	Fire station	0.0708	0.071
13.	Water works & police stn sec 44-47	1.3587	1.357
14.	Petrol pump sec 44-47	0.09	0.09
<b>Total</b>		<b>67.68</b>	<b>67.586</b>

b) It is mentioned that user agency has now proposed new CA site in Sector 44-47. The CA scheme and land suitability certificate has been revised accordingly. DFO, Faridabad has mentioned in his certificate that

The lands which are notified under specific Section 4 & 5 of PLPA 1900 and in which plantation were carried out under Aravalli Project (1991-2000) in Aravalli hills of south Haryana have been considered as "forests" for the purpose of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam 1980 (FCA 1980). The User Agency has offered such double the degraded forest land for CA in village Mewla Maharajpur, District Faridabad which will be notified as Protected Forest (PF) under IFA 1927 and will be mutated in the name of Forest Department. These lands have been selected for restoration that are in highly degraded state and the crown density is less than 40%. These lands identified for Compensatory Afforestation are suitable for restoration and will be helpful in meeting the target of restoration of 13 million ha degraded forest landscape under Bonn Challenge. The lands are free from all sorts of encumbrances and encroachment and have been taken up in pursuance of CEC directions dated 29.08.2025 issued in proceedings in compliance of Hon'ble Supreme court judgement in CWP no. 10294 of 2013 regarding non-forest land.

c) Component wise KML file is uploaded.

xi. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Chandigarh on 11.11.2025. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh. Summary of the same are as under:

**I. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion: PLPA.**

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

Further, patch-wise details of forest area are as follow:

Gym Khana Club	=	19384.25 Sqm.
Service Road & Green Belt	=	9226.77 Sqm.
Site Reserve for Tourism	=	2365.58 Sqm.
21C-III	=	415874.56 Sqm.
21C-II (A)	=	1344.84 Sqm.
(B)	=	2636.74 Sqm.
(C)	=	14683.05 Sqm.
Sector-46 (D)	=	4799.23 Sqm.
Sector-45	=	47831.70 Sqm.
Road between Sector 44&47	=	44360.59 Sqm.
Petrol Pump in Sector-44&47	=	900.00 Sqm.
Water works Sector-44&47	=	4611.42 Sqm.
Police Station Site Sector-44&47	=	8976.00 Sqm.
College site of Sector-44&47	=	46112.68 Sqm.
Institutional Site Sector-44&47	=	45756.83 Sqm.
Regional Labour Institute	=	7258.67 Sqm.
Fire Station Site	=	708.47 Sqm.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>676832.47 Sqm. = 67.68 ha</b>

**III. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:** Yes, proposal has multiple multi-storey residential complexes and other buildings. Summary of the construction is as follow:

**Sector-21C Part-III, Faridabad**

Construction before 18.03.2004.

GH Site No.	Area in Sqm.	No. and date of Possession Certificate (Built Up)	No. and Date of sanction of building plan
1	7777.37	4706 dated 31.08.1995	13721 dated 31.10.1995
2	4000.00	1747 dated 30.06.1996	6780 dated 04.09.1998
3	4000.00	321C3 dated 12.04.2001	-
4	4000.00	1200 dated 16.11.2000	-
5	4000.00	21C35 dated 12.04.2001	582 dated 20.06.2001 1090 dated 10.10.2001
7	4000.00	645 dated 13.07.2001	-

8	4020.50	490 dated 22.05.2001	1725 dated 23.08.2002
9	4003.65	152 dated 26.02.2001	-
11	3856.23	1121C3 dated 12.04.2001	-
12	4066.00	99 dated 07.02.2001	1093 dated 10.10.2001
12A	4100.67	1321CIII dated 12.04.2001	-
15	4000.00	21C315 dated 12.04.2001	893 dated 24.08.2001
16	4250.00	97 dated 07.02.2001	464 dated 22.05.2001
18	4001.55	1821C3 dated 12.04.2001	1012 dated 14.09.2001
19	4051.91	04 dated 01.01.2001 93-94 dated 07.02.2001 28 dated 15.01.2002	-
20	4005.00	657 dated 17.07.2001	-
21	4000.00	Possession taken on dt. 09.08.2004	-
22	3748.66	1255 dated 19.12.2001	1578 dated 26.07.2002
23	5000.40	6 dated 01.01.2001 101-02 dated 07.02.2001	101-02 dated 07.02.2001
24	4000.50	553 dated 11.06.2001	-
25	4000.00	1173 dated 16.07.2022	-
26	3870.56	70 dated 31.01.2001	1170 dated 31.05.2002
27	6988.56	759 dated 07.08.2001	759 dated 07.08.2001
	30976.60	Gym Khana Club, Service road & Green belt and tourism Site	
<b>Total</b>	<b>130718.16</b>		

Residential Plot No. 164P Sector- 21C-III,	420.00	Possession taken on dated 11.07.2002, (Built Up)
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### Sector-45, Faridabad

Construction before 18.03.2004

Plot No.	Area in Sqm.	No. and date of Possession Certificate (Built Up)	No. and Date of sanction of building plan
406	209.00	2116 dated 20.11.2002	1824 dated 09.09.2003
425	209.00	-	-
426	209.00	-	-
427	209.00	-	-
465	90.00	-	-
466	90.00	Possession taken on dt.06.10.1998	-
467	90.00	No record found	-
473 A	90.00	-	-

474	90.00	Possession taken on dated 29.01.1999	-
475	90.00	685 dated 08.04.2003	-
476	90.00	721 dated 03.05.2002	1544 dated 26.07.2002
<b>Total</b>	<b>1466.00</b>		

Construction after 18.03.2004

<b>Plot No.</b>	<b>Area in Sqm.</b>	<b>No. and date of Possession Certificate (Built Up)</b>	<b>No. and Date of sanction of building plan</b>
428	209.00	1085 dated 07.06.2004	1672 dated 23.07.2004
429	209.00	1196 dated 19.04.2006	37 dated 03.04.2013
430	209.00	908 dated 22.02.2008	339 dated 03.02.2014
431	209.00	1629 dated 19.04.2011	37 dated 28.05.2011
432	209.00	132 dated 12.12.2012	32 dated 03.04.2013
433	209.00	136-36 dated 23.02.2001	13 dated 12.03.2011
434	209.00	-	-
435	209.00	-	-
436	209.00	31.07.2000	-
437	209.00	20.06.2000	-
438	209.00	1099 dated 04.07.2022	-
439	209.00	-	-
440	209.00	-	-
441	90.00	-	-
442	90.00	-	-
464	90.00	31.07.2002	05.04.2004
468	90.00	363 dated 17.02.2025	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3077.00</b>		

**Sector-46, Faridabad**

Construction before 18.03.2004

<b>Plot No.</b>	<b>Area in Sqm.</b>	<b>No. and date of Possession Certificate (Built Up)</b>	<b>No. and Date of sanction of building plan</b>
380P	292.80	2230 dated 31.03.1997	-
380A	300.00	649 dated 16.07.2001	552 dated 05.04.2002
381	300.00	1170 dated 08.11.2000	172 dated 09.03.2001
382	300.00	2208 dated 31.03.1997	2608 dated 08.12.2003
383	300.00	2695 dated 26.09.1994	931 dated 03.09.2001
384	300.00	2890 dated 22.12.2003	60335 dated 23.12.2003
386	300.00	399 dated 03.02.1999	2066-68 dated 28.06.2000
387	300.00	1853 dated 08.07.1994	1616 dated 09.08.2002
404	300.00	16728 dated 30.12.1997	7304 dated 14.09.1998 1099 dated 06.04.2000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2692.80</b>		

Construction after 18.03.2004

385	300.00	4744 dated 20.12.2007	508 dated 25.01.2008 38 dated 24.07.2014
388	300.00	2831 dated 10.10.1994	1732 dated 20.04.2007 32 dated 11.07.2014
401	300.00	1038 dated 23.05.2008	4153 dated 26.09.2007 69 dated 08.01.2015 09 dated 08.03.2017
402	300.00	248 dated 16.01.2007	4621 dated 17.12.2007 4396 dated 08.07.2022
403	300.00	2342 dated 17.08.2006	123 dated 10.12.2015 055 dated 08.01.2016 5556 dated 06.09.2018
405	300.00	2875 dated 28.10.2005	03 dated 07.01.2008
<b>Total</b>	<b>1800.00</b>		

**Sector-44-47, Faridabad**  
Construction before 18.03.2004

1.	Labour Institute	7258.67 sqm.	Partly falls under PLPA
2.	Fire Station	708.47 sqm.	Partly falls under PLPA
3.	Petrol Pump	900.00 Sqm.	Partly falls under PLPA
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7967.14 Sqm.</b>	

Construction after 18.03.2004

1.	Police Station	8976.00 sqm.	Falls under PLPA
2.	Water Works	4611.42 sqm.	Falls under PLPA
3.	Institutional Area	45756.83 sqm.	Falls under PLPA
4.	College Area	46112.68 sqm.	Falls under PLPA
	<b>Total</b>	<b>105456.93 Sqm.</b>	

**IV. Wildlife:**

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

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

**V. Vegetation:**

- i. **Details of total number of trees to be felled:** No tree felling is proposed.

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

The instant proposal is for post facto approval, wherein the proposal under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam has not been submitted by the User Agency and forest land is diverted without Forest Clearance.

From the information provided by the State Forest Department officials present during inspection and as from the documents available in PARIVESH portal, the instant case involves the violation where the proposal under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam has not been submitted and forest land is diverted without FC. Further as the permission has been granted by the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran, a State Government Authority; the instant case attracts the provisions under the Para 1.16 (i) (b) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

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

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

The officials of the State Forest Department informed that the land being diverted has no socio-cultural / religious value.

**IX. Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area:** There are no Protected Areas.

**X. Compensatory Afforestation:**

The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over double the area being proposed for ex-post facto approval on area closed under PLPA 1900 as per Schedule II of *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023*. The CA land is located adjacent to the proposed area for ex-post facto approval. The CA land is also part of areas closed under PLPA 1900 and is under possession of the HSVP and situated in sector 44-47 of Faridabad.

Based on site suitability certificate of CA land submitted by the DFO, the CA areas is free from all sorts of encumbrances and encroachment. However, on physical inspection, it was also observed that inside the proposed CA area; a police post is constructed and is functional and the same needs to be removed for making area free from encumbrances. The status of approved land use of proposed CA land as per Master Plan of Faridabad needs to be ascertained by the State Government, to rule out any *fait accompli* situation later on, *inter-alia* underground use for non-forestry purposes, such as sewerage drain, pipeline for water supply, and link roads etc. for residential and non-residential areas in vicinity.

The CA area was found predominantly covered with *Prosopis juliflora*. The area was found suitable for plantation. The area also has several old mining pits which have been converted to the ponds. This has effectively reduced the area of CA for undertaking the plantation. The State Government is required to survey all mining pits converted into ponds to come up with an area covered under ponds *vis-a-vis* the actual area of CA. Detail of the CA site is as follow:

Division	Range	Village Name	Survey No.	Site Name/ Compartment/ Block Details	Area
Faridabad	Faridabad	Bhati Mines	H43X7	Sector 44-47, Village - Mewla Maharajpur, Faridabad	135.56

**XI. Recommendations: -**

- i. The instant case involves the violation where the proposal under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam has not been submitted and forest land is diverted without FC. Further as the permission has been granted by the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran, a State Government Authority; the instant case is violation of the VSSA, 1980 and attracts the provisions under the Para 1.16 (i) (b) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ii. The Police Post inside the CA area needs to be removed for making area free from encumbrances.
- iii. The status of approved land use of proposed CA land as per Master Plan of Faridabad needs to be ascertained by the State Government, to rule out any fait accompli situation later on, inter-alia underground use for non-forestry purposes, such as sewerage drain, pipeline for water supply, and link roads etc for residential and non-residential areas in vicinity.
- iv. The State Government is required to survey all mining pits converted into ponds to come up with an area covered under ponds *vis-a-vis* the actual area of CA.
- v. For protection of CA sites from the possible encroachment, chain link fencing needs to be done.

**XII. Recommendation of DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh:**

The proposal is for ex post-facto approval of the area closed under PLPA, 1900 by the State Government 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 with following additional considerations:

- i. The Police Post inside the CA area needs to be removed for making area free from encumbrances.

- ii. The status of approved land use of proposed CA land as per Master Plan of Faridabad needs to be ascertained by the State Government, to rule out any fait accompli situation later on, inter-alia underground use for non-forestry purposes, such as sewerage drain, pipeline for water supply, and link roads etc. for residential and non-residential areas in vicinity.
  - iii. The State Government is required to survey all mining pits converted into ponds to come up with an area covered under ponds vis-a-vis the actual area of CA. Then only, actual area available for plantation under CA can be known.
  - iv. For protection of CA sites from the possible encroachment, chain link fencing needs to be done.
- xii. The Committee was informed that as per the Guideline of the Ministry dated 29.12.2023 regarding processing of the proposals involving non-forestry use of lands closed under Punjab Lands Preservation Act, 1900 and clarification on the applicability of the provisions of the Van Sanrkshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 on such lands, shall be submitted to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi by the States/Union territory concerned for ex-post facto approval which shall be considered by the MoEF&CC in the following manner: (interalia)
- ii. Proposals related to lands where the approval/sanction by the competent authority for the project has been granted by the competent authority in conformity with the applicable land and/or housing laws and/or master/development plan of the said area either before or after issuance of special order under Section 4 of the PLPA but prior to Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 18.03.2004 (when for the first time PLPA lands were directed to be treated as forest for the purposes of FC Act) shall be considered for ex-post facto approval subject to payment of normal NPV and compensatory afforestation and other relevant conditions.*
  - iii. Proposal where the approval/sanction by the competent authority for the project has been granted by the competent authority in conformity with the applicable land and/or housing laws and/or master/development plan of the said land after the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 18.03.2004 (when for the first time PLPA lands were directed to be treated as forest for the purposes of FC Act) shall be considered for ex-post facto approval subject to payment of normal NPV, compensatory afforestation, penal NPV, penal CA and other relevant conditions.*
  - iv. The MoEF&CC, New Delhi will examine such proposals on case to case basis and ex-post facto approval wherever considered, shall be subject payment of Net Present Value and Compensatory Afforestation or penal compensatory levies, as mentioned under clause (ii) & (iii) above.*

4. The officials from the Government of Haryana informed that as per the above mentioned guidelines, PLPA land wherein approvals were granted by the competent authorities prior to 18.03.2004 may be considered for ex-post facto approval subject to payment of normal NPV and compensatory afforestation and other relevant conditions. Furthermore, PLPA land wherein approvals were granted by the competent authorities after to 18.03.2004 may be considered for ex-post facto approval subject to payment of normal NPV, compensatory afforestation, penal NPV, penal CA and other relevant conditions. The Committee noted the same.
5. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from Government of Haryana, recommended the proposal for grant of 'in-principle' approval for ex-post facto approval of 67.68 ha (originally proposed 22.35 ha) of areas notified under Section 4 of PLPA land in Sector 21C-II, Sector 21C-III with Gym Khana Club, Sector- 44-47, Sector-45 & Sector- 46 for construction/development of Gym Khana club, green belt, tourism site, service road, college site, institutional site, Regional labour institute, fire station, water works, petrol pump, police station etc. under Forest Division & District Faridabad in the State of Haryana subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions.
  - i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of area wherein approval of component authority was issued after 18.03.2004.
  - ii. Since a master plan has been drawn on the proposed CA site, the User Agency and State Government shall submit an undertaking along with Stage- I compliance report stating that no rights emanating from the Master plan on the CA site shall be recognised.
  - iii. The Police post on CA site shall be removed and Compensatory Afforestation shall be carried out as per approved CA scheme.
  - iv. The State Government shall survey and submit the exact area of mining pits converted into ponds in the CA site. Conservation measures, if any, may be factored into the CA scheme for the CA site. The revised scheme, if any, may be submitted along with Stage-I compliance report.
  - v. The CA site shall be protected via a chain link fencing and the State Government shall ensure to protect the same from encroachment in future.
  - vi. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.

## **Agenda No. 9**

**Proposal No. FP/HR/ROAD/467134/2024**

**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 Haryana State Roads and Bridges Development Corporation Ltd. (HSRDC), PIU, Panipat for non-forestry use of 0.5627 ha of Protected Forest land for construction of 2 lane Relief Highway from Ghoripur to Delhi Border (Near Hareveli Village) from Section Ch. 57+250 (Panipat-Sonipat at District Border) to Ch. 82+700 (Barwasni) falling in Sonipat Distt. including improvement with bituminous overlay from Ch. 82+700 (Barwasni) to Ch. 104.042 (Delhi Border) in the State of Haryana (Proposal No. FP/HR/ROAD/467134/2024)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Haryana attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The proposal is for diversion of 0.5627 ha of Protected Forest for construction of 2 lane Relief Highway from Ghoripur to Delhi Border (Near Hareveli Village) from Section Ch. 57+250 (Panipat-Sonipat at District Border) to Ch. 82+700 (Barwasni) falling in Sonipat Distt. including improvement with bituminous overlay from Ch. 82+700 (Barwasni) to Ch. 104.042 (Delhi Border) in the State of Haryana.
  - ii. Component wise break up are as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)	Total Land (ha.)
1.	Construction of road	0.5627	0	0.5627
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.5627</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.5627</b>

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.2 of Eco class III with no tree feeling proposed to be felled during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.

- v. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area does not falls into High Conservation value Zone.
- vi. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 1.325 ha degraded forest land in Compartment/ Khasra No. Drian No. 6 RD Rajpura pul to Bhogipur pul L&R, Survey No. H43Q16, Village- Bhogapur, Tehsil- Ganaur, Range- Sonipat, Division- Sonipat, District- Sonipat. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. The Committee was informed that the proposal involves violation, DFO, Sonipat has mentioned in Part- II that user agency i.e. Shri Anil Kumar, Manager, M/s Kaluwala construction Pvt. Ltd. has violated over an area of 0.225 ha. in the year 2024. DR No. 063/0428 dated 04.08.2024 has been issued. Further, DFO, Sonipat has mentioned in his letter addressed to Conservator of Forests, Central Circle that violation has been done by user agency. Action under Section 32 & 33 of IFA, 1927 has been taken and damage report no. 063/0428 dated 04.08.2024 was issued and an amount of ₹11,55,000/- has been compensated by user agency.
- viii. The Committee was further informed that Ministry, after preliminary scrutiny of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. DGPS and toposheet map of CA wrongly uploaded and detailed violation report, clearly mentioning the nature, extent, date and details of the persons responsible for violation and action taken thereof etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 25.06.2025.
- ix. The State Government submitted its reply online on 28.10.2025 and informed following:
  - f) DGPS map of CA land has been uploaded in Part- II on PARIVESH portal.
  - g) DFO, Sonipat has mentioned in his letter addressed to Conservator of Forests, Central Circle that violation has been done by user agency. Action under Section 32 & 33 of IFA, 1927 has been taken and damage report no. 063/0428 dated 04.08.2024 was issued and an amount of ₹11,55,000/- has been compensated by user agency.
- x. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Chandigarh on 10.11.2025. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh. Summary of the same are as under:

**I. Background on the proposal:**

The User Agency has proposed diversion of 0.5627 ha. in favour of HSRDC PIU, Panipat construction of 2 Lane relief highway from Ghoripur to Delhi border (near Harveli Village) Section from Ch 57.250 (Panipat Sonipat at District Border) to Ch 82,700 (Barwasni) falling in Sonipat Distt. including improvement with Bituminous overlay from Ch

82.700(Barwasni) to Ch. 104-042 (Delhi border) in the District Sonipat, Haryana.

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

During the inspection the RFO, Sonipat informed that there was a violation of the said proposal by the User Agency due to which the DR was issued vide DR dated 04.08.2024 and a fine of ₹11,55,000 has been paid by User Agency.

Further on examination of the proposal in PARIVESH Portal, it has been found that the User Agency has submitted the proposal on 23.03.2024. In view of the violation report and facts therein, the violation has been carried out while the FC proposal is under consideration, therefore, the activities carried out are violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and not the violation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Accordingly, the violation need to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The Para 1.16 (ii) as above read as follow:

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

- a. *The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.*
- b. *State Government will initiate disciplinary action against the official concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purpose without prior approval of Government of India.*
- c. *Central Government will initiate suitable action against the concerned offender.*
- d. *User Agency responsible for violation shall be prosecuted under relevant local Act of the State and/or Central Act.*

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

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

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

The officials of the State Forest Department informed that the land being diverted has no socio-cultural / religious value.

**Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area:** There are no Protected Areas.

**V. Recommendations: -**

The violation under the instant case has been carried out while the FC proposal is under consideration; therefore, the activities carried out are violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and not the violation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Accordingly, the violation need to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

**VI. Recommendation of DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh:**

The proposal is for construction of 2 lane relief highway from Ghoripur to Delhi border and the 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 officials from Government of Haryana, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' ex-post facto approval for diversion of 0.5627 ha. of Protected Forest land in favour of Haryana State Roads and Bridges Development Corporation Ltd. (HSRDC), PIU, Panipat for construction of 2 lane Relief Highway from Ghoripur to Delhi Border (Near Hareveli Village) from Section Ch. 57+250 (Panipat-Sonipat at District Border) to Ch. 82+700 (Barwasni) falling in Sonipat Distt. including improvement with bituminous overlay from Ch. 82+700 (Barwasni) to Ch. 104.042 (Delhi Border) in the State of Haryana subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions.
- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
  - ii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Chandigarh, as applicable.
  - iii. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.
  - iv. Detailed violation report including action taken against the official concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purpose

without prior approval of Government of India shall be submitted along with Stage- I compliance report.

### Agenda No. 10

#### Proposal No. FP/HR/REDIV/469434/2024

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o Haryana City Gas (KCE) Pvt. Ltd. for re-diversion of 0.807 ha Protected Forest for laying of 200 MM diameter underground carbon steel pipeline from RD 5.75 to RD 23.70 on Bahadurgarh - Jhajjar Road, District- Jhajjar in the State of Haryana (Online Proposal No. FP/HR/REDIV/469434/2024)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Haryana attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The proposal is for diversion of 0.807 ha Protected Forest for laying of 200 MM diameter underground carbon steel pipeline from RD 5.75 to RD 23.70 on Bahadurgarh - Jhajjar Road, District- Jhajjar in the State of Haryana.
  - ii. Component wise break up are as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)	Total Land (ha.)
1.	Laying pipeline	0.807	0	0.807
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.807</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.807</b>

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0 of Eco class III with no tree feeling proposed to be felled during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.

- v. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area does not falls into High Conservation Value Zone.
- vi. Since proposal is for re-diversion, compensatory afforestation has not been proposed.
- vii. The Committee was informed that the proposal involves violation, DFO, Jhajjar has mentioned in Part- II that violation over an area of 0.084 ha has been done by Sr. Manager, Haryana City Gas (KCE) Pvt. Ltd. by using forest land without prior approval in 2024. Further, DFO, Jhajjar has mentioned in his inspection report that user agency has violated provisions of Adhinyam and IFA, 1927. FOR No. 046 has been registered on 06.08.2024.
- viii. The Committee was further informed that Ministry, after preliminary scrutiny of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. detailed violation report clearly indicating the nature, extent, and date of the violation, as well as the details of the individuals responsible and the actions taken against both the User Agency and the officials concerned, copy of the earlier approval, along with the compliance report and clarification regarding earlier user agency along with NOC from earlier user agency etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 16.10.2025.
- ix. The State Government submitted its reply online on 24.10.2025 and informed following:
  - h) FOR (Forest Offence Report) No. 046 was registered on dated 06.08.2024 by the concerned officials for violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 now VSSA Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for using non forestry purpose without the permission under FCA, 1980. The project site has been inspected by the concerned Dy. Conservator of Forest, Jhajjar Sh. Jhalkar Uyake, IFS on dated 01.04.2025 along with concerned officials and concerned user agency. As per directions of the then Dy. Conservator of Forest, Jhajjar Sh. Jhalkar Uyake, IFS vide office letter No. 55-58 dated 09.04.2025 a committee was constituted to re-inspect the site and send report accordingly. In this regard Range Forest Officer, Bahadurgarh vide their letter no. 136 dated 28.05.2025 submitted report to the office of Divisional Forest Officer, Jhajjar stating that at present 0.0840 ha. violation of forest land found and tentative amount of damage is ₹4,23,969/-.
  - i) Copy of approval dated 26.07.2013 has been submitted.
  - j) No Objection Certificate issued by Executive Engineer, PWD B&R Branch vide letter dated 25.01.2024 has been submitted.
- x. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Chandigarh on 12.11.2025. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh. Summary of the same are as under:

**I. Background on the proposal:**

The User Agency has proposed diversion of 0.807 Hectares Forest land for laying of 200 MM diameter underground carbon steel pipeline from RD 5.75 to RD 23.70 on Bahadurgarh-Jhajjar Road, District-Jhajjar, Haryana.

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

During the inspection the RFO, Jhajjar informed that there was a violation of the said proposal by the User Agency due to which the DR was issued vide FOR No. 46 dated 06.08.2024 and a fine of Rs 3,54,262 has been paid by User Agency.

Further on examination of the proposal in PARIVESH Portal, it has been found that the User Agency has submitted the proposal on 17.04.2024. In view of the violation report and facts therein, the violation has been carried out while the FC proposal is under consideration, therefore, the activities carried out are violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and not the violation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Accordingly, the violation need to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The Para 1.16 (ii) as above read as follow:

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

- a. *The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.*
- b. *State Government will initiate disciplinary action against the official concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purpose without prior approval of Government of India.*
- c. *Central Government will initiate suitable action against the concerned offender.*
- d. *User Agency responsible for violation shall be prosecuted under relevant local Act of the State and/or Central Act.*

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

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

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

The officials of the State Forest Department informed that the land being diverted has no socio-cultural / religious value.

**Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area:** There are no Protected Areas.

**V. Recommendations: -**

The violation under the instant case has been carried out while the FC proposal is under consideration; therefore, the activities carried out are violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and not the violation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Accordingly, the violation need to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

**VI. Recommendation of DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh:**

The proposal is for re-diversion for laying of pipeline of the User Agency and the same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from Government of Haryana, recommended the proposal for grant of '**in-principle**' approval for diversion of 0.807 ha Protected Forest for laying of 200 MM diameter underground carbon steel pipeline from RD 5.75 to RD 23.70 on Bahadurgarh - Jhajjar Road, District- Jhajjar in the State of Haryana subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions.

- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- ii. The State Government shall submit the compliance report of the original diversion of 11.84 ha carried out for the widening of the Bahadurgarh-Jhajjar road accorded by the Ministry on 26.07.2013 in favour of Haryana State Roads and Bridges Development Corporation Ltd. (HSRDC).
- iii. No Objection Certificate from earlier user agency i.e. Haryana State Roads and Bridges Development Corporation Ltd. (HSRDC), Jhajjar needs to be submitted by the State Government.
- iv. Detailed violation report including action taken against the official concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purpose

without prior approval of Government of India shall be submitted along with Stage- I compliance report.

- v. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.

### **Agenda No. 11**

#### **Proposal. No. FP/HP/MIN/QRY/523305/2025**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o Himachal Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation Limited for non-forestry use of 13.281 ha of Unclassed Forest land for Dredging/Mining in Beas River in Kullu District in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/MIN/QRY/523305/2025)– regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The proposal is for diversion of 13.281 ha of Unclassed Forest land for Dredging/Mining in Beas River in Kullu District in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
  - ii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0 of Eco class VI with no tree felling during implementation of the project.
  - iii. Proposed area is around 3.18 Km from Khokan WLS and 6.66 Km from Kais WLS. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
  - iv. No violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 have been reported. Certificate to this effect has been submitted by DFO concerned.
  - v. The instant proposal falls under Not-in High conservation value zone as per Decision Rule 2. However, as per Decision Rule 1, the proposed area touches Beas River.
  - vi. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 26.6 ha degraded forest land in Survey No. 53E/5/NW, Compartment No. C2a, Site name 2/18 Sharan DPF C2a, Range- Hurla, Tehsil Bhuntar, Division- Parvati, District-

- Kullu. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. Committee was informed that the proposal is to remove the dredged out material/ excess deposits from river Beas in which the islands have been formed and are prone to disaster in monsoon season. The project is mainly concentrated near the habitations in order to safeguard the local well being. It is further mentioned that the Kullu District has witnessed a catastrophic event in the month of July-August, 2023 especially on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> day of the July 2023. Unprecedented floods wreaked havoc on the region. Massive floods in Uji valley, Manikaran valley, Kullu valley, Bajoura, Sainj and Banjar regions were reported. The floods affected both human settlements and the natural environment. Several villages and towns located along the river bank of Beas, Parvati, Tirthan & Sainj River were heavily damaged. To normalize the situation, the Deputy Commissioner, Kullu vide order under section 30 & 34 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 No. 579-584/SK(DM) dated 03/11/2023 permitted dredging in the river. In the process, the excess debris have been collected at different critical locations in the river bed. It was decided to remove the dredged material from the site and go for commercial end use of the material.
- viii. The Committee was further informed that the matter was taken up with the MoEF&CC by the Government of Himachal Pradesh's vide letter no. Ft.48-66/2024(Misc) (FCA) dated 12.04.2024. The matter was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 30.04.2024. Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, it was directed that the State Govt. will be at their liberty for applying for seeking prior approval of Central Government in case, dredged out material has to be used as minor mineral under the provisions of the Adhiniyam. As per the decision of MoEF&CC, a meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary of H.P was held in the month of June, 2024. It was decided by the Government that the Himachal Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation Ltd. shall be nodal agency to remove the dredged accumulated material and carry out scientific collection and commercial exploitation of the excess debris after seeking permission under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The exercise will facilitate smooth flow of the river and prevent the flood like situation in river Beas in future. Based on the decision taken by the government of HP, the present proposal for obtaining permission for removal of already dredged material and mining/dredging/collection of sand and boulders for next 10 years is submitted for approval under the provisions of Adhiniyam of 1980. This proposal is for three sites along the river Beas namely Lanka baker to Tikra bouri (4.041 ha), Jia Sangam (4.38 ha) and Kullu Manal Airport (4.86 ha) in Kullu and Parvati Forest Divisions.
- ix. The Committee was also informed that the matter for Temporary Use of forest land for river dredging at Raison, Jia and Chhoj Nalla was considered in Advisory Committee meeting held on 30.04.2024. The Committee, after

deliberations and discussion with the DDGs of the various Regional Offices, PCCF & HoFF Himachal Pradesh, Nodal Officer of Himachal Pradesh, observed that proposed dredging works is of temporary in nature and is proposed to avert the imminent disaster for which enabling provisions have been provided in the Consolidated Guidelines issued by the Ministry on 29.12.2023. The State Government may accordingly take action ensuring the following:

The Dredging work can be carried out in accordance with the guidelines given under para 1.7 (a) and 1.7 (b) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Savardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Rules framed thereunder subject to the condition that the end use of the dredged out material shall not be for any commercial nature or of minor mineral used for other than forestry or river conservation measures. However, the State of Himachal Pradesh will be at their liberty for applying for seeking prior approval of Central Government in case dredged out material has to be used as minor mineral under the provisions of the Adhiniyam.

- (i) No permanent change in the land use of forest land shall be allowed by the State Government. In case of permanent change in the land use, the proposal for ex-post facto approval shall be submitted in accordance with the guidelines given under para 1.7 (b) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Savardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Rules framed thereunder.
  - (ii) The State Government shall ensure compliance of relevant directions passed by the NGT and Hon'ble Supreme Court with regards to dredging of rivers.
  - (iii) No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
  - (iv) No tree felling shall be done.
  - (v) The environmental safeguards as proposed in the National Framework for Sediment Management issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India shall be complied with by the State Government.
  - (vi) The compliance of the monitoring of the environmental safeguards shall be ensured by the DDMA and the State Pollution Control Board.
- x. The Committee was informed that after examination of the proposal in the Ministry, certain shortcomings were observed and the same was communicated to the State Government on 06.05.2025. Reply to EDS raised by the Ministry was received from the State Government on 01.08.2025. Examination of the same revealed that information on clarification whether diversion for road to mining/stacking area is required, if required, component wise break-up along with KML file may be submitted and an approved mining plan earmarking the approach access, quantity of material to be excavated, time period, mining schedule for period of mining along with extraction method and valid Lol and the same was communicated to the State Government on 20.08.2025
- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 18.10.2025 and informed following:
- a) Revised KML files including road has been submitted.

- b) 3 mining plans as per details below along with Lol issued by Special Secretary (Industries), Department of Industries vide letter No. Ind-II (F) 6-11/2024-II dated 10.10.2025 has been submitted.
- xii. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Chandigarh on 10.01.2025. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh. Summary of the same are as under:

**I. Background on the proposal:**

As per the information uploaded in PARIVESH portal and based on the interaction with the officials of FDCM and Parbati Forest Division, the stretches proposed for seeking prior approval under the Adhinyam, had faced disaster like situation due to heavy rainfall and landslides during year 2023 causing damages to the habitations on both sides of Beas river. Pursuant to heavy and prolonged rainfall during monsoon season, adjoining low-lying areas of Kullu town were severely affected due to flooding and inundation. The excessive runoff caused deposition of substantial quantities of river bed material (RBM) such as boulders, sand, and silt along the affected river stretch. The Himachal Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation Limited, Himachal Pradesh (FDCM, HP) has accordingly submitted an application seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for dredging/desilting and removal of deposited RBM to safeguard the local well-being by restoring normal river flow.

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

No.

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

As per record, no displacement of any person/Household is involved.

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

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

**Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area:**

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

**V. Field observations: -**

1. **Extent of Damage:** The low-lying establishment areas of Kullu town have suffered extensive inundation and partial washout due to heavy rainfall and flooding in past years that was visible in the form of erosion and deposition adjoining the proposed areas of diversion.

2. **Deposition of River Bed Material:** A large volume of RBM (boulders, pebbles, sand, silt etc) has been deposited along Beas river and in the middle of river at confluence of Beas and Parbati river. This has altered the river's course and reduced its carrying capacity, leading to a shallow channel.
3. **Impact on River Flow:** The accumulated materials were found/observed obstructing smooth flow, thereby increasing the risk of further flooding during high-rainfall events in future. The altered flow pattern may also pose a risk to nearby settlements and infrastructure, if the issue of deposition of RBM is left unattended.

**VI. Recommendation:-**

The proposal has been submitted by the Himachal Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation Limited, Himachal Pradesh. As per policy decision (Policy Agenda No. 2) taken by the Advisory Committee in its meeting dated 12.6.2025, the proposal may be considered as distinct category instead of mining activity subject to conditions specified therein. The desilting/dredging of the river channel may be permitted to restore the river's natural depth and gradient and to accommodate excess water during future disaster-like situations in the area subject to regulated desilting plan to prevent over-extraction or disturbance to the natural river ecology. The dredging should be confined to the deposited material without deepening beyond the natural river bed profile and may be executed with a specified dredging plan for specific period with detailed monitoring protocol.

Hence, the instant proposal may be considered for approval as per the rules and guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 subject to safeguards as mentioned above.

**VII. Recommendations of DDGF (Central), RO, Chandigarh:**

The desilting/dredging of the river channel in proposed area is likely to restore the river's natural depth and gradient and to accommodate excess water during future disaster-like situations in the area. The proposed river bed dredging may minimise the impact and may avert any disaster like conditions in case of heavy rainfall in and around Kullu town.

Hence, the instant proposal is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant rules and guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, subject to confining the regulated dredging and removal of the deposited material without deepening beyond the natural river bed profile, with a specified plan in timebound manner with adequate monitoring provision within State Forest Department and submission of annual monitoring compliance in PARIVESH portal till the dredging is complete.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from Government of Himachal Pradesh, recommended the proposal for grant of 'in-principle' approval for diversion of 13.281 ha of Unclassed Forest land

for Dredging/Mining in Beas River in Kullu District in the State of Himachal Pradesh subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:

- i. The State Government shall submit approved Mining plans with valid Lol along with the Stage-I compliance report.
- ii. The mining in the instant proposal shall be limited to the extent required to remove debris collected to avert disaster and ensure river training, maintain river's natural depth/ gradient and to accommodate excess water during future disaster-like situations in the area. The same shall be incorporated into the Mining plan which shall be submitted along with Stage-I compliance report.
- iii. The net revenue generated from the sale of minor minerals under this proposal shall be utilized for the implementation of a watershed management plan formulated with community participation. These funds shall be deposited in a separate bank account operated in the name of an SPV/Watershed Management Committee. The watershed management plan shall be approved and executed by the aforementioned SPV/Watershed Management Committee, comprising the following members:
  - a. Conservator of Forests of the Forest Circle (Chairperson)
  - b. Representative of the District Administration (not below the rank of SDM)
  - c. Representative of the District Disaster Management Authority
  - d. Representative from the Water Resources and Public Health Department of the district
  - e. District Agriculture Officer
  - f. District Mining/Soil Conservation Officer
  - g. Divisional Forest Officer of the Division (Member Secretary)

The State Government shall furnish an undertaking to this effect along with the Stage-I compliance report.

## **Agenda No. 12**

**Proposal No. FP/KA/ROAD/464144/2024**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking *ex-post facto* approval of the Central Government under section of 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Diversion of 4.1479 Ha Forest land in Sy No 23 of Govanaki (1.2402 Ha), Sy No 70, 71 of Nagara S B (2.0895 Ha), Sy No 3 of Chikanasabi (0.6692Ha) and Sy No 76 of Hirenasabi (0.1568) village for Widening to 2L+PS from Km 71.00 to 104.00 of Sarjapur to Pattadakallu on Bhanapur-Gaddankeri section of NH 367 in the State of Karnataka- regarding**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and representative of Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka were present in the meeting.

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The Government of Karnataka vide their letter no. FEE/197/FLL/2025 (e) dated 14.08.2025 has submitted the proposal on the above-mentioned subject seeking approval of Central Government under section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ii. The proposed forest area of 4.1479 Ha is of Reserved forest land with canopy density of 0.1 of Eco class IV.
  - iii. Species in the affected area include Azadirachta indica, Ficus, Albizzia amara, Delonix regia, Holoptelia integrifolia, Pongamia pinnata, Albizzia lebbeck, Aegle marmelos, Morinda tinctoria, and Chloroxylon swietenia.
  - iv. The proposal involves the felling 127 number of trees in the instant proposal.
  - v. The forest land proposed for diversion is considered to be not vulnerable to erosion.
  - vi. Wildlife in and around the area includes the Indian grey wolf, Indian fox, striped hyena, and jackal. The area does not form part of any national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, or elephant corridor. No rare, endangered, or unique species of flora or fauna are found in the area.
  - vii. There are no protected archaeological, heritage, defense, or other important monuments in the area. The requirement of forest land for this project is considered unavoidable and is the bare minimum necessary.
  - viii. The land use plan of the forest as well as non forest land (NFL) involved in the proposal is as under:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)</b>	<b>Non-forest Land (ha)</b>
Carriageway	1.6555	13.5257
Earthen Shoulder	0.4335	3.8995
Paved Shoulder	0.6578	5.8439
Embankment or future Widening reserve	1.4011	38.6029
Toll	0	1.6213
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.1479</b>	<b>63.4933</b>

- ix. A compensatory afforestation has been proposed over the non-forest land in Bagalkote district, Tehsil Bagalkote, Village Sirur, Survey No. 767/A, covering 4.1479 hectares. As per the site inspection of the DFO and Regional Office Bengaluru, the proposed site is found suitable for plantation purpose. The CA scheme with a financial outlay of ₹8005447.0/- has been provided along with the proposal.
- x. The State Government submitted that the proposed CA land has been verified on ground and the report of the RFO Bagalkote dated 24-09-2025,

has been taken on record and accordingly the proposed CA land over the non forest land is not overlapping with the forest land. The said area has also been demarcated on ground by the State Forest Department.

- xi. As per the Site Inspection Report of the Regional Office, Bengaluru the suitability certificate specifies planting 1,245 seedlings on the non-forest land and 5,806 seedlings (twice the required balance) in a 20.9 ha forest block at 278 seedlings/ha in Neerakuri F.S.No. 169 has been submitted by the concerned DFO.
- xii. Further, the proposed degraded forest land is dry; planting success will depend on tall seedlings of native, drought-tolerant species (e.g., Hardwickia, Azadirachta, Cassia, Semecarpus). The Forest Department must prepare a site-specific CA scheme with measures for watering and low-cost plant guards, as grazing was observed during inspection.
- xiii. RO further reported that the KML files and a detailed CA scheme for the degraded forest land are yet to be submitted. Both sites have been found suitable for plantation, and the proposal is recommended subject to submission and implementation of the site-specific scheme with the above measures incorporated
- xiv. Work in violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 was carried out in the year 2025 over 0.0732 ha by Shri Sai Samarth Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Pune, the contractor for the project. An offence case has been initiated against the responsible, and the work in violation has been stopped by the State Forest Department.
- xv. The forest department has registered two FIR vide ROR No: 01/2025-26 dt 29.04.2025 and ROR no 07/2025-26 dt 05.06.2025 and a Hitachi vehicle bearing Sl. No. C23-06-6981 (1) has been seized. The representative of User Agency informed that violation was carried out by the Contractor i.e Shri Sai Samarth Engineering Pvt. Ltd. Pune unknowingly and unintentionally because the forest area was adjacent to non-forest land and the work is not in progress
- xvi. The Committee observed that the AIGF, RO Bengaluru conducted a site inspection on 16.10.2025. During the site inspection it was observed that in two location of area proposed for diversion i.e. in Sy. No. 70/A/ 71 in Nagara SB and in Sy. No. 23/A/1 of Govanaki in Badami range, Bagalkot Division, breaking of the forest land has been done by the user agency (UA) in violation to VSESA 1980. At one location a drain/trench has been made in the forest land and in another location the boundary stone of the forest department has been displaced with Dozer by the UA. The forest department has registered two FIR vide ROR No: 01/2025-26 dt 29.04.2025 and ROR no 07/2025-26 dt 05.06.2025 and a Hitachi vehicle bearing Sl. No. C23-06-6981 (1) has been seized.
- xvii. The Committee further observed that the User Agency i.e. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has proposed the equivalent non forest over the 4.1479 Ha of for the CA purpose. The proposed CA land is found suitable for plantation as per the site inspection report of the Regional Office Bengaluru and DFO Bagalkote. Hence, as per the provisions laid down in

the consolidated guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, there is no requirement of the Degraded Forest Land for the instant proposal.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and representative of Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the officials of the Government of Karnataka, the Committee '**recommended**' the Stage-1/In-principle approval for the diversion of 4.1479 Ha. of reserved forest land in Sy No 23 of Govanaki (1.2402 Ha), Sy No 70, 71 of Nagara S B (2.0895 Ha), Sy No 3 of Chikanasabi (0.6692Ha) and Sy No 76 of Hirenasabi (0.1568) village under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Widening to 2L+PS from Km 71.00 to 104.00 of Sarjapur to Pattadakallu on Bhanapur-Gaddankeri section of NH 367 in the State of Karnataka 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. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued;
  - iii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Bengaluru, as applicable;
  - iv. The Compensatory Afforestation shall only be raised over the proposed equivalent non forest land of 4.1479 Ha in Survey No. 767/A, Village Sirur, district Bagalkote.

### **Agenda No. 13**

**Proposal No. FP/KA/ROAD/487310/2024**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking *ex-post facto* approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.3865 ha of forest land in Sy. No 53 in Mylanahalli Village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District (Bengaluru Rural Division) for construction of approach road, pump house, laying of water pipeline, UG cable etc at Sri. Kauchugal Muneshwara Swami Temple in favour of Banavadi Grama Panchayath, Banavadi, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and officials of the Government of Karnataka were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

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

- i. The Govt. of Karnataka vide online proposal no. FP/KA/ROAD/487310/2024 has submitted the above mentioned proposal through online PARIVESH 2.0 to the Ministry on 01.01.2025.
- ii. The proposed forest area of 0.3864 Ha is of reserved forest land with canopy density of 0.1 of Eco class III.
- iii. As reported by the State Government, the proposal does not involved the felling of any tree.
- iv. The forest land proposed for diversion is considered to be not vulnerable to erosion.
- v. The DCF, Bengaluru rural in his report has mentioned that no trees would be felled, there are no rare, endangered or unique species of flora and fauna and endangered species does not form part of any Protected Area.
- vi. There are no protected archaeological, heritage, defense, or other important monuments in the area. The requirement of forest land for this project is considered unavoidable and is the bare minimum necessary.
- vii. The land use plan of the forest as well as non forest land (NFL) involved in the proposal is as under:

S. No.	Purpose	Extent in Ha.
1	Cement concrete road	0.1574
2	Temple platform area	0.1517
3	Prasada Nilaya	0.019
4	High level causeway	0.0185
5	KEB UG Cable	0.0117
6	Pump house	0.0009
7	Water pipeline	0.0081
8	Samadi	0.0012
9	Segment 1 Drain	0.0053
10	Segment 2 Drain	0.0107
11	Segment 3 drain	0.0019
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3865</b>

- viii. The total non forest land involved in the proposal is 0.0048 Ha.
- ix. The committee observed that the CC Road, high level causeway, drains, prasada nilaya and pump house has not yet been constructed.
- x. The area proposed for diversion for the instant proposal is less than 1.0 ha, hence as per the consolidated guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, only 100 trees need be planted by way of CA in any degraded forest land as per the working plan prescription.
- xi. The DCF, Bengaluru has reported a violation of 0.021 ha as the construction of Samadhi, overhead electric line and Water pipeline was undertaken without necessary permission from the Forest department. The violations to an extent of 0.021 ha have now been included in the proposal along with other components, with a request to regularize the same.

- xii. The Regional Office Bengaluru further reported in their SIR, that the Samadi, KEB overhead line and water pipeline totaling to 0.021 ha has already been constructed inside the proposed forest land without necessary permission. A part of the temple platform area (which has already been constructed) was also found to be inside the forest area.
  - xiii. The DCF reported that the Range Forest Officer, Nelamangala Range, Nelamangala was instructed through DCF office letter No. A4/DCF/PDO-FC/790/24-25, Dated 20.12.2023, 20.05.2024 and letter No.KFD-BRD0A4(GEN)/50/2025-DCF, dated 09/10/2025 to take action against the violator. Further, The DCF has reported that the Range Forest Officer, Nelamangala Range, has registered FIR No. 42681 dated 10.10.2025 against Sri Munirajappa, Secretary, Kauchugal Sri Muneshwara Swamy Kshetra Abhivruddi Samithi, based on the User Agency's letter dated 24.09.2025 identifying him as responsible for the violations involving construction of a Samadhi, overhead electric line, bore well, and water pipeline within forest land.
  - xiv. The Regional Office submitted that, there is no clarity on the location of the temple as the survey number was found to be different in the Reserve Forest notification and the proposal submitted.
  - xv. The State Govt. has informed that the proposed use of 0.3865 hectares of forest land is strictly for essential infrastructure to ensure safe access, basic utilities, and necessary facilities at a culturally and religiously significant site. Each component is minimal, functional in nature, and designed to reduce recurring environmental disturbances while catering to the needs of pilgrims and the local community.
  - xvi. The Committee observed that the temple is very ancient, as the Reserve Forest notification dated 7 March 1907, has listed the temple as an enclosure and hence falls outside the notified forest area. The notification dated 7th March 1907, has listed the temple as an enclosure in Sy.no.46. However, as per the proposal it is mentioned as situated in Sy.no.53.
  - xvii. The Committee further observed that verification of records available with the forest department and user agency revealed that the Principle Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayath Raj Development has sanctioned, as a special case, a sum of ₹50.00 lakhs for completion of pending works of the Sri. Kauchugal Muneshwara Swami Temple. The State Government has informed that, as reported by the DCF, the sanctioned civil works within the Kauchagallu Muneshwaraswamy Temple area have not been undertaken by the User Agency, as the required forest clearance under PARIVESH is still pending. However, as per the SIR of the Regional Office, clarity is lacking on the works for which the amount was sanctioned and if it is for the works within the forest area or not.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and representative of Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the officials of the Government of Karnataka, the Committee '**recommended**' the Stage-1/In-principle approval for the diversion

of 0.021 Ha of reserved forest land only in Sy. No 53 in Mylanahalli Village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District (Bengaluru Rural Division), which has already been used for the construction of Samadhi, overhead electric line and Water pipeline without necessary permission from the Forest department under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 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. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued;
- iii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Bengaluru, as applicable;
- iv. The State Government shall ensure that no work is carried out in the forest area for the remaining proposed components, covering an area of 0.3655 ha (calculated as 0.3865 ha, the total proposed area, subtracting 0.021 ha already utilized for the construction of the Samadhi, overhead electric line, and water pipeline).

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

#### **Proposal No. FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/516717/2024**

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

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. 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 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 Madhya Pradesh vide their File No F-4/64/2024/10-11 dated 13.02.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van

(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 9.08 ha Forest land (3.339 ha Protected Forest and 5.741 ha Reserved Forest) in favour of M/s Marshall Small Hydel Power Pvt Ltd, A-148, Emerald Park City, Near AIIMS, Bagsewania Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh for the construction of Marshall Small Hydel Power Project (24.75 MW) under Rewa Forest Division, Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State.

ii. Prevailing Rules & Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023 issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023 regarding the instant proposal is as under:

(a) Rule 10 (2) (iii) issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023 issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023 says that hydro electric power projects of more than 25 MW and those falling in a river basin where cumulative impact assessment study to assess the carrying capacity of river basin has not been done or policy decision on allowing the projects in a river basin has not been taken by the Central Government, shall be examined and disposed of by the Central Government in the manner specified under these rules.

(b) Para 9.3 (i) of the Chapter-9 issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023 issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023 says that Cumulative Impact study of a basin would reflect the cumulative impact of commissioned/up-coming hydro-power projects in the basin on environmental flow, bio-diversity, muck disposal sites, traffic flow in the region, R&R issues, etc. While, the first project in a basin could come up without insisting on cumulative study for all subsequent hydro-power projects in the basin, it should be incumbent on the developer of the second/other project(s) to incorporate all possible and potential impact of other project(s) in the basin to get a cumulative impact assessment done. This condition shall be stipulated at the ToRs stage itself during the EC process. Once such a cumulative impact study has been done, the same could be shared by Expert Appraisal Committee with AC. The Cumulative impact study in respect of bio-diversity component may be separately got done by one of the specialized institutes. While making recommendation on EC/FC for such projects, the EAC/FAC will take into account the results of such cumulative studies.

iii. It has been submitted by the State Government that the total area involved in the proposal is 33.871 Ha. Out of the 9.08 Ha forest land involved in the proposal, 3.339 Ha is protected forest and 5.741 Ha is Reserved Forest with vegetation density 0.4 of eco class 3. **The no. of trees to be felled is 1120.**

iv. **The State Government has submitted the following component wise breakup of the land use plan of the proposal:**

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

- v. The Cumulative assessment for impact study of river basin-carrying capacity and cumulative impact assessment study of river basin of Tons river is not done for the proposed Marshall Small Hydro Power Project which has been informed to be the first project on the Tons river. This has been confirmed vide letter of the office of the Commissioner New & Renewal Energy indicating the Marshall Hydro Power Project is the first Hydro Power Project proposed in the Tones/Tamas river.
- vi. It has been submitted by the State Government that as per EIA notification, 2006, the project involving hydro electric power generation below 25 MW capacity do not require Environmental Clearance. The Capacity of the instant Project is 24.75 MW and does not fall under ESZ, Wildlife and protected area.
- vii. The State Government reported that the project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation and therefore resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required.
- viii. The proposed project requires electricity for construction and operations. A 33KV line will be provided from Umari Substation to the project site switchyard, which will also exporting the generated power to the substation after completion of construction & commissioning. A new 11 kV / 33 kV transmission line will be laid from the nearest substation located at Umiri village approximately 12.14 km from the project site. Total area of the Transmission line is 18.1909 Hectors in this UA will utilising only 0.37 Hectors of forest land. New DG set for backup of power will be installed.

- ix. The State Government has submitted the copy of Muck disposal plan along with the proposal.
- x. It has been submitted by the State Government that the proposed forest land is not prone for soil erosion because User Agency will not disturbing natural streams and drains passing through project site. If any soil erosion will take place the user agency will take mitigation measures.
- xi. The State Govt. has already included this 0.37 ha of forest land which will be used for laying of 11 kV / 33 kV Tr. Line.
- xii. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 9.194 Ha of Non Forest land in a single patch in Village Kaadi, tehsil Mauganj, Khasra No. 11, 12, 14, 17, 18/1, 18/2, 19/1, 19/2, 20/1, 20/2, 21/1, 21/2, 22/1, 22/2, रकवा क्रमशः 1.473, 0.827, 0.550, 0.145, 0.521, 0.547, 0.291, 0.292, 1.064, 1.064, 1.097, 1.100, 0.112, 0.111, for which the technical approval has been granted by the CCF, Rewa vide order no.304 dated 16.10.2024. The CA scheme has also been prepared for 0.7672 crores.
- xiii. The Site Suitability certificate has been given by the DFO, Rewa for the proposed CA land. It has been further submitted by the State Government that the proposed CA land is adjacent to the forest land. As per DSS Analysis, the area proposed for CA land is found to be 9.172 Ha (as per GIS software) and 2 ha is characterized a MDF, 4 Ha as OF and 4 Ha as Non Forest (non- wooded) in terms of forest classes (as per ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2018-19.
- xiv. The site inspection of the proposed CA site has been done by the Regional Office Bhopal on 04.04.2025. As per SIR done by RO Bhopal, the area is having crown density of about 0.1 to 0.2 and no encroachment was found anywhere in the CA area. A scheme for plantation of 9200 trees was already prepared. The area is adjacent to Aadsarai PF 338, which is under the working control of the Madhya Pradesh Forest Development Corporation. The nearest wildlife sanctuary is Sone Gharial Sanctuary, located at about 9.00 km, which is beneficial to sanctuary.
- xv. As per the SIR of the Regional Office Bhopal, the area is suitable for raising plantation with a mixture of native species after taking up chain link fencing all around. The soil and moisture conservation works like staggered contour trenching is suggested for better results. Since, the area is located at higher altitude, a watcher's hut cum watch tower is suggested to be constructed at a suitable location for better monitoring and shelter for the watcher.
- xvi. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
  - a. While constructing the structures as mentioned in the layout plan, the User Agency is suggested to fell only those trees which are required

to be felled. Further, the vegetation near to the river bed shall be protected by strong RCC wall. Also, the areas where, no construction is required, the existing trees should be protected and also planted in gaps. The proposed road should have plantations on either side of the road.

- b. The area is suitable for raising plantation with a mixture of native species after taking up chain link fencing all around. The soil and moisture conservation works like staggered contour trenching is suggested for better results. Since, the area is located at higher altitude, a watcher's hut cum watch tower is suggested to be constructed at a suitable location for better monitoring and shelter for the watcher.
- xvii. The Regional Office in its SIR has informed the User Agency has already taken up, the hydro-geological studies before submitting the proposal and also it is observed that there is a Purva fall in the river which creates a head of about 100 meter, sufficient for production of 24.75 MW power under the given situation. Also it is observed that all the areas in the river bed downstream of Purva falls are falling in RF/PF. So, any change in location of the project downstream of Purva falls to take advantage of the head, would be require diversion of forest land. Therefore, the project is observed to be site specific in nature with no any other alternatives.
- xviii. It has been submitted by the State Government that the total land requirement for the project is 33.871 ha. Out of this 24.791 ha is Non-Forest Land (NFL) and the balance 9.08 ha is Forest Land. The necessary details of land requirements has been submitted in part I of the PARIVESH portal. The KML files of land requirements (forest and non forest land) details also submitted with the proposal.
- xix. The CAT plan approved by the APCCF & Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh with a financial outlay of ₹4360635/-.
- xx. The KML files of land requirement details also submitted with the proposal. The necessary details of land requirements has been submitted in part I of the PARIVESH portal. As per the DSS analysis, out of 9.172 ha (KML file) area of CA land, 0.27 ha is falling in the Forest land based on the forest compartment boundary available on the DSS.
- xxi. It has been clarified by the User Agency that the pathway is integral to the Surge Shaft component and is required only for safe access of men and material. No additional forest land is involved; the total requirement remains 2.110 ha as proposed earlier. This ensures both technical feasibility and worker safety without any increase in land diversion. The detailed component wise breakup has been provided for the 2.11 ha forest land.

- xxii. The State Government has forwarded the KML files in the polygon form and as per DSS Analysis, the total forest area and non forest area involved in the proposal is 9.054 Ha and 24.719 Ha respectively.
- xxiii. The proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 26.09.2025, wherein the committee **deferred** the proposal for the want of the following:
- a. The User Agency in para 1.6 of Part I of the online application form submitted that no proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for this project has been submitted in the past. In addition, the State Government in its submission has also not referred to any proposal submitted in the past. Whereas a proposal no. FP/ MP/ HYD/42686/2019 for the same project was submitted by the State Government and it was not approved by the Ministry. The user agency and the State shall submit a clarification for not submitting the correct information in the proposal. The Regional Office Bhopal shall also provide its comments in the matter.
  - b. The State Government shall furnish a detailed account of the modifications done in the present proposal, accompanied by a comparative analysis of the components contained in the earlier proposal.
  - c. The State in the past had submitted the proposal no. FP/ MP/ HYD/42686/2019 for diversion of 13.1959 ha and thereafter revised the area in this proposal to 12.8042 Ha, whereas in the proposal now under consideration the area sought for diversion is 9.076 ha only. The detailed justification in this regard shall be submitted.
  - d. As per forest compartment boundary available on the DSS, out of 9.172 Ha (KML file) area of CA land, 0.27 Ha is falling in the forest boundary. The State Government shall ensure to provide non forest land for raising compensatory afforestation.
  - e. As per the KML files uploaded, the other alternative sites and the proposed site are at the same location. The only variation among the alternatives pertain to the alignment of the road and the road along the power canal. Furthermore, the State Government has not submitted the requisite maps and detailed information regarding the forest land affected under the various alternatives considered and the reasons for their rejection.
- xxiv. The State Government vide its letter dated 22.10.2025 submitted the requisite information to the Ministry in compliance to the observations made by the Ministry.
- xxv. The State Government submitted that the proposal No. FP/MP/HYD/42686/2019 was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 25.04.2023, where in the AC observed that mere construction of fencing may not be sufficient for safeguard the said forest

area and State should have submitted a detailed plan for the same keeping in view the ground situation as well as presence of labour/staff during construction and operation phases. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the proposal could not be considered in the present proposition. That means the AC gave the opportunity to the State Govt./ UA to submit de novo (New Fresh proposal). This present position of the previous proposal is because of the left over 0.75 Ha thick forest existing between the water body and area proposed for diversion. The primary objective of the AC for not accepting the previous proposal is the management problem of left over 0.75 Ha forest area. Accordingly, the UA submitted the de novo (New Fresh proposal) of Marshall Small Hydro Power project 24.75 MW with 9.08 Ha forest area proposal on PARIVESH 2.0.

- xxvi. The State Government submitted that the new proposal is now totally incorporating the 0.75 Ha left over forest area and reducing the requirement from 12.8042 Ha to 9.08 Ha with modified component wise requirement of forest area. Thus, the de novo proposal of 9.08 Ha has no connection with previous 12.8042 Ha Marshall Small Hydro Power Project in terms of total area requirement or component wise forest area requirement. Further, the UA submitted that the UA has understood that para 1.6 of Part-I of the application “this project” as de novo (New Proposal) of 9.08 Ha. Hence, against para 1.6 of part I “No” is mentioned since this proposal of 9.08 Ha was not sent in the past by the UA to Central Govt. for approval.
- xxvii. The Regional Office Bhopal vide letter dated 17.10.2025 has submitted that earlier proposal No. FP/MP/HYD/42686/2019 for diversion of 12.8042 ha forest area was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meetings held on 20.10.2023 and 25.04.2023. The Advisory Committee did not recommend the approval in its present form, mainly due to the existence of an intervening 0.75 ha thick forest patch between the reservoir and the proposed diversion area and absence of adequate protection measures. A site-specific treatment plan and detailed project report (DPR) from M.P. Water & Land Management Institute, Bhopal was submitted by the State Government for reconsidering the proposal. The request was not accepted by MoEF&CC and returned so that the State Government/user agency may submit the proposal de novo. Accordingly, the user agency has re-planned the project layout, incorporated the intervening patch and reduced the total forest requirement from 12.8042 ha to 9.08 ha with revised component-wise area details.
- xxviii. It is further clarified by the RO Bhopal that while preparing the site inspection report, reference to the earlier rejected proposal may have been inadvertently omitted. However, all technical details, factual observations,

and site-specific information presented in the report are based on actual field verification. In view of the above facts the present proposal, which has coordinates slightly shifted from the earlier submission and is now submitted as a de novo proposal may be considered and processed accordingly.

- xxix. The State Government submitted the detailed account of the modifications done in the present proposal, accompanied by a comparative analysis of the components contained in the earlier proposal along with the justification for submitting the de-novo proposal.
  - xxx. The State Government further submitted the area of 0.27 Ha out of the total compensatory afforestation land which was found overlapping with forest boundary as per DSS analysis is falling outside the forest boundaries. Further, on examination of the above said KML files, it is observed that the proposed CA area KML file is not found overlapping with the forest land compartment boundary prepared based upon the latest working plan of Rewa forest division and uploaded in Part-I of the PARIVESH. The KML file area of the proposed CA land on the Non-forest land is found 9.1681 ha.
  - xxxi. Further, the State Govt. has uploaded the map showing the area of the forest land as well as the Non-forest land which might be affected under the alternatives explored before selecting the present forest land for diversion.
  - xxxii. The Committee observed that the current proposal is for 24.75 MW, involving 9.08 ha of forest land and 24.791 ha of non-forest land. The forest land proposed in this proposal appears to be relatively high, and there is a need to rationalize the requirement of forest land and keep it bare minimum.
  - xxxiii. The Committee further noted that the State Government need to explore the possibilities of shifting the components *viz.* Approach Road to Camp Complex, Working Area & Camp Area, Power House Switch Yard pen Stock & Civil Structure Area, Road to Power House and Store area comprising the area of 0.5660 Ha, 2.106 Ha, 2.335 Ha, 2.316 Ha and 1.29 Ha respectively on the non forest land. The non-site specific components like Working Area & Camp Area, Store area and handling area etc. may be shifted to non-forest area. Further, forest area proposed for diversion in the present proposal should be rationalized to reflect the bare minimum requirement necessary for the proposed 24.75 MW project.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for prior approval under section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 9.08 ha Forest land (3.339 ha Protected Forest and 5.741 ha Reserved Forest) for the construction of Marshall Small Hydrel Power Project (24.75 MW) under Rewa

Forest Division, Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State in favour of M/s Marshall Small Hydel Power Pvt. Ltd. for want of following information:

- i. The current proposal is for 24.75 MW, involving 9.08 ha of forest land and 24.791 ha of non-forest land. The area of forest land proposed for diversion appears to be relatively high, and there is a need to rationalize the requirement of forest land and keep it bare minimum. The state shall accordingly examine the requirement of forest land and rationalize the forest area requirement.
- ii. The State shall explore the possibility of shifting the components viz. Approach Road to Camp Complex, Working Area & Camp Area, Power House Switch Yard pen Stock & Civil Structure Area, Road to Power House and Store area comprising of 0.5660 Ha, 2.106 Ha, 2.335 Ha, 2.316 Ha and 1.29 Ha respectively to the non forest land.
- iii. The non-site specific components like Working Area & Camp Area, Store area and handling area etc. shall be shifted to non-forest land.

### **Agenda No. 15**

**Proposal No.: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/508237/2024**

**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 10.070 ha Reserve forest land of Compartment No RF-263, Range Jatara under Tikamgarh Forest Division for Mining of Pyrophyllite/diaspore by M/s Jindutt Minerals Pvt. Ltd. under Tikamgarh District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/508237/2024) – regarding.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. 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 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 to the AC for their examination and analysis. The committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their communication No. F-1/867 dated 21.03.2025 forwarded a fresh diversion proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 10.070 ha Reserve forest land of Compartment No RF263, Range Jatara under

Tikamgarh Forest Division for Mining of Pyrophyllite/diaspore by M/s Jindutt Minerals Pvt. Ltd. under Tikamgarh District of Madhya Pradesh State.

- ii. Legal Status of the forest land involved is Reserve Forest having density of vegetation as 0.3 and Eco Class-3 with 649 nos. of the project affected trees.
- iii. Component wise utilization of the proposed forest land is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest land (in Ha.)	Non-forest land (in Ha.)
1.	Approach road	0.07	0
2.	Safety Zone/Green Belt	1.15	0
3.	Mineralised Area	6.34	0
4.	OB Dump/Mineral Staking	1.3	0
5.	Temporary Site Service	0.1	0
6.	Garland Drain/Settling Tank	0.18	0
7.	Proposed Plantation	0.93	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10.07</b>	<b>0</b>

- iv. The State Govt. has informed that the Letter of Intent (LoI) has been issued in favour of the user agency and is valid up to 02.02.2027.
- v. The State Government has informed that, as per the approved mining plan submitted by the user agency, mining operations, storage, and OB dumping will all be carried out within the proposed forest land itself. No separate non-forest land is required for these activities.
- vi. The State Government has informed that the proposed mining area is adjacent to Forest Compartment No. 263, which lies in the revenue area. A semi-metal road already exists from village Kuwanpura to Vedpur, and this old route is reflected on the forest map. To connect the mining site to this existing road for mineral evacuation, a new stretch of 0.070 hectare (233 meters long and 3 meters wide) has been proposed.
- vii. The State Government has informed that the proposed area lies adjacent to Forest Compartment No. 263 and borders the revenue land. A semi-metal road already exists from the village of Kuwarpura to Vedpur, which is shown as an old route on the forest map. To connect this existing route for mineral transportation, a new road covering 0.070 hectares has been proposed. This proposed road will be 233 meters long and 3 meters wide and will be used for the transportation of minerals. This has been outlined in the mineral evacuation plan. Mining operations in the lease area will be carried out only during daytime. For night time security, solar-powered lights will be used. Water is not required for excavation activities. However, for drinking, sprinkling, and plant irrigation, water will be purchased from a nearby village and transported via water tankers.
- viii. The State Government has further informed that 10 ha of land has been applied for excavation lease and 0.07 ha for access road for mineral transportation. Since it is forestland, a proposal of total area of 10.070 ha

has been submitted for diversion, since the mining plan is approved by the Mineral Resources Department for excavation lease area only. Therefore, the access road area for mineral transportation has not been included in the approval of the mining plan.

- ix. The Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh informed the committee that the Diaspore/Pyrophyllite is a versatile mineral that is 11-91/2012-FC(Pt.) I/118904/2025 widely used in various industries established across the country and the state, such as rubber, paint, rubber tires, tiles, and fire bricks. In addition, it is also used in the production of handicrafts and sculptures. Currently, there is no approved mining lease for this mineral in Tikamgarh district under the name of the applicant organization. Diaspore/Pyrophyllite is not found in all parts of the country. It is available only in forested areas of the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, particularly in select forest zones of Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur districts. The mineral deposits in revenue land areas have already been largely exhausted and are now negligible. Therefore, the site is site-specific, meaning that mining can only be carried out in certain designated areas where the mineral is still available.
- x. The State Government has informed that the area applied for diversion is a rocky mountain and there is no soil on its upper surface. Pyrophyllite and Diaspore minerals are in the form of solid stones and are not soluble in water. Despite this, fencing will be done around the mining area to prevent soil erosion. Inside the fencing, there will be a 7.5 meter wide green belt / safety zone in which trees will be planted. Garland drain / cut off trench will be constructed around the safety zone, a settle tank will be constructed to stop the waste materials and plantation work will be done again all around inside the garland drain, due to which the possibility of soil erosion will be negligible.
- xi. The Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh further informed the committee that, as per the approved mining plan for the proposed lease area, mining, storage, and overburden dumping will be carried out accordingly. There is no separate requirement for non-forest land.
- xii. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 10.07 Ha Non-forest land in Khasra No. 4/2, 4/3, 4/6, 4/7, 4/11, 4/12, 4/13, 4/14 located under Village: Kalipahari, Sagar District of Madhya Pradesh State.
- xiii. The DDGF, RO, Bhopal appraised the committee that the area is a hillock and its foot hills, with highly undulating terrain. The area is observed to be highly dry with very less vegetation. The trees found are stunted in growth. Most of the trees are not fit for timber and are fit for only fuel wood. The soil is also very poor in nutrients. The biotic pressure like collection of fuel wood and grazing is very high. All these factors are responsible for degradation of forest in the area. The Pyrophyllite and Diaspore deposit is just like a vein in the middle of the proposed diversion area. The said mineral is igneous

metamorphic rock is found in a particular vein/pocket and does not spread either laterally or vertically. Therefore, the mining for these deposits is very intensive in nature. The rocks/overburden which do not contain the mineral or are in very small percentage, are removed as overburden.

- xiv. The Committee observed that as per DSS analysis, there is no wildlife sanctuary, National park, Tiger reserve and Tiger corridor is located within 10 KM buffer distance from the Project site and the instant proposal falls under Not in High Conservation Zone value as per DSS Rule- 1 & 2.
- xv. The Committee noted that the State Govt. has informed that regarding the mineral evacuation plan the proposed mining area is adjacent to Forest Compartment No. 263, which lies in the revenue area. A semimetal road already exists from village Kuwanpura to Vedpur, and this old route is reflected on the forest map. To connect the mining site to this existing road for mineral evacuation, a new stretch of 0.070 hectare (233 meters long and 3 meters wide) has been proposed.
- xvi. The Committee observed that the State Govt. has informed that Diaspore/Pyrophyllite is not found in all parts of the country. It is available only in forested areas of the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, particularly in select forest zones of Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur districts.
- xvii. The above facts were considered in the Advisory Committee on 24.06.2025. The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:
  - a) The State Government shall clarify the legal status of the existing semi-metal road from village Kuwanpura to Vedpur. If the road is in forest land, the details of approval if any obtained from the central government needs to be submitted. In case the approval is not obtained, the status of violation and the action taken in the matter be reported.
  - b) The State Government shall clarify whether any geological or mineralogical study or survey has been conducted by the State Government to ascertain the availability and distribution of Diaspore/Pyrophyllite in the forested areas of the Bundelkhand region, specifically in Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur districts, if so, the detail study report shall be submitted.
- xviii. The State Govt. vide letter dated 05.08.2025 replied to the above points raised by the Advisory Committee and inter-alia informed as under:
  - a. The State has informed that the road from village Kunwarpura to Vaidpur is a very old forest road operational before the Forest

(Protection) Act, 1980, which connects the main road on both sides. This road is mostly used by the forest staff and villagers for transportation. When the applicant institution will use this route for mineral transportation, it will be ensured that the forest staff and villagers do not face any inconvenience in transportation. As per the rules, the applicant institution is committed to pay the forest route fee for using the forest route. The information provided by the applicant institution regarding the use of the road from Kunwarpura village to Vaidpur for transportation was verified from the records of Forest Division, Tikamgarh. According to the list of forest roads mentioned in the current work plan of the Forest Department from the year 2024-25 to 2033-34, the said Kunwarpura to Vaidpur road falls under the forest road from Vairawar to Parai river which connects to the main road on both sides. This forest road is 14.40 km long and was constructed by the forest department in the year 1953-55. This road is used by the villagers and forest staff of Kunwarpura, Vaidpur and other villages.

- b. The applicant provided the report of geological survey and approved prospecting survey report regarding the availability of diaspore/pyrophyllite in the forest areas of Bundelkhand region, Tikamgarh district, Chhatarpur.
- xix. The Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 25.08.2025 again considered the reply submitted by the State Government. The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:
- a. The State shall provide a detail of various mines, which are using the existing forest road involved in the instant proposal.
  - b. The forest roads are constructed with the primary objective of forest management. In this regard, the State shall submit a detailed justification for using the forest roads for mineral evacuation. The State shall also intimate whether any policy has been framed by the State for such use of forest roads on temporary basis for consideration by Advisory Committee.
- xx. In response to this, the State Government vide letter dated 16.09.2025 submitted the following:
- a. कुंवरपुरा वनमार्ग के पास कोई खदान स्वीकृत नहीं है। एवं इस वनमार्ग का उपयोग किसी भी खनिज परिवहन के लिए नहीं किया जाता है।

b. पूर्व में खनिज निकासी हेतु प्रस्तावित मार्ग 0.070 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र वनमार्ग से जोड़ा गया था, किन्तु उक्त वन मार्ग को खनिज परिवहन के लिये उपयोग में दिये जाने पर भारत सरकार वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय नई दिल्ली द्वारा आपत्ति की गई है चूंकि आवेदित खनिज क्षेत्र ग्राम वैदपुर के राजस्व क्षेत्र के समीप है। अतः आवेदक द्वारा खनिज निकासी मार्ग को परिवर्तित कर आवेदित खनिज उत्खनन क्षेत्र से ग्राम वैदपुर के राजस्व मार्ग से जोड़ा गया है। जिसकी लंबाई लगभग 200 मीटर है। खनिज निकासी के लिये 0.070 हेक्टेयर वन भूमि व्यपवर्तन हेतु पूर्व से प्रस्तावित है। अतः उक्त भूमि 0.070 हेक्टेयर वन भूमि खनिज निकासी के लिये पर्याप्त है। अतिरिक्त वन भूमि की आवश्यकता नहीं है। उक्त परिवर्तित मार्ग हेतु आवेदित 0.070 हेक्टेयर वन भूमि में कोई वृक्ष प्रभावित नहीं हैं और न ही कोई वृक्ष काटा-छांटा जाना प्रस्तावित है, इस हेतु आवेदक संस्थान वचनबद्ध है। इसके अलावा आवेदक संस्थान द्वारा वन मार्ग का उपयोग नहीं किया जायेगा, इसके लिये भी आवेदक संस्था वचनबद्ध है। खनिज निकासी के लिये जिस राजस्व मार्ग का उपयोग किया जाना प्रस्तावित है यह राजस्व मार्ग काफी पुराना एवं लगभग 8-9 मीटर चौड़ा ग्रामीण मार्ग है। उक्त राजस्व मार्ग में कोई वन भूमि शामिल नहीं है। यह केवल राजस्व भूमि से ही होकर जाता है। यह राजस्व मार्ग ग्राम वैदपुर से होकर दिगौड़ा-मजना राज्य मार्ग (State Highway road) से जुड़ता है।

c. वन मार्गों से खनिज की निकासी हेतु ऐसी कोई नीति निर्धारित नहीं है।

xxi. The reply submitted by the State Government vide letter dated 16.09.2025 was examined in the Ministry and it was observed that as per the KML file submitted by the State and the forest boundary available on the portal, some part of the mineral evacuation road is still within the forest boundary. Also, as per the map submitted by the DFO Tikamgarh along with his letter dated 31.07.2025, the Road from Berwar to Parai river has been shown as Forest Road. The state government was therefore requested to submit the point wise reply to the observations raised by the Advisory Committee.

xxii. Accordingly, the State Government vide letter dated 28.10.2025 submitted the following:

a. चाही गई जानकारी के संबंध में लेख है कि खनिज परिवहन हेतु खनिज निकासी मार्ग की के.एम.एल. फाईल सुधार कर पुनः अपलोड की गई है एवं के.एम.एल. फाईल के अनुसार आवेदित लीज क्षेत्र से खनिज निकासी मार्ग में New Extracting Path जो की पुराने राजस्व मार्ग से जोड़ा गया है, कि लम्बाई 195 मीटर एवं चौड़ाई 3.5 मीटर है, जिसमें से वनभूमि की सीमा के अन्दर 40 मीटर लंबा एवं 3.5 मीटर चौड़ा भाग आता है बाकी New Extracting Path राजस्व क्षेत्र में आता है, इस खनिज निकासी मार्ग (New Extracting Path) के लिए 0.070 हेक्टेयर वनभूमि प्रस्ताव में पूर्व से ही व्यपवर्तन के लिए प्रस्तावित है यह पुराना राजस्व मार्ग ग्राम वैदपुर से होकर आगे State Highway Road से जुड़ता है। आवेदक संस्थान द्वारा खनिज परिवहन के लिये इसी मार्ग उपयोग किया जायेगा। बैरवार से पराई नदी

मार्ग (वनमार्ग), यह मार्ग का नाम है। यह सम्पूर्ण मार्ग वनमार्ग नहीं है, इसमें राजस्व मार्ग शामिल है।

- xxiii. The committee further observed that the proposed mining area is near to the village Vaidpur and User Agency has now changed the proposed route of the mineral evacuation through a revenue road of village vaidpur, which further connects to the State Highway. The earlier proposed 0.07 Ha forest land is enough for this and no additional forest land is required. The revenue road that will be used for mineral evacuation is an existing old road of about 8-9 m wide, which further connects to the State Highway.
- xxiv. The committee further observed that the newly proposed road is of 3.5 m width and of 195 m length. Out of 195m length of proposed road, only 40m falls in the forest area and rest 155 m falls inside the revenue land. As per DSS Analysis, total area of the newly proposed evacuation road is found 0.0637 ha out of which 0.007 ha is in the forest land and remaining area is in the Non-forest/ Revenue land.
- xxv. The committee further observed that the State Government has submitted the Map that shows that only a very small portion of the newly proposed land is falling inside the forest area and rest of the portion is falling on the revenue land, which further connects to the State Highways.
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-1/In-principle approval for diversion of 10.07 ha Reserve forest land of Compartment No RF-263, Range Jatara under Tikamgarh Forest Division for Mining of Pyrophyllite/diaspore by M/s Jindutt Minerals Pvt. Ltd. subject to general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency will use only the proposed road of 3.5 m width, of which 40 m passes through forest land and the remaining 155 m traverses revenue land, ultimately connecting to the State Highway via village Vaidpur for the mineral evacuation purpose.
  - ii. As per the land use plan, 0.93 ha forest area has been proposed for plantation. The said plantation would be carried out by the user agency with native species under the supervision of the state Forest department.
  - iii. The User Agency shall construct a garland drain to ensure that rainwater is diverted to a nala located outside the mining area, preventing its entry into the mine. Before the rainwater is discharged into the external nala, it shall be routed through settling tanks(at least 5 nos). These settling tanks will facilitate sedimentation, allowing silt to settle within the tanks and enabling the discharge of silt-free water into the nala.

- iv. The Regional Office in the SIR has suggested to take deep ploughing in the CA area before plantation, further soil and moisture conservation works, solar pump with bore well have also been suggested for watering the plantation. The State shall keep above suggestions in view while finalizing the Compensatory Afforestation scheme.

## **Agenda No. 16**

### **Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/437171/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 31.4161 Ha (Originally proposed 28.079 ha) of forest land for Compartment No RF-23, Range Rewa under Rewa Forest Division for Tikar Bauxite Phase-I mining project of M/s Katni Minerals Private Ltd. in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/437171/2023) - regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held 02.12.2025. 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 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 Madhya Pradesh vide their note No R-2142750/2024/10-3 dated 05.07.2024 forwarded a fresh diversion proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 28.079 ha forest land of Compartment No RF-23, Range Rewa under Rewa Forest Division for Tikar Bauxite Phase-I mining project of M/s Katni Minerals Private Ltd. in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State.
  - ii. Legal status of the proposed area is Reserve Forest.
  - iii. The State Govt. has informed that the affected trees in the proposed area were counted by the Range Officer Rewa. According to the report of the Range Officer Rewa, 6456 trees were counted through sampling methods. Later, on counting the standing trees again on actual basis, the number was found to be 16660.
  - iv. The LOI has been issued for the entire forest block of 95.26 ht. but since the entire forest block is not a mineralized zone and only 28.079-ha. forest area is available for the mining and allied activities in the mineralized zone therefore a proposal has been made only for the mineralized zone available within the block.

- v. The validity of the LOI dated 15.03.2022 issued by the Mineral Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh was for 03 years i.e. upto 14.03.2025. As per the provision of Rule 10(6) of Mineral Auction Rule 2015, the State Government may extend the time period of the LOI for another 02 years. The preferential bidder has applied for LOI extension on 23.09.2024 and accordingly, the Mineral Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide letter dated 13.03.2025 extended the validity of the Lol for another two years.
- vi. The committee noted that the State is submitting the forest diversion proposal in piecemeal manner and it is also reflecting in the title of the proposal like Tikar Bauxite Phase-I and in future the Phase-II may be come up. In this reference, the Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh informed that after prospecting the entire block and calculating the reserve of the entire forest block, it is found that the entire forest block is not mineral bearing area and only part of the forest area is mineralized area. That is why the area within the mining lease is marked in pieces to carry out non-forestry activity. The Mining proposals as per the approved Mining Plan is confined within the area proposed and applied for forest clearance and Mining operations in the auctioned block will be carried out by the bidder on the basis of the mining plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines, Govt. of India.
- vii. The Committee observed that as per the details mentioned in the proposal, the proposed forest land is having the presence of Schedule-I species and also the project site is home to many other important species like Leopard, hyena, jungle Cat, jackal, Blue cow, Wild boar, Black francolin, sambar deer, Grouse, Peacock, Quail, Parrot etc.
- viii. The State Govt. informed that the proposed forest land is part of the working plan prescription and the working plan of Forest Division Rewa is proposed for the year 2013-14 to 2022-23 in which the proposed forest land RDF is being developed. In working plan of division the details of any rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area has been reported nil but during site inspection some flora and fauna has been reported accordingly by including the details of flora and fauna found in the landscape along with mitigation measure in order to conserve/ protect the same, wildlife conservation and management plan was prepared and submitted by user agency on 14.06.2024 to PCCF (wildlife) Madhya Pradesh, which is approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wild Life) and Chief WildLife Warden. Madhya Pradesh by his official letter dated 03.02.2025. Since the proposed area does not come under any eco sensitive zone, hence the instant proposal does not require Wildlife Clearance under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The copy of approved wildlife conservation and management plan with financial outlay of INR 416.10 Lakh for 10 year approved PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW on dated 03.02.2025 has also been submitted with the proposal.
- ix. The DDGF(C), RO, Bhopal apprised the committee that the proposed diversion area is located inside a reserve forest on slope of a hillock. The

slope is varying from steep to moderate. The floor of the proposed diversion area is covered with small boulders of mostly bauxite or lateritic soil. The vegetation in the area is dense with medium height trees. The regeneration is also excellent. The species found in the area is as provided in column no. 06. The presence of excellent vegetation in the area may be due to the fact that there are no habitations in the nearby areas causing very little human/cattle pressure on the forest. The proposed area is on the north-western aspect of the hillock; therefore, the growth of vegetation is excellent. Since, the area has excellent vegetation; there is very little surface erosion. There are about 5 to 6 seasonal nalas existing in the area. The proposed diversion area is approachable by a 90 meter new road connecting to an existing forest track. Though the area is situated far away from Sanjay Tiger Reserve or Son Gharial WLS, there is a good presence of wildlife in and around the proposed diversion area.

- x. Further informed that the overburden produced will be much smaller in quantity as the deposit is mostly exposed to the surface. The total deposit comprises Bauxite and Laterite. The extraction of minerals will be done by Drilling and Blasting with Shovel and Dumper combination. The extracted mineral will be supplied to the cement plants as raw material. The transport of minerals to cement plants is proposed by road.
- xi. It is observed that the proposed diversion area is a virgin area and there was no non forestry activity. Hence, there is no violation in the proposed diversion area. As there is excellent vegetation and good presence of wildlife in and around the area, it is imperative to have the least adverse impact on the surrounding vegetation and wildlife due to mining.
- xii. The DDGF(C), RO, Bhopal further informed that, in order to mitigate the adverse impact of mining in the surrounding area, it is suggested to have about 20 meter un-disturbed buffer area around the proposed diversion area and approach road. This may be done by erecting chain link fences all around at a distance of 20 meters from the proposed diversion area and also on either side of the proposed approach road. However, a wildlife mitigation plan and soil conservation plan shall also be prepared by the concerned DFO at the cost of the User Agency to reduce the impact of mining in the surrounding area.
- xiii. The Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh informed the committee that there were two mines sanctioned in the past around the proposed area in which mining activities have been closed for the last 10 years.
- xiv. The State Govt. has informed that reclamation plan as provided in the approved mining plan, suggests that the overburden and the mining waste will be used in backfilling the void created by extraction of minerals. As the quantity of mineral extracted would be much larger than the overburden and mining wastes, the void would not be able to be filled up to the current level. Therefore, a depression with surface terrain similar to the current terrain would be left after mining and the same is proposed to be afforested at the cost of the User Agency.

- xv. The committee found that as per the DSS analysis the area proposed for diversion is having high biological richness. The Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the Director of Geology & mining Madhya Pradesh Bhopal vide letter no. 11812 dated 29.10.2024 has mentioned that "*This area has been auctioned as per the prospecting work carried out by department during 1987-1989 field season. On the basis of providing of mineral deposit and resources, the block was prepared and auctioned. Bauxite is metallic mineral and main source for production of aluminum. Apart from aluminum industry, its also used in steel making, refractory, abrasive, cement and chemical industry. As on date no mineral resources is proven in vicinity of unbroken area.*
- xvi. It was informed to the committee that the proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 16.04.2025, wherein the committee *deferred* the proposal for the want of the following:
- a. The evacuation of the mineral has been proposed through a road in the forest area which is just 3.5 meters wide. The efficacy, suitability and the carrying capacity of a 3.5 meter wide road for plying of trucks to transport minerals needs to be examined. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted.
  - b. The State shall provide the details of the existing 3.5 meters wide road passing through the forest land along with the copies of approval obtained under the Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - c. The copy of NoC from the competent authority of the State Government regarding the impact on the Nalla(s) due to mining activity in the proposed forest land shall be submitted.
  - d. The land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) in the proposal is found to be almost a linear patch on the ridge of a hillock beside Juhila river and the average width of the CA patch is around 100 meters. The area does not appear to be suitable from management point of view. Further, a black top road is also observed to be passing across the CA area indicating that the area is not free from encumbrances. Therefore, the CA area needs to be revised and relevant attributes like Map, KML file, Site suitability, CA scheme etc. shall be submitted accordingly.
  - e. The State Govt. shall submit the copy of valid Lol.
- xvii. The State Government has uploaded the point wise information on the PARIVESH portal vide letter dated 02.09.2025. The State Government has informed that the road has not been diverted under the VSESA, 1980 till date. The additional forest land would be required for the expansion of the road. It has also been submitted by the State Govt. that 3.688 Ha Non Forest land has been identified as CA land for the use and widening of the road to 6 m and at some places, it will be around 10 m wide. The State Government has also submitted the CA scheme for 3.688 Ha. non forest land identified against the use of the existing forest road for the use of the User Agency for the mineral evacuation.

- xviii. The State Government further submitted that there is no presence of the Nalla in the land proposed to be diverted. However, in the SIR report submitted by the Regional Office Bhopal, it is mentioned about the 5-6 seasonal Nalla(s) in the area.
- xix. The State Government also submitted that as per the report submitted by the DFO Anuppur vide letter dated 14.05.2025, the proposed CA site is found suitable for the plantation and management point of view. It is also submitted that the temporary road is being passed through the NFL provided for the CA land, which is being used by the locals. Before plantation of trees in the said area, the UA will, at its own expense, shift the road towards south of the river for movement of villagers. There is no encroachment in the said proposed plantation area.
- xx. The State Government also submitted the Lol is valid till 12.03.2027.
- xxi. The Committee observed that the legal status of the road which will be used for the mineral evacuation is not known. If the proposed road for mineral evacuation is a notified road, then the same can be used for the Mineral evacuation purpose. However, the State Government submitted that the additional forest land would be required for the widening of the proposed road. Accordingly, a comprehensive proposal needs to be submitted by the State Government by including the road.
- xxii. The Committee also observed that the Regional Office Bhopal in its Site Inspection report submitted about the presence of the 5-6 seasonal Nallas in the area proposed for diversion. However, the State Government submitted that there is no presence of Nalla in the area. The State Government may be requested to provide the ground position on the presence of the Nalla(s) in the area proposed for diversion.
- xxiii. The proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 26.09.2025, wherein the committee deferred the proposal and sought the following details:
- a. The State Government has informed that additional forest land would be required for the widening of the existing road to 6 m and at some places, around 10 m, which will be used for the mineral evacuation purpose. Accordingly, the state shall include the entire area involved in the road to be used for mineral evacuation and submit a comprehensive proposal for diversion of forest land.
  - b. The state shall verify the legal status of existing road, and submit a detailed report in this regard.
  - c. The State Government vide letter dated 02.09.2025 had informed that there is no Nalla (stream) in the area proposed for diversion. However, the Regional Office, Bhopal during Site Inspection has observed the presence of 5-6 seasonal Nallas in the area proposed for diversion. The State Government shall examine the matter and take necessary measures accordingly.
- xxiv. The State Government vide its letter dated 07.11.2025 submitted the information with respect to the observations raised by the Ministry. Accordingly, the State Government revised the area of the proposal from

28.079 Ha to 31.4161 Ha by including the area of the road that is proposed for the use of the Mineral Evacuation purpose. The necessary corrections have been made in the online proposal. Also, as per the DSS analysis of the KML files submitted by the State Government, the calculated area of the proposal is found to be 31.341 Ha including the area of the road i.e. 3.395 Ha.

- xxv. The State Government further submitted that the length of the required forest road for mineral evacuation purpose is 4.65 KM with 6 m on straight path and 10 m on the turns. Further, there will be a movement of 5-10 trucks in a day only and there shall be no movement of two trucks from the opposite side. The movement of the trucks shall only be in the day time.
  - xxvi. The State Government again submitted that there is no permanent Nalla found in the area. However, there are 6 Seasonal Nallas in the area proposed for diversion. The water flows in these Nallas only in the rainy season.
  - xxvii. The committee observed that the State Government has now proposed an area of 3.4051 Ha for the approach road that will be used for the mineral evacuation purpose. Accordingly, the State Government proposed the additional CA land of 3.76 Ha in three patches of the size of 2.480 Ha, 1.0 Ha and 0.280 Ha. The patches are isolated and very small in size. The state may accordingly provide compensatory afforestation patch of bigger area which is suitable for management and protection. The selected areas may be inspected by the Regional Office.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for diversion of 31.4161 ha forest land of Compartment No RF-23, Range Rewa under Rewa Forest Division for Tikar Bauxite Phase-I mining project of M/s Katni Minerals Private Ltd. in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State for want of following information from the State;
- i. The State Government has proposed 3.4051 ha for the approach road to be utilized for mineral evacuation. Against this requirement, 3.76 ha of non-forest land comprising three isolated patches of 2.480 ha, 1.0 ha, and 0.280 ha has been proposed for compensatory afforestation. Since these fragmented patches are small and may not be suitable for effective management and protection, the State Government shall provide a single CA patch of adequate size against the above requirement.
  - ii. The Regional Office shall inspect and confirm the suitability of the area so proposed for compensatory afforestation by the state government.

## Agenda No. 17

Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464461/2024

**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 149.6878 Ha reserved and revenue forest land for under ground coal mining and surface rights of Pathora West Coal Block (Sohagpur Coalfield) in favour of Shri Bajrang Power and Ispat Limited under Ghunghuti Forest Range, Umaria forest division, Madhya Pradesh (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464461/2024) - regd.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held 02.12.2025. 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 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 Madhya Pradesh vide their communication No. F-1/877/2025/FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464461/2024/1580 dated 10.06.2025 forwarded a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 149.6878 ha (130.187 ha for underground mining and 19.50 ha for surface rights) forest land of Pathora West Coal Block (Sohagpur Coalfield) underground mechanized Coal Mine located in the Villages of Ghunghuti, Githauri, and PatnarKalan, Tehsil Pali, District Umaria in Madhya Pradesh by M/s Shri Bajrang Power and Ispat Limited
  - ii. The State Government submitted that the proposed Pathora West Coal Block is an underground, mechanized coal mine located in the villages of Ghunghuti, Githauri, and Patnar Kalan in Pali Tehsil, Umaria District, Madhya Pradesh. The total area is 640.520 ha, with the project covering 554.0843 ha. The mine is planned to produce 0.80 million tonnes of coal per year, with a peak capacity of 1.2 million tonnes per year. The Pathora West Coal Block features an undulating topography, with elevations ranging from 480 to 548 meters above mean sea level. The majority of the block is occupied by cultivable land and settlements, while the remaining area comprises forest land.
  - iii. The density of vegetation is 0.6 for 140.898 Ha reserved forest and 0.4 for 8.789 Ha revenue forest of Eco Class III. Total 1753 number of trees are proposed to be felled of the Kasam, Khamher, Khair, Gurja, Char, Churhil, Jamun, Tendu, Dudhiya, Dhubna, Neem, Neelgiri, Pakari, Palash, Amaltash, Arjun, Aam, Kathal Bargad, Baheda, Bel, Mahua, Sagaun, Saal, Seeta Phal etc.
  - iv. The State Government reported that the area has undulations and slight possibility of erosion may be there.

- v. The State Government submitted that there is a presence of wild animals like tiger, leopard, sloth bear, cheetal etc in and around the land proposed for diversion.
- vi. The proposed mining lease Area adjoins area of Bandhavgarh-Achankarmar Wildlife Corridor.
- vii. The State Government has uploaded the copy of the Wildlife Conservation Plan dully approved by PCCF (Wildlife) Bhopal on the portal.
- 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 land use plan of the proposal is as under:

S. No	Component	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
1	Coal Transport Road	1.21	1.055
2	Water Settling Tank	1.1	0
3	Lamp Room and Incline Office	1.2	0
4	Electric Sub Station	1.3	0
5	Store and Workstation	1.1	0
6	Vocational Training Centre	0.5	0
7	Weigh Bridge	0.5	0
8	Rescue Station	0.5	0
9	Coal Handling Plant	1.5	0
10	2 no of incline and 1 no of shaft	1.9	0
11	Coal Dump Area	2.6491	0
12	Green Belt	6.0409	0
13	Mineral Exploration Area	130.1878	403.3415
	<b>Total</b>	<b>149.6878</b>	<b>404.3965</b>

- x. The CA has been proposed over 20.429 Ha of Non forest land in khasra No. 552,553/1, 554/1, 555/1, 556/1/1, 557/1, 558/1, 559/1, 561, 562/1, 563/1, 572/1/1, 573/1, 546/1, 566/1/1/1 of Rewa District. The CA suitability certificate has been given by the concerned DFO. Regional Office also in its SIR recommended the proposal and CA land was also found suitable for CA purpose. As per DSS Analysis, the State Government has proposed a single patch comprising an area of 19.948 ha Non-Forest land for CA has been proposed in Village-Lodhi, Tahsil – Hanumana Distt- Mauganj.
- xi. The site suitability certificate provided by the DFO, Rewa for the proposed CA land of 20 Ha is found uploaded on the portal. Further, CA scheme has also been found uploaded on the portal with financial outlay of ₹2,87,19,900/-
- xii. The State Government submitted that the as per the report, the maximum subsidence effect after mining will be 0.029 mm/m. The subsidence due to

de-pillaring of IB COMB seam is 4.27 mm/m. Also, as per empirical method, the subsidence estimation is 1.96 mm/m to 4.89 mm/m.

- xiii. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a) The underground coal mining will be carried out beneath the proposed diversion area, surface subsidence and cracking may occur after de-pillaring operations. The User Agency shall immediately seal such cracks or take appropriate measures as outlined in the approved mining plan to prevent atmospheric oxygen from coming into contact with the coal seams.
  - b) As discussed with the User Agency, under the surface right activities, an area preparation of 25 ha for plantation will be affected during the year 2024-25 as part of the external land-use plan. The expenditure incurred on this plantation work, which is funded by the government, will be reimbursed by the applicant organization. A written undertaking from the User Agency to this effect is submitted.
  - c) The proposal involves the felling of a total of 1,753 plants, comprising 1,218 trees and 535 bamboo clumps, which may lead to significant forest cover loss within the lease boundary. To mitigate this impact, it is suggested that the surface infrastructure components be realigned or shifted to adjoining revenue land, wherever technically feasible, so as to avoid forest land diversion and conserve existing tree cover.
  - d) A well-planned stormwater management and drainage system will be developed to ensure proper runoff flow. To prevent erosion of waste materials, OB dump management will include mechanical measures such as slope stabilization, parapet wall construction, and terracing. Additionally, a green belt will be developed to capture fugitive emissions, reduce noise levels, and enhance the overall safety of the area.
  - e) The Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan will recommend measures to mitigate the negative impacts of mining activities on wildlife. It will also address the human-wildlife interface, focusing on regulating habitat use, reducing animal-related damages, addressing livelihood concerns, and involving local communities as partners in conservation management. These aspects are reflected in the plan's proposed measures.
  - f) As per MoEF&CC guidelines, Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is not required for areas where only underground mining is proposed and no surface disturbance occurs. CA is applicable only to those parts of the forest land where surface activities for non-forestry purposes are planned.
  - g) To facilitate effective rejuvenation of the site, appropriate soil and moisture conservation measures such as earthen dams, loose boulder check dams, percolation tanks, and water harvesting structures are recommended at suitable locations. Additionally, it is

proposed to establish one watcher's hut-cum-watchtower at a strategic location to ensure efficient monitoring and protection of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area.

- xiv. The State Government has submitted that the component wise breakup submitted in Part - I of the application form i.e. the activities like Store and workshop, Vocational Training Centre, Rescue Station, Coal Dump area etc are interlinked with the mine openings/ entrances for the safety of the mine. Hence, these are kept closed to the mine entries/ infrastructures area.
  - xv. The Committee observed that there is a presence of built-up areas, agricultural land, roads, nalas, and plantation works in the proposed forest land for diversion. In this regard, it has been submitted by the State Government that the proposed mine is underground coal mine and the built-up areas may be due to the encroachment by villagers from the long period.
  - xvi. The Committee observed that the area of the KML file of the mine lease is found to be 552.332 ha instead of 554.0843 ha whereas the KML file area of the forest land for diversion is found 146.413 ha instead of 149.6878 ha as per the proposal. Further, the KML file showing the component-wise requirement of forest and non-forest land involved in the project has not been uploaded on the portal.
  - xvii. The Committee observed that the State Government has proposed many non-site specific activities such as Water Settling Tank, Electric Sub Station, Store and Workstation, Vocational Training Centre, Rescue Station, dumping area etc. in the proposed forest land of 19.5 Ha for which surface rights have been asked by the State Government. Since adequate non-forest land is available the surface activities should be shifted over non-forest land.
  - xviii. The Committee further observed that as per Satellite imagery, the proposed CA land seems to be dry & rocky and hence may not be suitable for the plantation.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for diversion of 149.6878 Ha reserved and revenue forest land for under ground coal mining and surface rights of Pathora West Coal Block (Sohagpur Coalfield) in favour of Shri Bajrang Power and Ispat Limited under Ghunghuti Forest Range, Umaria forest division, Madhya Pradesh for want of following information:
- i. Since adequate non-forest land is available, all the surface activities/infrastructure shall be shifted over the non-forest area and proposal should be revised accordingly.
  - ii. The area of the KML file of the mine lease is found to be 552.332 ha instead of 554.0843 ha whereas the KML file area of the forest land for diversion is found 146.413 ha instead of 149.6878 ha as per the proposal. Further, the KML file showing the component-wise requirement of forest and non-forest

land involved in the project has not been uploaded on the portal. The correct component wise KML shall be submitted.

- iii. As per Satellite imagery, the proposed CA land appears to be dry & rocky and hence may not be suitable for the plantation. The state shall examine and ensure that the CA land proposed is suitable for the plantation and management.
- iv. There is presence of built-up areas, agricultural land, roads, nalas, and plantation works in the proposed forest land for diversion. In this regard, it has been submitted by the State Government that the proposed mine is underground coal mine and the built-up areas may be due to the encroachment by villagers from the long period. The state shall submit a details in this regard along with an action taken report.

### **Agenda No. 20**

#### **Proposal No: FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/468270/2024**

**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 50.745 ha Reserved forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department, Barwani for the construction of the Kalamba Tank under Sendhwa Forest Division, Barwani District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/468270/2024) – regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held 02.12.2025. 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 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 Madhya Pradesh vide their communication uploaded on PARIVESH on 12.06.2025 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 50.745 ha Reserved forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department, Barwani for the construction of the Kalamba Tank under Sendhwa Forest Division, Barwani District of Madhya Pradesh State.
  - ii. The State Government submitted that the proposed project is located in a highly backward and remote area, inhabited entirely by economically disadvantaged tribal communities. The local economy is almost entirely

dependent on agriculture; however, due to acute water scarcity, crop productivity remains very low, keeping the population trapped in poverty. A seasonal stream, locally known as Local Nalla, flows through the area and joins the Umari River, which in turn drains into the Tapti River. Harnessing the water from this seasonal stream offers a vital opportunity to improve irrigation facilities and support agricultural activities. The project has been conceived to capture and utilize this water resource efficiently, thereby enhancing agricultural production, improving food security, and uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the local tribal population.

- iii. It is further submitted that the project will contribute to reducing distress migration and promoting sustainable rural livelihoods in the region.
- iv. The proposed forest area involves 50.745 Ha of Reserved forest land with vegetation density of 0.2 of eco class III.
- v. The instant proposal involves 413 number of trees of 14 species to be felled.
- vi. The proposed area for diversion is not a part of any Protected area and there is no Protected area with in 10 KM from the boundary of proposed area.
- vii. The State Government reported that the proposed forest land is not vulnerable to soil erosion.
- viii. The State Government submitted that there is no wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.
- ix. The proposal does not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. Also, no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area proposed for diversion.
- x. As per SIR submitted by the DFO, there are 08 families dependent for their living on this land. Only agricultural land of 08 families will be submerged. However, the Regional Office in its SIR submitted that during the visits in the area there are approx. 23 partially affected families for which compensation will be provided as per the State Norms (as informed by the Project Authority).
- xi. The State Government submitted that it is proposed to provide compensation at double the collector guideline rates to the 07 houses/properties holders and 25.00 hectare forest rights lease holders affected by the scheme.
- xii. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)</b>	<b>Non-forest Land (ha)</b>
Canal	0.864	0

Spill	0.212	0
Dam and Submergence	49.669	0
Canal in Non forest	0	2.624
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.745</b>	<b>2.6240</b>

- xiii. The CA land has been proposed over 50.745 Ha of non forest land in two patches in village Lonsarai (27.17 Ha) and Rangaon Deb (23.575 Ha) of Badhwani (T) Division. As per DSS Analysis, the calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is found 50.571 ha.
- xiv. The DFO Badhwani in his Site Inspection Report submitted that the proposed area of 27.170 hectare proposed for CA in Badyani Unkhand Badwani-3B survey number 101/14, 103/3 has been inspected on 12/11/12. As the site is hilly/murumi area and there is no fertile soil, it is necessary to collect fertile soil from other area and buy cow dung manure and put it in the pits to be dug. Soil and cow dung manure will be required in the said area.
- xv. Further, the Regional Office Bhopal in its SIR submitted that a suitable irrigation facility with a borewell and solar pump should also be incorporated in the CA scheme for irrigating the plants. The area proposed for raising CA included in the proposal for construction of Susari Tank and Gularpani Tank are also adjacent to the proposed site-1 (Lonsara Bujurg), therefore, a watcher's hut cum watch tower is also suggested to be included in the CA scheme. In both the CA sites the boundary of the CA area should be provided with continuous contour trenching with septa at regular intervals. The dug-out soil from the trench should be put 1 meter on the outer side of the trench. The mound of the dug-out soil should be planted with species such as *Ceasalpinia bonduc* for effective protection.
- xvi. It is further mentioned by the RO Bhopal that the proposed CA site can be enriched by adopting soil and moisture conservation measures such as staggered contour trenches, crescent bunds, and small water harvesting pits to enhance percolation and support sapling growth; planting a mix of native species, including timber, fruit-bearing, and fodder trees, in suitable patterns; creating microhabitats by retaining natural regeneration pockets and introducing nectar-rich shrubs; developing water sources like wildlife watering holes or solar-powered drip irrigation for the initial years; ensuring site protection through fencing or live hedges with local JFMC involvement; carrying out enrichment planting and assisted natural regeneration where partial vegetation exists; and implementing a maintenance plan with gap filling, fire protection, and annual monitoring to ensure long-term sustainability and high survival rates.

- xvii. The RO Bhopal in its SIR recommended the proposal with the following observations:
- a. The canal alignment may be shifted entirely to non-forest land to minimize the requirement of forest land for the project and minimize environmental impact.
  - b. Given the 17.72 sq. km catchment, a CAT plan should be prepared to control soil erosion, reduce siltation, and improve water retention through afforestation, contour trenching, and gully plugging.
  - c. A greenbelt can be developed with planting of native species along the reservoir periphery, waste weir, and command area to enhance biodiversity and soil stability
  - d. Provision of a silt trap or desilting basin upstream to prolong reservoir life.
  - e. Community Participation by involving local tribal communities in afforestation, catchment treatment, and maintenance works to ensure sustainable project benefits
  - f. Creation of Wildlife Water Points of shallow depressions along the periphery to provide safe access to water for wildlife and cattle.
  - g. The project proponent should clarify whether the components required for power supply—such as the electricity transmission line, transformer, control panels, and pumping units—are going to be proposed within forest land or in non-forest areas, along with details of their exact locations, land requirement, and measures to minimize forest land use. However, during the visit this is informed by the Project Authority that all these component will be constructed in non-forest area.
- xviii. The State Government has submitted that the administrative and technical approvals for the project were granted by the Water Resources Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, through letters dated 04 July 2018 and 23 August 2024, respectively.
- xix. The State Government submitted that the CAT plan in the instant proposal is not required as the proposal is Minor Irrigation project. However, as per chapter 9 of the consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, a proposal for diversion of forest land for Irrigation/Hydro-electric projects shall invariably be accompanied by detailed CAT plan except in respect of small hydel projects (maximum up to 10 MW capacity), which are either canal head or run-of the river projects and do not involve impounding of water/submergence of forest land.

- xx. The State Government submitted that since the scheme is a minor irrigation scheme, the requirement of recommendation of State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) and approval of National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) is not applicable.
  - xxi. The State Government has stated that the total catchment area of the irrigation project is 17.72 sq. km and that a storage capacity of 1.76 million cubic meters. The scheme does not propose underground pipelines. However, the KML file indicates that the canal is aligned along an existing road and discharges water downstream.
  - xxii. The State Government submitted that the CAT plan in the instant proposal is not required as the proposal is Minor Irrigation project. However, as per chapter 9 of the consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, a proposal for diversion of forest land for Irrigation/Hydro-electric projects shall invariably be accompanied by detailed CAT plan except in respect of small hydel projects (maximum up to 10 MW capacity), which are either canal head or run-of-the river projects and do not involve impounding of water/submergence of forest land.
  - xxiii. The committee further observed that the State Government has not submitted the recommendation of State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) and approval of National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) for the instant proposal.
  - xxiv. Another dam is located at a distance of 882.28 meters. The State Government has stated that the existing dam is currently used for irrigation in Vasliapani village. A detailed and substantive justification for the establishment of the new dam needs to be submitted by the State Government, taking into account the impact of the existing dam and the benefits it has provided to the local community.
  - xxv. The committee also observed that dam-axis KML as submitted by the State Government is in a line feature instead of polygon form.
  - xxvi. The committee further observed that the total catchment area of the irrigation project is 17.72 sq. km and the command area is only 375 ha. Moreover around 23 families will be partially affected due to the project. Keeping above in view the viability of the proposal and the justification for taking up the project needs to be examined.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for diversion of 50.745 ha Reserved forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department, Barwani for the construction

of the Kalamba Tank under Sendhwa Forest Division, Barwani District of Madhya Pradesh State for want of following information:

- i. The total catchment area of the irrigation project is 17.72 sq. km and the command area is only 375 ha. Moreover, 23 families will be partially affected due to the project. Keeping above in view the viability of the proposal and the justification for taking up the project needs to be examined. A detailed report/justification in this regard shall be submitted.
- ii. Another dam is located at a distance of 882.28 meters from the proposed dam. The State Government has stated that the existing dam is currently used for irrigation in Vasliapani village. A detailed and substantive justification for the establishment of the new dam shall be submitted by the State Government, taking into account the impact of the existing dam and the benefits it has provided to the local community.
- iii. As per the chapter 9 of the consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, the State Government shall submit a detailed CAT plan dully approved by the competent authority.
- iv. As per the recommendations of the Regional Office, the canal alignment may be shifted entirely onto non-forest land to minimize both the requirement of forest land and the environmental impact of the project. The State Government shall take necessary action in this regard and submit a revised proposal accordingly.
- v. The Regional office has suggested various measures for the Compensatory afforestation area including a suitable irrigation facility with a borewell and solar pump to be suitably incorporated in the CA scheme. The State shall accordingly submit the Compensatory Afforestation scheme as per the recommendations of regional office.

### **Agenda No. 21**

#### **Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/504139/2024**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 9.621 Ha of revenue forest land for Damini underground Coal Mine in the Villages of Kandoha and Khairaha in District Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh by M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/504139/2024) - regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held 02.12.2025. 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 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 Madhya Pradesh vide their communication No. F-1/882/2025/FP/MP/MIN/QRY/504139/2024 dated 28.07.2025 forwarded a fresh diversion proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 9.621 Ha of revenue forest land for Damini underground Coal Mine in the Villages of Kandoha and Khairaha in District Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh by M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited.
- ii. The State Government submitted that the proposed diversion of 9.621 ha of revenue forest land falls within the total mining lease area. The Damni Block features a gently undulating terrain with an overall slope towards the northeast. The site is characterized by red loamy soil with a good depth and texture. Due to its proximity to nearby habitations, the area exhibits considerable biotic interference. Further, the State Government has submitted that Damini Underground mine is an already existing mine and after allotment of new Khasra No. for mining from the State Government, it is necessary to divert 9.621 Ha of revenue forest land.
- iii. The proposed area has a canopy density of 0.5 and Eco Class IV.
- iv. As reported by the State Government, the presence of jackal, the wild boar, Spotted deer, Monkey, Hyena and the Group of Elephant have movement noticed at proposed khasra No. 348/4/1 in Year 2022, which is 4.333 Ha.
- v. The State Government reported that the proposed area for diversion is not vulnerable to erosion.
- vi. The State Government submitted that there is presence of jackal, the wild boar, Spotted deer, Monkey, The Hyena and the Group of Elephant have movement at proposed khasra No. 348/4/1 in Year 2022, which is 4.333 Ha in and around the land proposed for diversion.
- vii. 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.
- viii. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (in Ha)	Non forest land (in Ha)
i.	Mining Infrastructure etc.	0	7
ii.	Road	0	8.225
iii.	Underground mining area	9.621	306.154

iv.	Others (Settlement)	0	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9.621</b>	<b>325.3790</b>

- ix. The State Government submitted that, the mining will be totally underground and no surface right is required on the proposed diversion of revenue forest land. Accordingly, no tree felling will be required in the proposed revenue forest land and also effect on wildlife would be negligible. Therefore, as per the existing rules and guidelines there is no requirement of any CA.
- x. The State Government submitted that the Damini underground mine is an already existing mine, whose annual production is 4.8 lakh tonnes. Presently, after receiving new Khasra from the state government, due to some Khasra being registered as newly revenue forest land, it is necessary to get 9.621 hectares of revenue forest land diverted. Mining is not being done in the above proposed 9.621 hectares of revenue forest land.
- xi. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a. As per enquiry with the local forest officials, wildlife in the area were Canis aureus, Vulpes bengalensis, Axis axis, Muntiacus muntjak, Macaca mulatta, Snakes, Vulture, Occasional movement of Elephas maximus indicus. The proposed diversion area is neither a part of any Protected area nor falling in any notified Wildlife corridor and is located at about approx. 6.00 km away from Achnakmar Bandhavgarh Wildlife Tiger Corridor boundary. Therefore, the area is not very important form wildlife point of view. Further, there was no any non-forestry activity noticed in the area during the site inspection and hence there is no violation.
  - b. Some water bodies within the proposed area may be impacted by ground subsidence, potentially affecting the natural infiltration and flow of percolating water within the subsurface strata. Regular monitoring of subsidence movement if any on the surface working area and impact on water bodies/vegetation should be continued till movement ceases completely.
  - c. As informed by the mining officials, the mining will be totally underground and no surface right is required on the proposed diversion of revenue forest land. Accordingly, no tree felling will be required in the proposed revenue forest land and also effect on wildlife would be negligible. Therefore, as per the existing rules and guidelines there is no requirement of any CA.
  - d. As the underground method involves depillaring operations, subsidence may occur, potentially leading to surface cracks. The User Agency shall plug such cracks immediately as per the approved

mining plan to prevent atmospheric oxygen from entering the coal seams. Cracks generated due to depillaring are to be fully filled, and the subsided areas must be kept free from waterlogging by providing suitable drainage arrangements.

- e. To minimize any adverse impact on local flora and fauna, rejuvenation measures are recommended for the proposed diversion area. These include gap planting with tall indigenous species, Aided Natural Regeneration (ANR) of existing vegetation, and removal of invasive weeds such as Lantana camara. All rejuvenation activities should be undertaken at the cost of the User Agency.
  - f. Although the area is not part of a Protected Area or notified wildlife corridor, the User Agency shall comply with any additional recommendations issued by the Wildlife Division, if required.
  - g. As coal mining is site-specific, no viable alternative to the proposed location exists. Considering the above facts, along with the national energy requirement, local employment potential, and the absence of significant impacts on forest cover and wildlife habitats, the proposal is recommended for approval, subject to the observations made.
- xii. The Committee observed that as per the subsidence report submitted along with the proposal, the anticipated maximum slope and tensile strain likely to occur are 86.67 and 43.33 mm/m respectively, which may have significant impact on the surface features, water bodies and trees. The para 7.8 of the consolidated guidelines dated 29.12.2023 provides that the maximum tensile strain of 20 mm per meter and thereby the surface cracks of width of about 200-300 mm is to be permitted in forest areas.
- xiii. The committee also observed that as per SIR of Regional Office, wildlife present in the area includes Canis aureus, Vulpes bengalensis, Axis axis, Muntiacus muntjak, Macaca mulatta, Snakes, Vulture, Occasional movement of Elephas maximus indicus. The Regional office has further recommended that although the area is not part of a Protected Area or notified wildlife corridor, the User Agency shall comply with any additional recommendations issued by the Wildlife Division, if required.
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-1/In-principle approval for the diversion of 9.621 Ha of revenue forest land for Damini underground Coal Mine in favor of the M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited in the Villages of Kandoha and Khairaha in District Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. Considering the anticipated maximum slope and tensile strain of 86.67 mm/m and 43.33 mm/m respectively, regular monitoring of subsidence movement shall be carried out. In the event of any damage to surface vegetation, the proposal shall be treated as equivalent to an open-cast mining operation, and the User Agency shall be liable to pay the applicable NPV and provide Compensatory Afforestation accordingly.
- ii. The User Agency shall plug cracks generated due to subsidence effect of the Underground mine immediately as per the approved mining plan to prevent atmospheric oxygen from entering the coal seams. Cracks generated due to depillaring are to be fully filled, and the subsided areas must be kept free from waterlogging by providing suitable drainage arrangements.
- iii. Some water bodies within the proposed area may be impacted by ground subsidence, potentially affecting the natural infiltration and flow of percolating water within the subsurface strata. Regular monitoring of subsidence movement if any on the surface working area and impact on water bodies/vegetation should be done.
- iv. The user agency shall carry out gap planting with tall indigenous species, Aided Natural Regeneration (ANR) of existing vegetation, and removal of invasive weeds such as *Lantana camara* to minimize any adverse impact on local flora and fauna.

## **Agenda No. 22**

### **Proposal No. FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/483015/2024**

**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 513.4 ha Forest land in favour of Water Resource Department, Rani Avanti Bai Lodhi Sagar Project, Bargi Hills, Jabalpur for the construction of Shakkar Pench Link Combined Project, Phase-1, Hard dam under Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State- reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held 02.12.2025. 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 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 Madhya Pradesh vide their State File No F-3/42/2025 dated 08.07.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 513.4 ha Forest land in favour of Water Resource Department, Rani Avanti Bai Lodhi Sagar Project, Bargi Hills, Jabalpur for the construction of Shakkar Pench Link Combined Project, Phase-1, Hard dam under Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State.
- ii. The State Government submitted that the Shakkar-Pench Link Combined Project is proposed to provide irrigation to a total command area of 95,839 ha across the districts of Chhindwara and Narsinghpur in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The project involves the construction of two major components:  
Phase-1: Construction of the Hard Dam, designed to irrigate approximately 31,839 ha under the Amarwada command area in Chhindwara district.  
Phase-II: Construction of the Shakkar Dam, aimed at providing irrigation to approximately 64,000 ha under the Gadarwara command area in Narsinghpur district.
- iii. The State Government further submitted that the combined project is intended to enhance agricultural productivity through assured irrigation, contributing to regional water resource management and rural development. As a result of the project's construction, irrigation facilities will be made available to approximately 31,839 ha of land across 84 villages. Approximately 297 families across 6 villages are expected to be impacted. The process of their rehabilitation and resettlement is currently in progress, in accordance with the prevailing norms and policies under the applicable Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) framework.
- iv. The Eco class and canopy density of the proposal is as under:

Area (in Ha)	Canopy Density	Eco-Class
181.58	0.6	III
1.48	0.4	III
3.048	0.6	III
0.846	0.4	III
203.703	0.5	IV
122.738	0.5	IV
- v. The proposal involves the felling of 174514 number of trees.
- vi. The State Government submitted that the project area does not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc.
- vii. The State Government further submitted that no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area proposed for diversion. Further, no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area proposed for diversion.
- viii. The proposal involves the Rehabilitation & Resettlement of 650 families of 6 villages. Further, 1454 families are likely to be affected due to the project.

The Rehabilitation & Resettlement is in progress as reported by the UA in Part I.

- ix. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

S. No	Component	As per the PARIVESH	
		Forest Land (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
1.	LHS Approach road	0.149	0.275
2.	RHS Approach & Dam colony	0.06	1.09
3.	Dam Seat	15.221	14.31
4.	Pump house-1	1.746	0
5.	Pump House-1A	0	0.861
6.	Pump house-1B	0	2.46
7.	Delivery Chamber	0	0.25
8.	Gravity Pipeline	3.057	0
9.	Rising main pipeline	7.33	0
10.	Submergence area	485.836	487.967
	<b>Total</b>	<b>513.399</b>	<b>507.213</b>

- x. The User Agency has proposed 513.399 Ha of Non forest in two district viz. Damoh and Narsinghpur of the Madhya Pradesh State in 9 patches. As per DSS Analysis, the area of Non-Forest land proposed for CA through its KML file is found 512.882 ha. Further, the State Government informed that based upon the ground verification, the Revenue land proposed in village Jangupura (survey No 50, 51, 55, 60, 62) and GARRUWA (Survey No 21,84) for CA is not falling in the forest compartment boundaries. The details of the proposed non forest land is as under:

Sl. No.	District	Village	Khasra No.	Area
1	Damoh	Bhajiya	794	60.0
2		Pati Bhajiya	424	14.0
3		Mousipura	818	24.20
4		Jangupura	50, 51, 55, 60, 62	119.65
5		Garruwa	21, 84	89.0
6		Garruwa	20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27	87.27
7		Garruwa	21, 43, 50	35.0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>429.12</b>
8	Narsinghpur	Shahpur	429/1	75.0
9			163/2/1	9.279
			<b>Total</b>	<b>84.279</b>
			<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>513.399</b>

- xi. The proposed non forest land contains small rocky patches within the area; therefore, the remaining 117076 saplings are planned to be planted in the degraded forest area:

Sl. No.	Forest Division	Forest Range	Forest Compartment	Area in Ha.
1	Damoh	Hatta	RF-52	40.0
2			RF-51	25.0
3			RF-44	17.0
4			RF-23	35.076
5			RF-47	41.80
6			PF-334, RF-14	75.276
			<b>Total</b>	<b>234.152</b>

- xii. Further, the RO Bhopal in its SIR submitted that the non forest land proposed for CA contains small rocky patches within the area; therefore, the remaining 117076 saplings are planned to be planted in the degraded forest area.
- xiii. Upon examination of the project layout KML file along with the forest compartment boundaries available on the State Forest Department website, it was observed that the total forest area required for the Rising Main, as indicated in the proposal, is 7.33 ha. However, based on the forest compartment data from the State Government's working plan, the forest land falling within the Rising Main alignment has been calculated as 8.744 ha. Accordingly, a variation of 1.414 ha in the forest area has been noted. The State Government was therefore requested to provide clarification. In this regard the state has informed that the forest area involved in the rising main is 7.33 ha only.
- xiv. The inspecting officer in the Site Inspection report has inter-alia mentioned as under:
- The water shall be provided from the reservoir to the Forest Department for raising and maintenance of plantations and nurseries around the site whenever required, free of charge. The quantity and time of supply of water shall be as decided by the Forest Department.
  - A plan for conservation of wildlife will be made by the User Agency in consultation with the CCF (Wildlife) to be implemented at the User Agency's cost. Along the canal alignment, structural interventions shall be carried out at wildlife cross over points, which are duly camouflaged and mimic nature, at cost to the user agency, so that dispersal is not hindered.
  - The user agency shall also construct a number of concrete dykes across smaller streams going off from the main reservoir which during FRL shall be over flown but which during lean season shall dam up small, isolated water bodies for the benefit of the wildlife.
  - The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced

- cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates.
- e. Felling of trees, if unavoidable on the forest land being diverted shall be reduced to the bare minimum and trees should be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department. Moreover, it shall be ensured that wherever possible maximum marked trees for felling should be translocated in consultation with the State Forest Department.
  - f. The construction and operation of dam-related infrastructure can lead to significant ecological impacts, including the fragmentation of contiguous forests, which may act as barriers to wildlife movement. Additionally, permanent loss of forest cover is often inevitable due to submergence, land diversion, and clearing activities associated with dam development.
  - g. To mitigate these impacts, it is essential to conserve riparian vegetation along riverbanks to maintain ecological corridors, minimize disturbances to soil structure and natural water regimes, and adopt effective erosion control measures in areas where forest clearance is unavoidable.
- xv. The DDG(F) Regional Office has recommended and in his recommendations it has been mentioned that:
- a) The proposal intended for Construction, operation and maintenance of Shakkar Pench Link Combined Project, Phase-1, Hard dam. Piped Irrigation system to supply water through pressurized pipeline system for micro irrigation (Drip/Sprinkler) to deliver at farmers' fields with a duty of 0.35 Lit/Sec/Ha, OMS at 20 Ha. Chak with 10 times duty from 20 Ha to 2.5 Ha Chak with at least 23 Meter Residual Head at highest point of each 2.50 Ha chak with Culturable Command Area of 95839 Ha. It is noted that the specific area associated with the project will be under permanent submergence.
  - b) The site vegetation is primarily dry deciduous type with limited biodiversity, largely sustaining vegetation only along seasonal water channels that are susceptible to submergence on execution of the project. Non-forested areas are currently mostly under tillage.
  - c) The proposed area is not part of, nor located within 10 km of, any Protected Area or notified Wildlife Corridor. It is situated at a distance of 70 km from the Pench Tiger Reserve, Seoni.
  - d) Compensatory Afforestation is proposed in many distinct patches of non-forest land, as detailed in the inspecting officer report, which also confirmed the presence of wildlife in the land designated for CA. The CA site are suitable for planting
  - e) It is further suggested that the planting of riparian species along the boundary of the waterline be undertaken to help foster and support local fauna.

- ii. The Committee observed that the State Government examined the three alternatives for the proposal and selected the alternative III.
  - iii. The Committee observed that the Satellite imagery had revealed the presence of agricultural land, settlements, roads and a transmission line within the proposed forest land for diversion. In this regard, the State Government submitted that the 765 kV double circuit Gadawara Barora transmission line passes through forest areas within the affected forest land for which the approval was granted by the Regional Office Bhopal vide letter dated 25.01.2018. The UA has submitted the undertaking for to relocate the transmission line passing through the forest land. The UA requested the PGCIL vide letter dated 12.11.2025 to issue the NOC in this regard. The NoC is however awaited from the PGCIL.
  - iv. The Committee further observed that the CAT plan has been approved by the O/o PCCF (HoFF) vide letter dated 18.11.2025 with a financial outlay of ₹6,55,52,960/-.
  - v. The committee observed that the instant proposal for diversion of forest land pertains only to the first phase of the project. Any proposal submitted for the second phase shall be examined independently on its own merits. The State Government/User Agency shall not claim or construe this approval as conferring any right or entitlement for diversion of forest land in the subsequent phase.
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-1/In-principle approval for the diversion of 513.4 ha Forest land in favour of Water Resource Department, Rani Avanti Bai Lodhi Sagar Project, Bargi Hills, Jabalpur for the construction of Shakkar Pench Link Combined Project, Phase-1, Hard dam under Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The NoC from the Power grid Corporation of India Limited(PGCIL) for shifting of transmission lines from the area proposed for diversion shall be submitted along with the compliance report of the Stage-1 approval.
  - ii. The plan for shifting the transmission lines, along with details of the forest land and non-forest land required for this purpose, shall be submitted with the compliance report. The State Government shall also ensure that forest land is proposed for the shifting of transmission lines only when it is unavoidable
  - iii. The approval for diversion of forest land pertains only to the first phase of the project. Any proposal submitted for the second phase shall be examined independently on its own merits. The State Government/User Agency shall not claim or construe this approval as conferring any right or entitlement for diversion of forest land in the subsequent phase.
  - iv. The State Government shall plant riparian species along the boundary of the waterline to help foster and support local fauna.

- v. Based on the DSS analysis, the forest area falling within the Rising Main alignment has been assessed as 8.744 ha. However, the State Government has informed that the forest area involved in the Rising Main is only 7.33 ha. The State Government shall take up the matter with FSI for correction of the digital boundaries accordingly.

## **Agenda No. 24**

**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 (Online No. FP/MH/MIN/QRY/407839/2022) - regarding.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. 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 5th 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. 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>

- xiv. 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.

- xv. 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 falling 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.
- xvi. The State informed that the User Agency shall maintain required safety zone 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.
- xvii. 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.
- xviii. 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.
- xix. The committee noted that the according to the component-wise break-up of the proposed forest land provided in the proposal, a total of 17 hectares is proposed for diversion. Of this, 15.43 hectares will be designated as an undisturbed area, while the remaining 1.57 hectares will be maintained as a safety zone.
- 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 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 the 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 Adhnyam has taken place or otherwise
  - c. As per the component wise breakup, the proposed land use 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 October 1951 in possession of Forest Department. When the mining lease was granted, the Government of Maharashtra order received by the company, considered the area as 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 transfer 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 any violation of the provisions of Section 2(1) (iii) of the Adhiniyam 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 at our 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 & it is proposed for Green Belt development. The above said 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 the UA proposed Non-forest land for CA is inspected by DFO, Chiplun. According to the CA Land Suitability Certificate received from DFO, Chiplun, Ratnagiri no plantation is possible due to the high density of forest (0.6 to 0.8 density). Due to which the DFO Chiplun given Protection Plan for proposed non-forest land for CA. Identified 17.00 ha. has been selected in Co. No. 90 & 91 degraded forest area for compensatory Afforestation in Chandrapur district.

- xxvii. The committee observed that the area is forest since 1951 therefore the justification given by the state that it was recorded as revenue land in the revenue record and therefore no violation has been done is not tenable. The state needs to provide a detailed chronology of the facts indicating the time period during which the area was in possession of the forest and the period during which it was taken over by the user agency.
- xxviii. A plantation is already visible in the area proposed for diversion, the state shall give the details of the plantation and the period during which it was carried out.
- xxix. The committee further observed that the existing cement plant is outside the lease area of 71.01 ha. The details of the total area involved in the project including the cement plant needs submission.
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 for want of the following information:
- i. 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.
  - ii. 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
  - iii. 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.

## **Agenda No. 26**

### **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 (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/505523/2024) -reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and CCF in the Nodal Office, Government of Odisha 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 to the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (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) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ii. The mining lease was granted for a period of 30 years from 21<sup>st</sup> January 1982. The RML application was submitted to Govt. of Odisha on 12.01.2011 prior to one year of expiry of the lease. 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
  - iii. 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 due to 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.
  - iv. 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. The User Agency has already deposited Rs.54,29,010/- towards NPV of forest land involved within the lease area.
  - v. 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.
  - vi. 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.

- vii. The purpose wise break-up of forest land involved in this project is furnished below:

Sl. 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
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>6.413</b>	<b>5.255</b>	<b>11.768</b>
6	Safety Zone	0.587	0.868	1.455
7	Area kept undisturbed	-	1.290	1.290
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7.000</b>	<b>7.513</b>	<b>14.513</b>

- viii. The applied area proposed for diversion falls under Eco-Value Class-I and canopy density is 0.09. The applied area is composed of flora like *Tectona grandis* (Teak), *Syzigium cumini* (Jamun), *Artocarpus heterophyllus* (Panasa), *Chleichera olesa* (Kusum), *Ficus bengalensis* (Bara) etc are present in the proposed area of diversion.
- ix. The DFO, Bonai Forest Division has reported that 473 numbers of trees enumerated to be felled.
- x. As per justification for locating the project in forest land submitted by the State Government 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.
- xi. The proposed CA land has been identified over 7.5 ha of Non-Forest Government Land under village Kundheidiha under Gurundia Tahasil of Sundargarh District. 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.

- financial outlay of CA scheme has been approved by Addl. PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) for Rs. 1,09,28,700/- as per one time cost norm.
- xii. The DFO, Bonai Forest Division has reported in his Site Inspection Report, that the project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation.
  - xiii. It has been reported that the User Agency has deposited Rs.54,29,010/- towards NPV over 7.437 ha of forest area.
  - xiv. It has been reported that Raikela Iron Mines under Koiral Tahasil of Sundargarh District, Odisha involves 7.0 ha of forest land and the forest land located in the Safety Zone is 0.587 ha.
  - xv. 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.
  - xvi. It has been reported that there are many working mining leases existing within 10 Kms boundary of the proposed project area to be diverted. Hence, impact of this project on wildlife and wildlife habitat needs to be studied and properly addressed. Since, the area is characterized by the movement of elephants, measures need to be adopted for its protection, monitoring. habitat management and mitigation of HEC issues.
  - xvii. DFO, Bonai Forest Division has reported that Koira and Barsuan Ranges are endowed with rich mineral resources, they are also rich in biodiversity and their tribal inhabitants including PVTG Tribal. Due to large scale mining and loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitats, severe Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) have been recorded in recent years in the villages. Human-Elephant conflict is one of the major challenges and it is going to rise in future.
  - xviii. It has been reported that the Lessee has commenced mining operation in the Revenue Forest over 6.409 ha and DLC forest land over 0.591 ha during original lease period upto 2011 as per Letter No.42142 dt.26.11.2011 of the DDM. Koira which was a violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evarm Samvardhan), Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - xix. After examination of the proposal, Ministry vide its letter dated 20.06.2025 through online requested the State Government to submit additional information on certain points which include validity of Lol/lease, requirement of land for the mineral evacuation, electricity and water supply, detailed analysis of Cost Benefit ratio, comparative analysis of the proposed land with the approved mining plan, details of violation, 1.29 ha. of undisturbed non-forest, possibility to shift the non site-specific activities like OB Dump from forest to non-forest area. In the response of the Ministry's letter, State Government vide letter no. 21104/9F (MG) – 39/2025 dated 16.10.2025 through online has submitted their reply.
  - xx. The State Government has informed that the Department of Steels and Mines issued an order considering the lease to be subsisting vide Proceeding No 11505/SM-MCI-MISC-0122-2022/SM, Dated 16th November, 2023 of Govt.

of Odisha, Steel and Mines Department. Thus, lease is deemed to have been extended up to 20th January, 2032 as per the current regulations.

- xxi. 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.
- xxii. The State Government has reported that the Cost Benefit Analysis has been revised by taking the cost of the Compensatory Afforestation approved presently.
- xxiii. The State Government has submitted a comparative analysis of the proposed land use vis-a-vis land use in the approved Mining Plan.
- xxiv. The State Government has reported that the User Agency has submitted the chronological history of the mining lease and the mining operations carried out in the area.
- xxv. The State Government has reported an area measuring 1.29 ha of non-forest land has been kept undisturbed, which are Private Lands (non-forest). The said undisturbed area of 1.29 ha will not be utilized for dumping purpose as there is no suitable non-forest single plot available for OB dump.
- xxvi. 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. 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.

- xxvii. 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.
- xxviii. The Committee observed that since the violation area comes under the category of Revenue and DLC forest land, the Collector, Sundargarh has been requested vide office Letter No 4730 dated 15.04.2025 of DFO, Bonai to take necessary legal action under the relevant Revenue Laws. Further, the Collector, Sundargarh was requested vide office Letter dated 19.7.2025 of DFO, Bonai to submit the Action Taken Report on the said violation. Accordingly, the Addl. District Magistrate, Sundargarh vide his Letter dated 26.08.2025 has requested the DDM, Koira and Tehsildar, Koira to inquire into the matter and submit the factual report along with details of officials responsible for granting mining permission without obtaining necessary permission from the competent authority.
- xxix. With regard to old plantation is visible in the western part of the proposed CA site, the State Government has reported that one Sri Kangalu Lakra is currently residing about 100 meter away from such identified land who had planted some of the species of various combination about 7 years ago on this land along the line of connectivity to his recorded land on his own interest vis-a-vis community interest.

**4. Decision of Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and the CCF in the office of Nodal officer (FCA), Government of Odisha '**deferred**' the proposal for want of the following information from the State Government:-

- i. The State Government shall submit a detailed report containing the complete chronology of mining operations and the mining lease since its inception, along with a clear justification indicating whether any violation of the provisions of the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980* has occurred or otherwise. The report shall explicitly specify the period during which any violation took place, as well as the period during which no violation was involved.
- ii. The State Government shall submit the details of action initiated if any, under Section 3A/3B of the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980*.

#### **Agenda No. 27**

#### **Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QR/445466/2023**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for for diversion of 575.16 ha forest land for mining of Limestone Block in Katamater village by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited in Malkangiri Tahasil of Malkangiri District under Malkangiri Forest Division (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QR/445466/2023)-reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and CCF in the office of Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha 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 to the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0045-2025-17122/FE&CC dated 11.07.2025 submitted above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980*.

- ii. The State Govt. has granted the mining lease for Limestone in respect of Kottameta Limestone Block over 802.25 ha under Malkangiri District for a period of 50 years in favour of M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited as a "Successful Bidder vide Govt. Proceeding No.5388/SM dt.25.05.2023.
- iii. The said lease was executed and registered on 26.05.2023. The Mining Lease Deed has been executed on 26.05.2023 with a validity period of 50 years by the Collector, Malkangiri District.
- iv. As per section 8A of Amendment MMDR Act, 2015 mining lease is valid for a period of 50 years i.e. upto 25.05.2073.
- v. Total Mining Lease Area is 802.25 ha, which comprises 575.16 ha (462.247 ha Revenue Forest and 112.913 ha Sabik Forest) of forest land and Non-forest land over 227.09 ha (77.497 ha Non-forest Govt. land and 149.59 ha Non-forest Private Land) for mining, ancillary activities.
- vi. Out of 575.16 ha, PRF is 186.220 ha and Revenue Forest is 388.940 ha. But, 186.220 ha of forest land has been notified as Kotamateru PRF under Section-4 of OFA, 1972 and the final notification is yet to be published u/s 21 of OFA, 1972. Hence, 186.22 ha has been reflected as Jungle Kissam in Land Schedule.
- vii. The proposed forest area is 575.16 ha (Revenue Forest - 388.94 + PRF - 186.22) with canopy density of 0.35 (Eco Class-3) and total 85757 nos of trees have been proposed to be felled.
- viii. The component wise break-up of the total forest land proposed for diversion is given below:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Forest Land (In Ha)</b>	<b>Non-Forest Land (In Ha)</b>	<b>Grand Total Land (In Ha)</b>
1	Area to be excavated	365.78	145.726	511.506
2	Infrastructure including workshop Administrative Building etc.	0.610	2.633	3.243
3	Roads	0.72	1.357	2.077
4	Green Belt/Plantation	26.910	6.267	33.177
5	Mineral separation Plant	0.510	0.539	1.049
6	Future Exploration and Mining	180.630	70.568	251.198
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>575.16</b>	<b>227.09</b>	<b>802.25</b>

- ix. The forest land proposed for diversion is of the Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest category and comes under Eco-Value Class-III with canopy density is 0.35 where 33.0 ha is coming under Moderately Dense Forest (MDF).
- x. As per justification for locating the project in forest land submitted by the State Government that Kottameta Limestone Block is an Auctioned block for which Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited was the preferred bidder through the e-auction conducted by Govt. of Odisha. Moreover, mining is 'a site-specific project with proven reserve of minerals. The State Govt. granted the mining lease for Limestone in respect of Kottameta Limestone Block over 802.25 ha under Malkangiri District for a period of 50 years in favour of M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited as a "Successful Bidder" vide Govt. Proceeding No.5388/SM dt.25.05.2023. With the implementation of the proposed project, the living conditions of the population will improve. The project would be beneficial to the local people & the region in terms of infra. Development, Generation of direct & indirect employment avenues, Establishment of small & medium scale engineering ancillaries, other small-scale industries with cascading direct indirect employment opportunities; Increased revenue to the state by way of royalty etc.
- xi. It is predicted that with the commencing of the proposed project, the sources of income of the locals will definitely increase. Being an economically undeveloped area, the implementation of the proposed project, will positively improve the living standard of the locals and generate employment opportunities. Thus, there will be positive socio-economic impact. The mine shall be contributing to the State & Central Govt. exchequers by way of mining revenue of Rs.26.88 Crores/ year once mine comes into operation
- xii. As per the Site Inspection Reports of DFO Malkangiri Forest Division and Regional Chief Conservator of Forest of Koraput Circle the proposed Tree felling is expected to adversely affect forest cover, disrupt wildlife habitats and contribute to increased soil erosion.
- xiii. 575.16 ha Non-forest Govt. land in (in 8 patches) in 7 Nos. of village under Kalimela and Khairput Tahasil has been identified for compensatory afforestation in lieu of 575.16 ha of forest land. Further, 20 ha has been identified in Pusugudam RF is Motu Range under Malkangiri Forest Division for Addl. CA in lieu of water body of 1 ha and the scheme has been prepared for planting @500 seedlings per ha with 10 years maintenance.
- xiv. CA Scheme for planting @ 1000 seedlings per ha in AR Plantation mode over 56.243 ha with 10 years of maintenance and CA Scheme for planting @ 500 seedlings per ha in ANR Plantation mode over 383.0 ha with required SMC measures to be taken up including the provision of fencing around the

plantation and watering provision with 10 years maintenance and 7.93 ha in ANR mode @ 500 seedlings per ha with 20 years maintenance for Rs. 25,13,07,300/-.

- xv. An area of 8.77 ha has been earmarked as Safety Zone area within the applied forest area for diversion.
- xvi. As per DSS analysis of the proposal, the proposed forest land falls under Malkangiri district of Odisha State. The software calculated area of proposed forest land is found 574.046 ha. No Protected Area/Tiger Reserve/ Tiger Corridor is located within 10km radius of proposed forest land. The Proposed area falls in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone based on Decision Rule 1 (as it falls within 250m buffer of Sabari/Kolab River) and Not in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone based on Decision Rule 2. The Compensatory afforestation land has been proposed in eight patches over non-forest land and their software- calculated area is found 575.436 ha. As per Observation based on high resolution Google Earth images: dense vegetation is visible in some parts of the proposed CA. The Additional compensatory afforestation land has been proposed in a twenty patches over degraded forest land and its software- calculated area is found 951.819 ha. The Observation based on high resolution Google Earth images of the proposed ACA: Most of the proposed ACA sites are free from encroachment.
- xvii. DFO, Malkangiri Forest Division in SIR reported that the proposed tree felling is expected to adversely affect forest cover, disrupt wildlife habitats, and contribute to increased soil erosion.
- xviii. The Mining Plan has been approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines vide their Letter No. MCDR-MiFLOLST/5/2023-BBS-IBM RO BBS dated 07.08.2023 with validity period of 5 years.
- xix. No violation has been committed by the user agency on the forest area proposed for diversion as per Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam 1980.
- xx. The proposed area does not form part of any National Park/ Wild life Sanctuary/ Biosphere reserve/ Tiger reserve/ elephant corridor etc. Also, the applied area is not forming part of any eco-sensitive zone of any protected area. No archaeological monument/ Heritage site/ Defence establishment etc. are located in the applied area. The total cost of this project is t23171 Lakhs. This project will generate employment for 82 persons permanently and it will also create temporary employment for about 1500 persons.
- xxi. It is imperative to mention that Ministry has granted permission under Section 2 (iii) of FCA vide letter no. 8-18/2022-FC dated 18.05.2023 over

575.16 ha of forest land within the granted ML area over 802.255 ha for Kottameta Lime Limestone mining in Katamateru village under Malkangiri Tahasil of Malakangiri District, Odisha by M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited).

- xxii. After examination of the proposal, Ministry vide its letter dated 31.07.2025 through online requested the State Government to submit additional information on certain points which include the compliance of the conditions of the approval dated 21.07.2023, detailed analysis of Cost Benefit ratio, justification for opening a new mine as per the provisions of the Para 7.8 of the Consolidated guidelines dated 29.12.2023, clarification regarding Satellite imagery shows that the agriculture land is visible in the proposed area for diversion, component wise breakup of Kottameta Limestone Mine , details of mineral evacuation plan, details regarding requirement of electricity and water, justification for the diversion of 180.630 hectare land for future exploration.. In the response of the Ministry's letter, State Government vide letter no. 19640/9F (MG)-373/2025 dated 18.09.2025 through online has submitted their reply.
- xxiii. State Government has submitted the annual self-compliance submitted by Dalmia Cement (Bharat), which has already been certified and forwarded by the DFO, Malkangiri, to the Addl. PCCF, FD & NO, FC Act, O/o the PCCF & HoFF.
- xxiv. State Government has given justification for opening new mine that this new limestone mine has a proven mineral reserve of 97.50 MMT of high-quality cement-grade limestone (CaO: 45.865 & MgO: 0.75) as per the approved mining plan. This mining lease spans over 802.225 ha of land encompassing 575.16 ha of Forest land in Malkangiri District of Odisha.
- xxv. State Government has reported that the identified land proposed for diversion was previously affected by shifting cultivation practices. However, based on recent field assessments, no ongoing instances of shifting cultivation have been observed.
- xxvi. State Government has reported that 575.16 ha of revenue non-forest land has been identified in Kalimela and Khairput Tahasil for raising CA. As per DSS analysis report, 575.16 ha comprises of 127 ha MDF, 390.93 ha Open Forest, 56.243 ha bushes and non-forest category and 1 ha is water body. Accordingly, the DFO has submitted the CA scheme for planting @1000 seedlings per ha in AR mode over 56.243 ha, @500 seedlings per ha in ANR mode over 390.93 ha and SMC activities to be undertaken over entire area i.e. 575.16 ha. Further, the DFO, Malkangiri has reported that no plantation is necessary except soil and moisture conservation work in the MDF category land. Hence, soil and moisture conservation measures are

proposed to be undertaken in the identified MDF areas to ensure effective ecological management over 127 ha. Further, 20 ha has been identified in Pusugudam RF is Motu Range under Malkangiri Forest Division for Addl. CA in lieu of water body of 1 ha and the scheme has been prepared for planting @500 seedlings per ha with 10 years maintenance.

- xxvii. State Government has reported that about 0.5 MW of power will be required for the instant project, which will be met from the State Electricity Board/ grid, and the evacuation line will be along the RoW of the existing all-weather road.
- xxviii. There is an existing all-weather road extending approximately 17 km from Kotamateru (Katamater) village to State Highway-25, passing through the villages of Matapaka, Namgonda, and Sikhapali. This road is presently connected to a single kaccha road, which provides site access through Pillar No. 03. Future upgradation of this kaccha road, specifically for facilitating mineral evacuation from the proposed mines, may involve additional diversion of forest land. The land schedule pertaining to this kaccha road alignment is not yet finalized.
- xxix. The State Government has reported that the Supreme Court of India, in their order of 6th July 2011, issued guidelines so as not to create a fait accompli situation in the matter of diversion of forest land under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. Therefore, in the case of new mining lease projects having forest land in part or in full, approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, for diversion of the entire forest land located within the mining lease project is to be obtained before execution or renewal of the mining lease project. The component-wise breakup of land in the proposal depicts that 251.198 ha has been proposed for future exploration and mining, out of which 180.630 ha is forest land and 70.568 ha is non-forest land. This mine is explored up to the G4/G3/G2 level. The complete area 251.198 ha including 180.630 ha will further be explored as per the provision of Rule 12(3) of MCDR -2017, which reads as "The holder of a mining lease shall carry out detailed exploration (G1 level) over the entire potentially mineralized area under the mining lease.
- xxx. The State Government has reported that as per the approved mine plan, an area of 6.369 ha will be used for utility services, i.e., road, infrastructure, mineral separation and crushing plant, etc. (inadvertently mentioned as public use) and 251.198 ha land will be put for exploration in G1 level post. The User Agency will ascertain the quantum of land to be considered for mining and remaining land to be considered for ancillary activities. Till then, this will be maintained as a greenbelt..

- xxxi. The State Government has submitted the Hydrological report & Rainwater harvesting plan.
- xxxii. The Regional Office in SIR has informed that out of the total 575.16 hectares of proposed forest land, 186.22 hectares constitute Protected Reserved Forest (PRF), while the remaining 388.94 hectares fall under Revenue Forest. The 186.22 hectares of PRF have been notified as Kotamateru Protected Forest under Section 4 of the Orissa Forest Act, 1972. However, the final notification under Section 21 of the said Act is yet to be issued. Furthermore, this 186.22 hectares has been recorded as "Jungle Kissam" in the land schedule submitted by the Tahasildar. The proposed mining lease area has been explored up to G4/G3/G2 level. In accordance with the provisions of Rule 12(3) of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 2017, G1 level exploration has been proposed for the entire mining lease area, including the 180.63 hectares under consideration.
- xxxiii. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal for consideration under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, subject to the following conditions:
- a. Trees shall be felled in a phased manner, only when absolutely necessary, under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department. Wherever feasible, suitable species shall be transplanted.
  - b. As the Sabari River flows along the western boundary of the proposed mining lease, no excavated material or mine wastewater shall be discharged into the river. To prevent this, an embankment shall be constructed along the riverbank at the cost of the User Agency, with the approval of the competent authority. In addition, a buffer plantation of appropriate width shall be developed and maintained along the riverbank by the User Agency, in consultation with the Forest Department and at the cost of the project proponent.
  - c. As submitted by the User Agency, an area of 251.198 hectares, including 180.63 hectares of forest land, shall be maintained as a green belt until detailed exploration in the G1 category is completed, based on which the final land use will be determined.
  - d. The State Forest Department shall implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.
  - e. The State Government shall ensure that all Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) sites are free from

encroachment prior to undertaking plantation activities. Wherever required, proper fencing shall be carried out at the cost of the User Agency. In the case of Compensatory Afforestation sites in non-forest land (NFL) areas, the State shall ensure that the sites are properly fenced and afforested also at the cost of the User Agency.

- xxxiv. The State Government has reported that the proposed limestone mining lease is justified on site-specific geological grounds, and can meaningfully support a backward, LWE-affected district by creating jobs, boosting transport and service activities, and delivering visible CSR benefits, while adding royalty and tax revenue for the State.
- xxxv. The State Government has reported that the project proponent has requested the District Administration to upgrade the existing corridor; no additional forest land is proposed for evacuation at this stage.
- xxxvi. The State Government has reported that since the forest area involved in the proposal exceeds 100 hectares, State Government has submitted the site inspection report of the CCF (Nodal), O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha duly countersigned by the Addl.PCCF (FD & No, FC Act). User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by DFO, Malkangiri Forest Division wherein it has been stated that the 180.63 hectares of unexplored forest land will not be used for any purpose other than mining.
- xxxvii. The Sabari River (also known as the Kolab River) flows along the western side of the proposed mining block, with the distance between the mine boundary and the river ranging from 30 metres to 200 metres, the User Agency has submitted the Hydrological Report & Rain water Harvesting Plan of the project site.
- xxxviii. The State Government has not uploaded correct KML files. KML files over 570.732 ha instead of 575.176 ha has been uploaded.
- xxxix. The Proposal was considered in the last AC meeting held on 27.10.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the certain points for further consideration in the matter. Ministry through online 06.10.2025 requested the State Government to furnish information as per recommendation of AC. In this reference, the State Govt. has replied through online vide letter no. FE-DIV-FLD-0045-2025-22938/FE&CC dated 15.11.2025.
- xl. The Committee noted that details submitted by the State Government are as under:-
  - a. The proposed limestone mining lease is justified on site-specific geological grounds, and can meaningfully support a backward,

LWE-affected district by creating jobs, boosting transport and service activities, and delivering visible CSR benefits, while adding royalty and tax revenue for the State. The lessee has already deposited about Rs.112 crores on 26.05.2023 at the time of lease execution, and although production was originally due within two years under the applicable MMDR/MCR/MDPA framework, the State has granted a final extension up to 25.05.2026, after which non-commencement may lead to lease termination, so timely clearances and compliance are critical. The Kottameta Limestone Block is a virgin mineral block, non-captive resource, as reported the project proponent plans a 2 MTPA integrated cement plant beside the mine aligned with peak production by Year 6, and until then the project proponent will transport limestone by road to Jeypore siding and onward in covered rakes to Rajgangpur, requiring careful compliance of forest diversion conditions, phased area opening, and safe, low-impact transport arrangements to protect local forests, wildlife, water, and communities.

- b. The project proponent has requested the District Administration to upgrade the existing corridor; no additional forest land is proposed for evacuation at this stage. Looking ahead, once the nearby cement plant site, as reported by the user agency, is finalized and land is allotted, crushed limestone is intended to move by conveyor, with the conveyor alignment to be fixed after plant land allocation to Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited. Pending that, evacuation will be done on the existing approach to SH-25, with attention to staged road improvements, dust suppression, speed discipline, and covered transport to minimize impacts on local communities and roadside vegetation.
- c. The site inspection report of the CCF (Nodal), O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha duly countersigned by the Addl.PCCF (FD & No, FC Act) is enclosed.
- d. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by DFO, Malkangiri Forest Division wherein it has been stated that the 180.63 hectares of unexplored forest land will not be used for any purpose other than mining.
- e. The State Government has reported that the User Agency has also submitted the Hydrological Report & Rain water Harvesting Plan of the project site. Further, the User agency has proposed mitigation measures as follows:

- Limestone, as a mineral, doesn't contain any toxic elements which may pollute the surface water body.
  - The distance between Mine Boundary and the Kolab River ranges from 30 m to 200 m approximately.
  - At least 50 m from the edge of the Sabari/Kolab river will be left as a safety barrier zone.
  - Bunds with a size of 2 x 1.5 m will be developed along the lease boundary parallel to the Sabari/Kolab river to check the run-off water from the mining lease area into the Kolab river.
  - Greenbelt will be developed along a 7.5 m Safety Barrier, and a 3-tier thick plantation will be done in the safety barrier.
  - Garland Drains of 1.0 m deep and 1.0 m wide shall be constructed.
  - The surface runoff from the surrounding areas shall be channelized through garland drains and percolate within the ML area as per a suitable location within the topography, and shall be passed through settling tank/siltation pond check dam and check fillers to arrest the solid wash-offs and suspended particles.
  - Rainwater will be stored in the excavated area as a water reservoir.
  - Rainwater shall be diverted to the settling ponds by constructing garland drains in the lower slopes of the quarry and OB dump.
  - Adequate number of check dams and check filters shall be built to arrest suspended particles.
  - Dump bench slopes shall be vegetated with grass for binding soil and to arrest erosion.
  - The rainwater runoff shall be allowed to properly settle down in the settling tank, siltation pond/ check dam and check filters and part of the water shall be utilized for plantation and spraying on haul roads. Balance water, free from suspended particles, shall be allowed to flow outside the lease area.
- xli. The KML file has been prepared using data generated from the DGPS survey. The DGPS coordinates and maps depicting the forest area proposed for diversion have been certified by ORSAC with a confidence level of 95%. Consequently, a variation of 0.77% between the map/surveyed area and the RoR area is observed in this case. The KML file delineating the 20 hectares of land identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation has been uploaded in PARIVESH 2.0 portal.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and the CCF in the office of Nodal officer (FCA), Government of Odisha '**deferred**' the proposal for want of the following information from the State Government:-
- i. It has been informed that the user agency has requested the District Administration to upgrade the existing corridor; no additional forest land is proposed for evacuation at this stage. In this regard the state may clarify whether the upgradation of the existing corridor by the district administration will be without use of additional forest land or otherwise.
  - ii. An area of 180.63 hectares of unexplored forest land has been proposed to be maintained as a greenbelt. The State Government shall provide a justification for including this area in the present diversion proposal and clarify why it should not be excluded at this stage. The State Government shall also confirm whether the future use of this 180.63 ha for mining would entail changes in land use for other project components. Detailed information in this regard, along with the relevant provisions in the approved mining plan, shall be submitted.

#### **Agenda no. 28**

#### **Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/500511/2024**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 100.797 ha of forest land (100.439 ha mining lease area proposed to be diverted within the Kedesala North-East Iron Ore Block+0.131 ha for 11 KV Power Transmission line+0.227 ha for connecting road outside ML area) of M/s Rungta Mines Limited in Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha -reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha 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 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-0028-2025-11506/FE&CC dated 20.05.2025 submitted above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
  - ii. The existing project envisages diversion of 100.439 Ha of forest land for the mining and ancillary purposes, 0.358 ha. of Forest land for connecting road and 11 KV power transmission line outside the lease.

- iii. Government of Odisha has issue Letter of Intent (Lol) bearing No.3943/SM-MC1-MRL-0026-2023/SM, Bhubaneswar dated 21.04.2023 for grant of Mining Lease for Kedesala North-East Iron Ore Block in Sundargarh District over 100.439 Hectare Area to Rungta Mines Ltd. for a period of 50 (fifty) years.
- iv. The total lease area over 100.439 Ha is PRF (Proposed Reserve Forest) and 0.35 ha of PRF is for connecting road and 11KV power transmission line, in Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha.
- v. During proposed period of mining operation the mining operation will be fully mechanized opencast with development of benches of height upto 9m and width up to 20m.
- vi. As per the guidelines dated 29.12.2023 of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the linear infrastructure projects such as roads/ railways/ conveyor belts, etc. ancillary to mining should be included in the main proposal and under inevitable circumstance only. The total forest land included in the connecting road is 0.227 ha and 11 KV power transmission line is 0.131 Ha (Total 0.227+0.131=0.358 ha PRF category) and length of the connecting road is 122 mtr. with average width of 18 mtr. and length of 11 KV Power transmission line is 190mtr with average width of 7 mtr in Bonal Forest Division of Sundargarh District M/s. Rungta Mines Ltd.
- vii. M/s Rungta Mines Ltd has been declared as preferred bidder for grant of Mining Lease of Kedesala North-East Iron Ore Block. The Letter of Intent has also been issued by Government of Odisha, Steel & Mines Department vide No 3943/SM, Bhubaneswar, dated 21.04.2023.
- viii. As per the Geological report provided by the Directorate of Mines, Steel & Mines Department, Government of Odisha, the net insitu iron ore resources of Kedesala North East Iron Ore Block is 51,890,361.42 tonne.
- ix. The purpose-wise break-up of the total forest land (both forest and non-forest land) required for the project is furnished below.

S. No.	Item	PRF (in ha)	Total Forest (in ha)	Total Non-Forest (in ha)	Grand Total (in ha)
1	Mining (including Mobile Crushing and Screening Unit & Temporary Stack Yard)	79.376	79.376	0.00	79.376
2	Overburden Dump	5.450	5.450	0.00	5.450
3	Mine Road	2.950	2.950	0.00	2.950
4	Infrastructure (office, township area, rest shelter, weigh bridge, workshop etc.)	0.990	0.990	0.00	0.990
5	Ore Processing Site	2.980	2.980	0.00	2.980
6	Rain Water Harvesting	0.510	0.510	0.00	0.510
7	Township area	0.510	0.510	0.00	0.510

8	Mineral Stack Yard	3.890	3.890	0.00	3.890
9	Top Soil stack	0.050	0.050	0.00	0.050
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>96.706</b>	<b>96.706</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>96.706</b>
10	Safety Zone Along M.L. Boundary	3.733	3.733	0.00	3.733
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.439</b>	<b>100.439</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100.439</b>

- x. DFO, Bonai Forest Division has reported that the proposed area does not form part of any National Park/Wild life Sanctuary/ Biosphere reserve/ Tiger reserve elephant corridor etc. Also, the applied area is not forming part of any eco-sensitive zone of any protected area. No archaeological monument/ Heritage site/ Defence establishment etc. are located in the applied area.
- xi. The forest land proposed for diversion falls under Eco-Value Class-I and canopy density is 0.7.
- xii. The DFO, Bonai Forest Division has reported that total 1,11,784 nos of trees have been enumerated in the forest area involved in the project.
- xiii. 100.979 ha Non-forest Govt. land has been identified for raising compensatory afforestation in village Mundighati and Tanginigura in Kalahandi district in lieu of 100.797 ha of forest land. The DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division has prepared the CA Scheme for planting @ 1000 seedlings per ha in AR Plantation mode over 101 ha and details scheme with required SMC measures to be taken up including the provision of fencing around the plantation and watering provision with 10 years of maintenance. The choice of species which are to be planted over the CA land are Syzigium cumini (Jamun), Terminalia tomentosa (Asana), Acacia catechu (Khair), Dalbergia sissoo (Sissoo), Terminalia arjuna (Arjuna) etc. The financial outlay of CA scheme has been approved by APCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) for Rs.11,36,41,200/- as per one-time cost norm.
- xiv. It has been reported that Koira and Barsuan Ranges are endowed with rich mineral resources, they are also rich in biodiversity and their tribal inhabitants includes PVTG Tribal. Due to large scale mining and loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitats, severe Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) have been recorded in the recent years in the villages. Due to large scale degradation of forest coupled with HEC, the most vulnerable are the forest dependent community in the mining affected areas. They are the most vulnerable victims of the conflict due to their socio-economic and cultural practice. Human-Elephant conflict is one of the major challenges and it is going to rise in future.
- xv. The DFO, Bonai Forest Division has reported that an area of 3.733 ha has been earmarked as Safety Zone area within the applied forest area for diversion.
- xvi. The Mining Plan has been approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines vide their Letter No.MCDR-MILFOFF/38/2023-BBS-IBM\_RO\_BBS dated 21.08.2023.

- xvii. After examination of the proposal, Ministry vide its letter dated 04.07.2025 through online requested the State Government to submit additional information on certain points with regard to the comments /recommendation of CWLW, justification for proposing biodiversity rich area, comparative analysis of the proposed land use with the land use in mining plan, violation, non-site-specific activities,. In the response of the Ministry's letter, State Government vide letter no. 22875/9F (MG) -4/2025 dated 14.11.2025 has submitted their reply.
- xviii. The State Government has reported that the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha has approved the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan considering the presence of scheduled species in the project area as well as the impact area around 10 KM radius.
- xix. With regard to justification for proposing such biodiversity rich area for diversion, it has been reported that the State Govt. has granted several mining blocks in the surrounding areas of the said mineral Block. The user agency has been granted one mining lease adjacent to this block i.e. Jumka-Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block and has been accorded all statutory clearances including forest clearance from the competent authority. However, to mitigate the adverse impact of mining in this area, both the Divisional Forest Officers (Bonai & Keonjhar) Forest Division had jointly prepared the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan considering the schedule species present in the proposed diversion area as well as its impact area and will be implemented to mitigate the effect of the project on the wildlife /schedule species therein.
- xx. The State Government has reported that Kedesala North-East Iron Ore Block over 100.439 Ha. is totally an iron ore bearing area. At the end of life of the mine total 96.706 Ha, area excluding 3.733 Ha. of safety zone will be mined out to exploit the total Iron ore reserve. Total life of the mine is 50 years. In the beginning, only 79.376 Ha. of the mineralized area will be used for mining and rest 17.33 Ha, of area will be used for different utility purposes. In course of mining operation, all these utility services will be gradually removed and the area will be used further for quarry excavation. So at the end of life of the mine, total area under mining will be 79.376 Ha.+ 17.33 Ha. = 96,706 Ha.
- xxi. The State Government has reported that during the period of coupe working some extraction path/footpaths were developed by the Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) Ltd. for removal of Timber & Firewood from the working site and these extraction paths still exist in the field. The, extraction paths/footpaths were also used by the Geological Survey of India for exploration work of the said minerals blocks before auction. Further, reported that no violation has been done by the User Agency (M/s Rungta Mines Ltd.) in the forest area proposed for diversion under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xxii. The State Government has reported that Kedesala North East Iron Ore Block over 100.439 Ha comprises of PRF (Proposed Reserve Forest entirely) and no non-forest land is available within the Block area. As the

total lease area is mineralized area, all the utility services like OB Dump, Township area, Mineral stack yard, Mine Road, infrastructure, Ore processing site, Rain water harvesting and Top soil stacking other than mining are temporary in nature. In course of mining operation with the expansion of quarry, the utility service areas will be gradually converted to active quarries. Since no non-forest land is available within the lease hold area and as these activities cannot be carried out outside the mining lease area which is entirely surrounded by forest, the user agency has proposed all the non-site specific activities as mentioned above in the forest area to start mining operations smoothly.

xxiii. As per Site Inspection Report by DIGF, Regional Officer, Bhubaneswar, due to high vegetation density, thick undergrowth and considerable ground litter, the area is very conducive habitat for mega as well as micro/mini fauna. The DFO informed that although this particular patch of forest is not serving as permanent habitat for elephants, but they frequently visit the area in search of food. Dengoda forest block which is around 10 km from present site serves the permanent habitat for wild elephants. He further added, that sloth bear is another prominent species that is found in the area. He also mentioned that due to the contiguity of forest well within Jharkhand state too, the area was visited by tiger as well. Similarly, other wildlife species like Hanuman, langur peacock, Giant squirrel, Hyaena, porcupine and wide verity of reptiles and insects thrive in the area. The visiting team too witnessed significant wild life presence while perambulating the area amidst dense vegetation with great difficulty. The team was informed that the Forest Division is so rich in faunal diversity that a proposal for formation of Wildlife Sanctuary (Jarda-Sole-Tamra WLS) is under consideration at the state level.

xxiv. As per SIR, the proposed forest land of 100.797 ha is situated amidst contiguous stretch of Sarkunda PRF presently serving ideal habitat for numerous floral and faunal species. Pragmatically, as well as technically (as suggested by Decision Support System too), it would be in contrast to conservation efforts to divert a small portion of this high conservation zone and thereby fragmenting it for mining of low grade iron ore to cater the need of nearby sponge/palette and steel industries after blending with high grade ores. Yet, acknowledging the commitment of the state government to elevate the socio-economic status of the region through enhanced mining prospects where state has already approved several leases in the vicinity and even adjacent of the instant area, the proposal can be considered for recommendation if:-

- Blast Vibration Study, Slope Stability Study & Surface Hydrology Study, which are yet not done by user agency shall be made and findings are appropriately incorporated to minimise the mining impact in the surrounding forests.
- A comprehensive site specific Wildlife Management Plan is prepared and implemented to reduce the adverse effect of project on wildlife towards minimum possible

- Measures are adequately incorporated to ensure that water inflow to adjacent Badapokhari Nala is not compromised.
  - Mine Closure Plan for the present project is drafted at the earliest and user agency shall submit a timeline for reclamation and surrender of mined out areas to forest department from their existing leases in the district.
  - Tree enumeration is exhaustively done in the entire area proposed for diversion to provide for exact number of trees likely to be affected by the project.
  - To epitomise conservation efforts at par with economic participation, the state shall provide due consideration to proposed Jarda-Sole-Tamra WLS in the region.
  - All the conditions cited by CWLW, PCCF (HoFF) & State Secretary while recommending the proposal are strictly complied by the user agency.
- xxv. The Regional Office has recommended that this proposal is recommended for consideration. This recommendation is subject to the following conditions, in addition to those specified by the DIGF in the Site Inspection Report (SIR):
- a. The User Agency and the State Government shall re-verify the project's cost–benefit analysis, taking into account the high conservation value of the area proposed for diversion.
  - b. 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.
  - c. 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.
  - d. 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).
  - e. The State Forest Department shall implement an appropriate soil and moisture conservation plan, with all costs borne by the User Agency.
- xxvi. The committee observed that the area proposed for diversion is biodiversity rich and falls within a High Conservation Zone as per the DSS analysis and has high density of trees. The region is ecologically sensitive and holds significant importance from a wildlife conservation perspective, particularly for wide-ranging species. The Committee noted that several mines are already operational in the vicinity. At the same time, the Committee acknowledged that mining is a site-specific activity, and iron ore remains a critical resource required to meet the developmental needs of the country. Given this essential requirement, the Committee recognised that the

proposal must be viewed within the broader national context of resource security.

xxvii. The Committee also noted that several mines are already operational in the vicinity, and their cumulative impact has contributed to habitat alteration and an increase in human–elephant conflict. To effectively address these challenges, the Committee emphasised the need for continuous monitoring of human–elephant interactions and for undertaking targeted research to better understand the ecological dynamics of the area. It recommended that the State Government and User Agency collaborate with the Wildlife Institute of India to develop and implement scientific protocols and capacity-building programmes for local communities, forest managers, and mine developers. Such efforts are essential for mitigating conflict and ensuring the long-term ecological resilience of the landscape.

4. **Decision of Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and the CCF in the office of Nodal officer (FCA), Government of Odisha '**recommended**' the Stage-I /In-principle approval for diversion of 100.797 ha of forest land (100.439 ha mining lease area proposed to be diverted within the Kedesala North-East Iron Ore Block+0.131 ha for 11 KV Power Transmission line+0,227 ha for connecting road outside ML area) of M/s Rungta Mines Limited in Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- i. A comprehensive site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared and implemented at the cost of the user agency to reduce the adverse effect of project on wildlife. This will also include a comprehensive Human–Elephant Conflict Monitoring and Mitigation Plan. The preparation of the Wildlife Management Plan and monitoring of its implementation shall be done by Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The plan shall include systematic monitoring of human–elephant interactions, research on habitat use and conflict drivers, and capacity-building programmes for local communities, forest managers, and mine developers to ensure effective conflict prevention and management.
- ii. Blast Vibration Study, Slope Stability Study & Surface Hydrology Study shall be made and findings be appropriately incorporated to minimise the mining impact in the surrounding forests.
- iii. The user agency shall proportionately contribute towards the Regional wildlife Management plan.
- iv. Adequate mitigation measures shall be taken to ensure that water inflow to adjacent Badapokhari Nala is not compromised.
- v. Mine Closure Plan shall be submitted and user agency shall submit a timeline for reclamation and surrender of mined out areas to forest department from their existing leases in the district along with the compliance report.
- vi. The State Forest Department shall implement an appropriate soil and moisture conservation plan, with cost borne by the User Agency.

## Agenda No. 29

Proposal No. FP/OR/HYD/IRRIG/500690/2024

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 107.596 ha (including 0.99 ha forest land diverted earlier) of forest land for construction of Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project (600 MW) at mukhiguda in Kalahandi District under Kalahandi (South) forest Division by M/s Odisha Hydropower Corporation Ltd (OHPCL) -reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and CCF(Nodal) , Government of Odisha 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 to the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0027-2025-11482/FE&CC dated 20.05.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ii. The existing Upper Indravati Project envisages diversion of water of the Indravati river in its upper reaches for power generation and irrigation. The project involves construction of 4 dams across the Indravati and its tributaries, 8 dykes and 2 interlinking channels to form a single reservoir, 4.32 km tunnel, a power house with installation of 4 units of 150 MW each, 9 km tail race channel and an ignition barrage across Hati river with the associated irrigation canals.
  - iii. The proposed Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Power Project will utilize the existing Indravati reservoir as upper reservoir and construct a lower reservoir which will be used to store water for pumping it to upper reservoir in a closed cycle operation. The proposed PSP will have an underground power house located near the lower reservoir, equipped with four vertical axis reversible type Francis hydroelectric units having capacity of 150 MW each.
  - iv. The total project area is 151.927 ha. Out of this 107.596 ha is forest land and 44.331 ha is non-forest land. Out of the total forest area of 107.596 ha, 0.99 ha has been diverted earlier for drifting muck disposal and underground investigation tunnel for Upper Indravati Pump Storage Hydro-electric Project

by OHPCL vide letter No 5-ORB436/2000-BHU dated 29.12.2021 of Gol, MoEF&CC, RO, Bhubaneswar.

- v. DFO Kalahandi (South) Forest Division has reported that the applied area is not found inside any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Eco Sensitive Zone. There is no archaeological monument/ heritage site/ defence establishment located in the applied area. As reported, rare & endangered wildlife like Leopard and Pangolin exist in the applied area.
- vi. Construction of Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project (600 MW) at Mukhiguda in Kalahandi District under Kalahandi (South) Forest Division involves 151.927 ha of land in total, out of which 107.596 ha is Forest Land and 44.331 ha is Non Forest Land. The forest land of 107.596 ha comprises 0.774 ha of Reserved Forest (Udayagiri RF), 2.569 ha Revenue forest and 104.253 ha Jungle Block. Out of 44.331 ha of non-forest land, 23.826 ha is Govt. Non Forest Land and 20.505 ha is of Private Non-Forest Land.
- vii. The component wise break-up of the total forest land proposed for diversion is given below.

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Forest Land (in Ha)</b>
1	Area for proposed road	26.167
2	Borrow area	0.832
3	Contractor Facility	1.416
4	Contractor Colony and Muck disposal	16.306
5	Head race Tunnel	2.751
6	Labour Colony	0
7	Lower Reservoir	23.33
8	Muck Disposal	4.036
9	PH TC Draft 4 ube & other structures	4.569
10	Power intake	0.798
11	Proposed Road	1.473
12	PS BVC FEC SS area	11.772
13	Rock Quarry	13.349
14	TRT	0.797
	<b>Total</b>	<b>107.596</b>

- viii. The applied forest area comes under Eco Value Class-I with canopy density of 0.6. Movement of wild animals like Leopard, Sloth bear, Wild boar, Langur, Porcupine, Pangolin are observed in the applied area.
- ix. DFO Kalahandi South Forest Division reported that 8279 nos of trees have been enumerated in the forest area involved in the project.
- x. In lieu of diversion of 107.596 ha forest land, 112.007 ha non-forest Govt. land has been identified in village Dengafarsi village under Thuamul Rampur Tahasil of Kalahandi district in Kalahandi South Forest division. Further, 63 ha Degraded Forest Land in Kandul Reserved Forest under Patnagarh Forest Range of Bolangir Forest Division and 58 ha Degraded Forest Land in

Pipalpani PRF under Khariar Range of Khariar Forest Division have been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation.

- xi. DFO Kalahandi South Forest Division has reported that one permanent black topped road from Mukhiguda to Mahulpatna under the Water Resources Department is existing within the applied forest area. Besides, some temporary roads, transmission lines, few encroachments like temporary brick making unit, labour shed, temporary habitation, one RCC building, check dam over a permanent nala, seasonal cultivation are existing within the applied forest area. Further, State Government has reported that the Project Proponent, i.e., Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC), has not violated any legal clause of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Based on field verification and satellite imagery analysis, it has been observed that the encroachments existed prior to the submission of the forest diversion proposal by the Project Proponent.
- xii. The said encroachments are located over revenue forest land. In this regard, the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi South Division, has intimated the Tehsildar, Jaipatna vide Letter No. 6101, dated 10.10.2025, to initiate appropriate action against the encroachment under the provisions of the Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment (OPLE) Act, 1972 and the same is intimated to the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act), vide Memo No.6326, dated.24.10.2025.
- xiii. After examination of the proposal, Ministry vide its letter dated 13.06.2025 through online requested the State Government to submit additional information on certain points which include muck restoration plan, 26.167 ha area is proposed for road construction, details of the proposed underground and over ground activities, non-site-specific activities, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW Odisha, approval of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), study about the impact on aquatic fauna species of the river, details of violation, cumulative impact assessment study and carrying capacity study of river basin, revised numbers of trees, Catchment Area Treatment Plan, justification for additional DFL area, Correct analysis of CB ratio and details of evacuation plan. In response of the Ministry's letter, State Government vide letter no. 22243/9F (MG)-346/2025 dated 03.11.2025 through has submitted their reply.
- xiv. The State Government has reported that a total quantity of 36,73,331.19 cum of muck will be generated due to excavations for the construction of power intake, head race tunnel, surge shaft, pressure shaft, power house, transformer cavern etc. The detailed Muck restoration plan for Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project is submitted.
- xv. The State Government has reported that 26.167 ha. area proposed for road as shown in the land use plan is a typographical error. Out of the said 26.167 ha area, only 10.518 ha circular area shown in the layout plan/KML file for road is a hill, through which linear road would be constructed.

- xvi. The State Government has reported that out of the 16.306 ha. forest land marked as contractor colony and muck disposal, 9.306 ha. will be used for construction facility and only 7 ha. for muck disposal.
- xvii. The State Government has reported that the draft Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been forwarded by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, for examination and approval.
- xviii. The State Government has reported that the Upper Indravati PSP will be made functional using the existing reservoir of Upper Indravati Hydro Electric Project. Hence, there will not be any new dam construction. Only one new intake point on the reservoir near existing intake point will be constructed for drawl of water away from existing dam. Hence, approval may not be required.
- xix. The State Government has reported that the impact on aquatic fauna species of river due to this project has been studied as a part of EIA/EMP study and is submitted in the office of the DFO, Kalahandi (South) Division for further approval of CWLW.
- xx. The State Government has reported that the Project Proponent, i.e., Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC), has not violated any legal clause of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Based on field verification and satellite imagery analysis, it has been observed that the encroachments existed prior to the submission of the forest diversion proposal by the Project Proponent.
- xxi. The State Government has reported that since this is a Pumped Storage Project there will not be any cumulative impact and hence carrying capacity study on the river basin may be dispensed.
- xxii. The State Government has reported that the density of vegetation of the proposed 107.596 ha of forest land is 0.6, which actually corresponds to Eco-Class-III. However, it was inadvertently mentioned as Eco-Class-I in the Site Inspection Report. The Committee observed that the canopy density in the area is reported as 0.6, and keeping this in view, the reported number of trees (i.e., 8,279) appears to be an underestimation.
- xxiii. The State Government has reported that OHPC already has a 600 MW Hydro Electric Project at Mukhiguda, Kalahandi District on the Indrāvati reservoir. Upper Indrāvati PSP will utilize the existing Upper Indrāvati reservoir. The CAT plan has already been approved in the past for the same reservoir of "Upper Indrāvati Multipurpose Project.
- xxiv. The State Government has reported that in order to accommodate the balance seedlings, 58 ha and 63.00 ha of degraded forest land have been identified in Khariar and Bolangir Forest Division. The Committee observed that, as per the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules*, when the canopy density of the non-forest land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) 0.4 or more, an improvement plan is required to be prepared for that land. Additional degraded forest land (DFL) is required only

when the the area is not fit for raising the compensatory afforestation of a specified density.

- xxv. The state government need to rationalize the forest area requirement for the project and the non-site specific components like the contractor colony and the muck dumping needs to be shifted to non-forest land.
- xxvi. The State Government has reported that the correct CB ratio is 1:12.805 and 1:20.0481 as mentioned in the Part-II was a typographical error.
- xxvii. The State Government has submitted the Power evacuation plan as approved by CEA, Govt. of India and OPTCL, Odisha and informed that a new transmission system will be constructed by OPTCL (The state transmission Utility of Govt. of Odisha) for evacuation and drawl of power for this project.
- xxviii. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal subject to conditions that:
  - a. Out of the total proposed forest area of 107.596 hectares, 34.323 hectares (for borrow areas, construction facilities, muck disposal, and rock quarry) are proposed for temporary use. This area shall be biologically reclaimed and handed back to the State Forest Department (SFD) upon completion of the activities within a defined time frame. The User Agency (UA) shall submit a definite timeline for this purpose, and the State Government shall ensure its implementation.
  - b. The State Government shall ensure compliance with all provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021, and adhere to the stipulations of the State Dam Safety Authority/National Dam Safety Authority regarding the addition of a new intake point to the existing upper reservoir.
  - c. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site shall be made free from all encroachments and properly fenced before the commencement of any plantation activity, at the cost of the User Agency.
  - d. The State Forest Department shall implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.
  - e. The State Government shall take necessary action to remove encroachments from the proposed diversion site, as detailed in Point No. 9 of the Site Inspection Report, in accordance with the existing rules.
  - f. The User Agency shall re-examine the cost-benefit ratio, taking into account all relevant parameters in monetary terms, and resubmit the same.
  - g. The User Agency shall carry out the required soil and moisture conservation works and stabilisation measures at the proposed road construction site, and the State Government shall ensure compliance.

- h. While the User Agency has stated that a separate Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan is not required for the lower reservoir, the State Government shall assess its necessity, impose additional CAT measures if required, and ensure implementation at the cost of the User Agency.
4. **Decision of Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and the CCF in the office of Nodal officer (FCA), Government of Odisha '**deferred**' the proposal for want of the following information from the State Government:
- i. The State Government shall revisit the non-site-specific components like contractor colony and the dumping site proposed over the forest land and shift them to non-forest land.
  - ii. The state shall ensure that the component wise breakup given in the proposal is commensurate with the approved layout as per the DPR/approval of the CEA/competent authority. The details in this regard shall be submitted.
  - iii. The State Government has reported that in order to accommodate the balance seedlings, 58 ha and 63.00 ha of degraded forest land have been identified. In this regard the Additional degraded forest land (DFL) is required only when the non-forest area is not fit for raising the compensatory afforestation of a specified density. The state shall examine the matter and do the needful accordingly.
  - iv. (iv) The user agency has stated that a separate CAT plan is not required for the lower reservoir. In this regard, the Regional office in the site inspection report has recommended that the state government shall assess the necessity of the CAT Plan. The State is accordingly requested to furnish comments and justification for the same.

### **Agenda No. 30**

#### **Proposal. No. FP/PB/REDIV/469166/2024**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o Executive Engineer, Department of Irrigation, Punjab for re-diversion of 51.99 ha areas notified under Section 4 and 5 of the PLPA (Originally proposed area for re-diversion is 64.55 ha) out of 75.7 ha Perch Dam already diverted reservoir area for the purpose of restoring the reservoir's original capacity and further processing the desilted material, Hoshiarpur District in the State of Punjab (Online Proposal No. FP/PB/REDIV/469166/2024)– regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained before the

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

3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer, Government of Punjab attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The proposal is for re-diversion of 51.99 ha areas notified under Section 4 and 5 of the PLPA (Originally proposed area for re-diversion is 64.55 ha) out of 75.7 ha Perch Dam already diverted reservoir area for the purpose of restoring the reservoir's original capacity and further processing the desilted material, Hoshiarpur District in the State of Punjab.
  - ii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0 of Eco class III with no tree felling during implementation of the project.
  - iii. PCCF (Wildlife) has mentioned that proposed area is around 3.13 Km from boundary of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary and currently there is no Eco-Sensitive Zone declared in the Punjab area around Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, hence Parch Dam falls within the default 10 km radius of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary. Since according to the decision of the Hon'ble Court, Environmental Clearance is required for de-silting of the dam, the case regarding de-silting of Parch Dam has to be sent to the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife for approval through the PARIVESH portal after obtaining the prior approval of Standing Committee of State Wildlife Board.
  - iv. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
  - v. No violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 have been reported. Certificate to this effect has been submitted by DFO concerned.
  - vi. The instant proposal falls under Not-in High conservation value zone as per Decision Rule 1, however, as per Decision Rule 2, 3 grids out of 6 grids are having score more than 70% i.e. 50% of the grids are having High Conservation Value score.
  - vii. Committee was informed that Compensatory Afforestation has not been proposed by the State Government. Since the proposal is for re-diversion of land for desilting purpose, new CA and NPV is not applicable to the instant proposal if already carried out against the earlier diversion. The Committee was informed that CA has been carried out by the State Government over 150 ha degraded forest land in the original proposal which was approved by the Central Government on 13.06.1995 for construction of Perch dam in the State of Punjab. The Committee noted that since CA

has been carried out in the original proposal, CA may be exempted in the instant proposal.

- viii. Committee was further informed that State Government has mentioned in their reply that there was no provision for depositing NPV amount during approval of earlier proposal for construction of Perch Dam. The Committee noted that since NPV has not been deposited by the User Agency in the original proposal i.e. 75.7 ha for Perch dam, NPV has to be deposited by the User Agency in the instant proposal for 51.99 ha sought for re-diversion.
- ix. As per the documents submitted with the proposal, Perch dam reservoir area was diverted during the dam construction. Since then, a significant amount of silt has accumulated in dam reservoir, resulting in decreased efficiency as a balancing reservoir during floods. Additionally, it poses difficulties in irrigating the surrounding area, as the dam distribution clogged with silt. There is a proposal to re-divert the land of the dam reservoir to restore its original capacity, aiming to enhance dam's efficiency and further processing the desilted material.
- x. The Committee was informed that after examination of the proposal in the Ministry, certain shortcomings were observed and the same was communicated to the State Government on 18.12.2024. Reply to EDS raised by the Ministry was received from the State Government on 03.02.2025. Examination of the same revealed that incomplete information was submitted by the State Government and the same was conveyed to the State Government on 06.03.2025. Reply to EDS raised by the Ministry was received from the State Government on 10.06.2025. Examination of the same revealed that information on PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Government of Punjab is requested to certify whether the proposed area is part of the default/notified Eco-sensitive Zone of the Sukha Wildlife Sanctuary. Furthermore, if so, recommendation of CWLW on the proposed non-forestry activity may be submitted, road for transportation of extracted silt to be included in re-diversion proposal and KML file of 75.50 ha already diverted for construction of Perch Dam was not submitted by State Government and the same was communicated to the State Government on 26.07.2025
- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 11.11.2025 and informed following:
  - a) The Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Punjab, S.A.S. Nagar, has sent comments to this office vide letter no. 431 dated 07.05.2025. As per the report the area falls within the default (10 km) eco sensitive zone of the Sukhna WLS. Comments of PCCF (Wildlife) are as under:

*“The distance of Parch Dam from the boundary of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary is 3.13 km and currently there is no Eco-Sensitive Zone declared in the Punjab area around Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, hence Parch Dam falls within the default 10 km radius of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary. Since according to the decision of the Hon'ble Court, Environmental Clearance is required for de-silting of the dam, the case*

*regarding de-silting of Parch Dam has to be sent to the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife for approval through the Parivesh portal after obtaining the prior approval of Standing Committee of State Wildlife Board”.*

- b) A proposal FP/PB/OTHERS/555731/2025 has already been applied by the user agency on the PARIVESH on 21.10.2025 and is pending at DFO level.
  - c) KML file for 64.55 ha area has been attached and out of this area only 51.99 ha area has been proposed for re-diversion.
- xii. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Chandigarh on 10.01.2025. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh. Summary of the same are as under:

**I. Background on the proposal:**

It has been submitted by the representative of the User Agency that Perch dam was constructed in the year 1993 across Perch 1<had. This dam is an earthen dam of 22.2 m height having 153 ham (1.53 MCM) gross storage. As per the justification and submission made by the User Agency during site visit, since its construction the dam has not been cleaned of silt and other deposits which has reduced the water holding capacity of the reservoir of dam. This reduced water storage capacity of reservoir has greatly affected the capability of this dam to serves its purpose of acting as balancing reservoir in case of major floods. Also, the accumulated silt exerts a large force on dam body which might strongly affects the stability of dam body, which puts the area downstream of this dam in great danger. The reduced water storage capacity of this dam also leads to decreased irrigation efficiency of dam. Due to the deposition of silt, the water storage capacity has been reduced upto an average of 94% as per the Bathymetric Survey conducted in June 2021.

The summary of facts is as follow:

- Original Gross storage capacity of the dam in year 1993 - 154 Ham
- Gross storage capacity of the dam in year 2024- 8.38 Ham (as per bathymetric survey report March 2022)
- Full reservoir Level (FRL) - 406.100 m
- Maximum Water level reached (in year 2023)- 410.880 m
- Escape level of dam - 410 m

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

No

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

No.

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

**V. Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area:** There are No Protected Areas.

**VI. Recommendation:**

As submitted by the representative of the User Agency the desilting of the dam is important to increase the storage capacity of the Dam and also for flood management of the area. During inspection the siltation was visible in Dam area.

Further, the Hon'ble Court vide order dated 02.07.2024 in the CWP-PIL No. 130 of 2024 titled as Court on its own motion 1/s. State of Punjab taking suo moto notice of the facts inter alia that water bodies/dams around Chandigarh have dried up due to extreme heat and siltation. The Hon'ble High Court vide order dated 13.01.2025 ordered following:

*“this Court would not like to keep this Public Interest Litigation pending and the same is disposed of with a direction to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India to decide the application dated 12.04.2024 (Annexure R- 1) made by the State of Punjab within an outer limit of 45 days so that the process of de-sitting can start and conclude much prior to monsoon season”.*

In view of the above the proposal may be considered for desilting subject to providing all data regarding Compensatory Afforestation including CA Scheme, plantation journal etc for assessment of compliance of the condition of CA imposed in original approval.

**VII. Status of the compliance of the conditions of the Forest Clearance accorded to the proposal:**

The MoEF&CC vide letter dated 13.06.1995 accorded Final Approval for diversion of the 75.7 ha of Forest Land for Perch Dam Project. Status of the compliance of the conditions is as follow:

Sl . N o.	Conditions of Final Approval	Status of compliance
1.	Legal status of forest land will remain unchanged.	Complied

2.	Compensatory afforestation shall be carried out over double the degraded forest land at project cost. The details of deposited towards Compensatory Afforestation by the User Agency will be informed by the State Government to the Ministry.	It has been informed that the Compensatory afforestation has been raised over 150 ha area in surrounding areas of the Perch Dam. The site shown to be of the Compensatory Afforestation has been visited. The year of plantation and further details were not shown by the State Forest Department. There were no documents or any other official evidences proving the work of CA has been carried out. In view of above, the exact location of the CA, age and species of plantation could not be ascertained. The patch of forest land shown was found to have young to middle aged crop of Khair with scattered Shisam. However. the assessment of CA site is mandatory before agreeing for further processing.
3.	Water may be made available free for forestry activities in the vicinity of the canals and dam.	As per the discussion with the forest staff, water is made available for forestry activities as per the requirement.

**VIII. Recommendation of DDFG (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh:**

The proposal is for Re-Diversion of 64.55 Ha of already diverted forest land for the purpose of desilting from the reservoir of Perch Dam in District SAS Nagar, Punjab. The proposal has been recommended by the State Government and is of public utility by providing irrigation water in the area; accordingly same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 subject to providing all data regarding Compensatory Afforestation including CA Scheme, plantation journal etc. for assessment of compliance of the condition of CA imposed in original approval.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer, Government of Punjab, recommended the proposal for grant of ***in-principle*** approval in favour of Executive Engineer, Department of Irrigation, Punjab for re-diversion of 51.99 ha areas notified under Section 4 and 5 of the PLPA (Originally proposed area for re-diversion is 64.55 ha) out of 75.7 ha Perch Dam already diverted reservoir area for the purpose of restoring the reservoir's original capacity and further processing the desilted material, Hoshiarpur District

in the State of Punjab subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:

- i. The user agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being re-diverted i.e. 51.99 ha into the account of National Authority, CAMPA and details of the same needs to be submitted along with compliance report.
- ii. Copy of approval obtained from Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife, as applicable, shall be submitted along with Stage- I compliance report.
- iii. KML file of 75.50 ha already diverted forest land for the purpose of construction of Perch Dam shall be submitted along with Stage- I compliance report.
- iv. Recommendation letter of the State Government/ Part- IV shall be submitted along with Stage- I compliance report.

### **Agenda No. 31**

**Proposal No: FP/RJ/REHAB/414712/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Diversion of 198.488 ha Protected Forest Land for Rehabilitation of Bhairupura Village from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to Kumhariya, Forest Block- Devli Main under Forest Division- Tonk in the State of Rajasthan.**

1. The agenda for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The IGF (Central), RO Gandhinagar and officials from the Govt. of Rajasthan 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 to the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. The Govt. of Rajasthan vide their letter No F.No.1(99)Forest/2025 dated 30.04.2025 forwarded a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Rehabilitation of Bhairupura Village from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to Kumhariya, Forest Block- Devli Main under Forest Division- Tonk in the State of Rajasthan
  - ii. The proposed forest land comprising an area of 198.488 ha Protected Forest Land is situated in Tonk Forest Division having the canopy density of 0.1 with Eco-class III. Total 4136 number of trees reported to felled in the project.

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

S. No	Component	Forest Land (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
1	Land a per rehabilitation Package	181.35	0
2	Land for Abadi	9.45	0
3	Land for Roads	4.208	0
4	Misc. Land for Nallah etc.	3.48	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>198.487</b>	<b>0</b>

- iv. The justification given by the State Forest Department, Govt. of Rajasthan of the locating the project in forest area is that the Bhainrupura Village is located inside the Ranthabore Tiger Reserve and relocation of this village is mandatory for better management of wildlife therefore Forest land is required for rehabilitation of Bhainrupura Village.
- v. The Legal Status of forest land involved is Protected Forest land, Density of vegetation -0.1 Eco Class-3 The number of trees proposed to be felled in the proposal is 4136.
- vi. DFO in his recommendation stated that diversion of Forest land for Rehabilitation of Bhairupura village in Rathombore Tiger Reserve from Kumhariya Forest Block - Tonk Forest Division is accepted. Efforts should be made by the user agency to ensure the socio-economic needs of the resettled people in the Kumhariya Forest Block do not come in conflict with the already existing people in the nearby villages. Also, the Boundary wall and other structures as proposed by the Tonk forest division should be completed by the user agency so that the contiguous forest areas in Tonk division are also not disturbed.
- vii. As per the DSS analysis, a portion of the proposed forest land is under encroachment by settlements and agricultural activities. Additionally, plantation work has been observed within the area proposed for diversion.
- viii. The Deputy Conservator of Forest & Deputy Field Director (First) Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve Sawai Madhopur has furnished a certificate clarifying that the Village Bhairupura & Village Mundrahedhi to be relocated from the Sawai Mansingh Sanctuary & CTH of RTR. It has also be Certify that the relocation activity has been undertaken solely as a process of consolidation of wildlife habitat and the relocated area will become inviolate.
- ix. The State has informed that the vacated area will be used for development of grassland ecosystem to augment the prey species for tiger reserve habitat development, further this relocation activity also provides the inviolate area free from human disturbances for wildlife habitat.
- x. The Regional Office, Gandhinagar in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal for diversion of 198.488 ha forest land for rehabilitation of Bhairupura Village from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to Kumhariya, Forest Block-Devli Main Under Forest Division Tonk in the State of Rajasthan with following conditions:-

- a. The User Agency shall ensure that all the families from the Bhairupura are relocated, and no family will be allowed to stay at present location.
  - b. The forest land at Kumhariya, Forest Block- Devli Main Under Tonk Forest Division remains unutilized shall be handed over to Forest Department. The new settlement has to be fenced with the 6 feet wall along the boundaries of the forest land to avoid future encroachment on forest land.
- xi. The committee noted that the State Government of Rajasthan, while submitting the present proposal stated that the proposal pertained to the rehabilitation of Bhairupura Village from the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. Thereafter, the State Government informed that the relocation project also includes the rehabilitation of 128 families from Mundrahedi Village, also located within the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. Notably, the relocation of Mundrahedi Village was not included in the original proposal submission.
- xii. The Advisory Committee also noted that as per para 12.8 (b) of Consolidated Guidelines issued by the Ministry, the District Collector concerned shall furnish to the NTCA a certificate of non availability of land suitable for relocation of the villages located within the Protected Areas and Tiger Reserves before any proposal of relocation within the forest is approved. However, the certificate has not been furnished by District Collector to NTCA.
- xiii. The Committee observed that the State Govt. has not submitted the documentary evidence regarding right of people over forest land to be vacated along with KML file of vacated land.
- xiv. The State Government, in the project report of the present proposal, has stated that some residents of Mundarahadi Village had been partially relocated by the year 2022. Currently, 128 families from Mundarahadi Village are proposed to be relocated from the core area of RTR. However, the State Government has not informed whether this proposal aims to relocate all the remaining families/residents of Mundarahadi Village or only a portion of them along with details of total number of families of Mundarahadi Village relocated as on date has not been submitted.
- xv. As per information furnished in the component-wise break-up provided in Part-I of the proposal, 181.35 hectares of forest land have been earmarked under the category of 'Land as per Rehabilitation Package'. However, the State Government has not provided any justification or explanation for how this specific requirement of forest land was determined.
- xvi. The committee noted that the part of seasonal nala/ river has been included in the proposed forest land for diversion. Moreover, in the component wise details the State Govt. reported that 3.48 ha forest land is required for Nallah. In this regard, the State Govt. has informed that the exclusion of nallah from the project results in fragmentation of forest land which is in contrary to conditions of voluntary village relocation/rehabilitation as per chapter 12 Para 12.8 of the Consolidated Handbook of guidelines issued by the ministry on dated 29.12.2023. It is very difficult to manage such small

(3.48 ha) isolated chunk of forest land by department and increases the chances of encroachment, so by keeping nallah in their natural form and through handover to panchayat/villagers will ensure the nallah will remain in their natural form. The nallah will remain in its natural shape and will be beneficial to relocated village through water recharge. The use of this nallah for relocation purpose will result in water erosion as well as submergence of land in water during rainy season will adversely affect their agricultural land.

- xvii. The Committee noted that as per Site Inspection Report, the present proposal relocation plan was prepared by the Committee constituted by the District Collector and a list of 119 families and 39 absentee landholders (Total 158 families) was prepared. After Sociological and financial survey, the committee sent the proposal for approval to District Level Committee. The Committee discussed with Bhairupura Villagers and Shown them the land where relocation will be done. After seeing the forest land, the villagers gave their consent for Relocation at 199.88 ha forest land identified Kumhariya, Forest Block- Devli Main Under Tonk Forest Division. However, the information is not available whether the people/ families of Mundarahadi Village in the proposed forest land for diversion has been recommended by the District Level Committee or otherwise.
  - xviii. The Committee noted that the Site inspection report submitted by the RO, Gandhinagar only recommend the diversion of 198.488 ha forest land for rehabilitation of Bhairupura Village from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to Kumhariya, Forest Block-Devli Main Under Forest Division Tonk in the State of Rajasthan. However. the Village Mundarahadi from where 128 No. of families have been proposed to be rehabilitated has not been inspected by the RO, Gandhinagar.
  - xix. The Committee noted that the State Government has submitted the KML files of villages Bhairupura and Mundrahedi which will be relocated from the core of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) in the Point format instead of polygon. Further, examination of the said point data KML file of villages through satellite imagery revealed that the habitation/ settlements are not visible.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the IGF (Central), Regional Office, Gandhinagar and representative of Nodal Officer (FCA) Government of Rajasthan, '**deferred**' the proposal for want of following information from the State Government:
- i. The State Govt. shall obtain the recommendation and comments of the NTCA on the present relocation proposal. Further, the District Collector, Tonk will also furnish a certificate to the NTCA regarding Non-availability of the Non-Forest land for relocation of the villages located within the Protected Areas and Tiger Reserves.
  - ii. The State Government shall submit the layout plan for the forest area under diversion alongwith KML file.

- iii. The State Government shall submit the documentary evidence regarding right of people over forest land to be vacated alongwith KML file of vacated land (in polygon format) from the SawaiMansingh Sanctuary & CTH of RTR.
- iv. The State Govt. shall clarify whether absentee landlord right over the core of RTR proposed forest land has been included or not.
- v. The State Government shall submit the documentary evidence conforming the consensus of the people/ families of Mundarahadi Village agrees to relocate in the proposed forest land.
- vi. The State Government shall justify the 181.35 hectares of forest land earmarked under the category of 'Land as per Rehabilitation Package' in part-I of the proposal.
- vii. The State Government shall submit the revised KML files of villages Bhairupura and Mundrahedi which will be relocated out from the core of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR).
- viii. As per DSS analysis, settlements, plantations and agriculture is seen on the proposed forest land. The State Government shall submit its comments in the matter.
- ix. The RO, Gandhinagar shall carry out the Site Inspection of Village Mundarahadi from where 128 No. of families have been proposed to be rehabilitated and submit its revised Site Inspection Report.

### **Agenda No. 32**

**Proposal No: FP/RJ/WATER/464011/2024**

**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 174.1106 ha Forest land for construction of two diversion dams on local Nallah of Wakkal River (Dewas Stage III) and the other Dewas Stage IV is also on a local Nallah of Wakkal River a tributary of Sabarmati River by the Department of Irrigation, Govt. of Rajasthan under Tehsil Gogunda, District Udaipur, Rajasthan State.**

1. The agenda for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The IGF (Central), RO Gandhinagar and the Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Rajasthan State 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 to the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. The Govt. of Rajasthan vide letter No 1(133) Forest/ 2025 dated 05.10.2025 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 174.1106 ha of Forest land

for construction of two diversion dams on local Nallah of Wakkal River (Dewas Stage III) and the other Dewas Stage IV is also on a local Nallah of Wakkal River a tributary of Sabarmati River by the Department of Irrigation, Govt. of Rajasthan under Tehsil Gogunda, District Udaipur, Rajasthan State.

- ii. The total forest area under the proposal is 174.1106 ha of forest land out of which 105.565 ha is Reserve Forest land located in Udaipur (North) Forest Division and 68.5456 ha is Protected forest land located in Udaipur (South) Forest Division under Udaipur District of Rajasthan State.
- iii. The proposed forest area is having canopy density of 0.4 (Eco Class-3) and 95400 number of trees have been proposed to be felled. As per SIR of RO, for Dam -IV out of these 50,798 trees, 38,913 trees have a girth of less than 30 cm, and most of them are shrubs. As per SIR of RO, for Dam-III, out of these 44,602 trees, 34,684 trees have a girth of less than 30 cm, and most of them are shrubs.
- iv. The component wise land use details submitted with the proposal is as follows:

S. No.	Component	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
1	Dam area	7.3089	0.2922
2	11 KV TL /WITH ROAD	1.914	0.603
3	Scada Room	0.045	0
4	Inlet	0.42	0
5	Outlet	0.35	0.07
6	Tunnel	7.104	1.4904
7	Tunnel Road	0.808	0.8
8	Muck Disposal area	0	6.8962
9	Saft	0	0.745
10	Submergence area	156.1607	123.0744
	Total	174.11059	133.9712

- v. In the justification of the locating the project in forest area, the User Agency has stated that all possible efforts were made to avoid the forest land but the only option left for the construction was over in the which falls under forest land as this also provides enough Reservoir Level (R.L.) to maintain the water pressure in higher Zones thus maintaining the feasibility of the project. The project is one of the chains of four reservoirs to divert the surplus water of Sabarmati basin to Banas Basin. Diversion from existing projects and Dewas stage II & Mansi wakkal I projects is 1556.6Mcf (44.08 MCM) which will only be sufficient for present demand. Therefore, to meet the water demand of Year 2031, Dewas stage III & IV projects are planned. The Dewas stage III & IV projects does not intercept the catchment area of Mansi wakkal I or any of the existing diversion projects to Udaipur city and

- the runoff from catchment will be utilized in the state. It is a deposit Scheme of PHED to fulfil the drinking water requirement of Udaipur city.
- vi. The scheme has been formulated and planned as per availability of water. Dewas stage III & Stage IV projects are planned in such a way that the water will be diverted by Gravity flow and the existing system of Dewas stage II project will be utilized. The diversion of water starts from Stage IV to Stage III dam and Stage III dam to Stage II dam, and so reservoir of dam III will be a balancing reservoir for stage IV and the reservoir of dam II will be a balancing reservoir for stage III. Any spillover of Dam II will be additional water for Mansi Wakal I project. The chains of proposed stage II, III, & IV projects for diversion of water through gravity flow by tunnels on completion shall ensure availability of water with high dependability, less maintenance and depreciation cost, resulting in the cheaper availability of water. Therefore, to meet the water demand and to avoid power consumption and maintenance of Pumps & pipelines etc dewas stage III & IV have been prepared. The projects are also prepared to utilize the Sabarmati basin water by Gravity flow to Udaipur City.
  - vii. The direct benefits of Dewas III & IV are proposed to divert 1000 Mcft water annually to meet out drinking requirement of Udaipur besides sustain water in world famous lakes Pichola and Fatehsagar will fulfill tourism, environment, and ecology also. The project could be a firm base for holistic development of the area. On completion will bring prosperity in the area and will result in Socio Economic Growth of residents of Udaipur city and near vicinity.
  - viii. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed on following sites:-
    - a. Non-Forest land for CA (NFL): 174.1106 ha of NFL has been proposed to hand over khasra No 955 of Kaled Village, tehsil Pratapgarh, District Alwar, Jhiri beat of Thanagazi Range, Pratapgarhnaka, Alwar Division adjacent to Sariska Tiger Reserve.
    - b. Degraded Forest land for CA (DFL): 205 ha of DFL has been proposed on 105 ha in Survey No. 01 of Bagdunda Bea Gogunda Range, Udaipur Nort Division., Tehsil Gogunda, District Udaipur, 50 ha in Compartment No. 01 of Block SurajbaraVeerpura Beat, Oгна Range, Udaipur Division, Tehsil Gogunda, District Udaipur and 50 ha in Compartment No. 01 of Block NalSandol, Jhadol Range, Udaipur Division, Village NichliGauran, Tehsil Jhadol, District Udaipur.
  - ix. The proposal involved resettlement and rehabilitation of 394 families in 9 village.
  - x. The DCF, Udaipur Forest Division(South) in the recommendation observed that it was found that the area is important part of the Aravali hill with diffrent type of forest. A detailed wildlife conflict mitigation should by the user agency made in consultation with the forest department with measures as mentioned above and other which are deemed necessary for prevention and management of human wildlife conflict that is likely to be increased during and after the implementation of the project. The user agency shall

bear the budgetary requirements to implement the site plan. Dumping of waste, solid or effluent from labour camps and other works should not be inside the forest area.

- xi. The Committee was further informed that Ministry, after scrutiny of the proposal, observed shortcomings and the information was requested online from the State on 04.11.2025. The State Government submitted its reply online on 19.11.2025 and informed following:
- a. The construction of the Dewas Stage-1 Dam was completed in the year 1973-74, before the implementation of forest conservation act 1980. For Dewas Stage-II, a proposal for diversion of 54.4370 Ha forest land was submitted in the year 2006. The Government of India had issued the final approval vide letter no 2336 dated 13.12.2006.
  - b. The Dewas Dam Project has been technically appraised and approved by the State Technical Advisory Committee. During the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the dam's design and drawings were duly approved by the Chief Engineer, SWRPD (ID&R), Government of Rajasthan. All safety aspects have been examined at the State level, and the required approvals from competent authorities have been obtained.
  - c. The Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan has been approved by PCCF (HoFF) by office order dated 13.11.2025.
  - d. The Dewas Project is primarily aimed at ensuring adequate supply of drinking water to Udaipur city and nearby areas, and no irrigation component is involved in this project. The villages located in the vicinity of the project area shall benefit indirectly due to improved availability of drinking water and enhanced socio-economic conditions. As per the population projection for the year 2041, the population of Udaipur city is estimated to be 6,94,008. Considering the city's status as a major tourist destination, an additional 8% visiting population (around 55,520 persons) may be accounted for, bringing the total effective population to approximately 7.50 lakh. At present, the existing water supply is about 42.70 MLD, whereas the requirement exceeds the supply by about 28.34 MLD, indicating a significant shortfall. To bridge this gap and ensure a sustainable and reliable drinking water supply for the projected population, the Dewas Phase III and Dewas Phase IV Projects have been proposed. These projects together will provide an additional 1000 MCFT of water to Udaipur city for drinking purposes. Implementation of these projects is therefore crucial to ensure long-term water security and to meet the future water demand of Udaipur including its resident and visiting population.
  - e. The Dewas Phase-III and Phase-IV projects are proposed as storage reservoirs, and the tunnel along with all related components of these phases have been included in the present

- proposal itself. The earlier Dewas Phase-II has already been completed, and the proposed tunnel system of Dewas-III and IV will facilitate water transfer to the existing Dewas network for drinking water supply purposes. Hence, no additional diversion of forest land is required for any canal or distribution network. All components of Dewas Phase-III and IV.
- f. The Government land located in village Mokhi, Tehsil Gogunda, District Udaipur has been identified and reserved by the District Collector, Udaipur for the rehabilitation and resettlement of project-affected families/persons. The Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan for the project has been prepared. No forest land has been identified or proposed for rehabilitation and resettlement purposes.
  - g. The State has informed that the equivalent Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land adjoining the Sariska Tiger Reserve area has been allocated in lieu of the forest land coming under the Dewas Dam Project. The CA scheme of 500 trees per hectare has been submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alwar. For compensatory plantation against the remaining trees, the Deputy Conservator of Forests (North), Udaipur, has proposed 105 hectares of degraded forest land in Bagdundha, while the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Udaipur, has proposed 50 hectares of degraded forest land in Surjbara and another 50 hectares in NichaliGauran.
  - h. As reported in the proposal, the proposed area is having the presence of Schedule-1 species like Hyena, Blue bull, Panther, Fox, Peafowl, Porcupine etc. Therefore, the user agency has submitted a Wildlife Conservation Plan of Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan, Jaipur. The plan is under consideration.
  - i. It has been informed by the DCF vide his letter dated 10.11.2025 that the proposal site is located at a distance of 21.820 km from the Phulwari Ki Nal Wildlife Sanctuary and falls outside the notified Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Sanctuary.
- xii. The Committee noted that the proposed forest land is not falling in the High conservation zone as per the DSS Rule-2.
  - xiii. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Gandhinagar on 06.11.2025 to 08.11.2025. The SIR has also been recommended by IGF (C) of RO, Gandhinagar. As per SIR, diversion of 174.1106 ha for planning, design and construction of Dewas III & IV Dams, in tehsil Gogunda, District Udaipur, Rajasthan State. The proposal was received in Parivesh 2.0 from the state government of Rajasthan. The user agency, Water Resource Department, Government of Rajasthan informed in the proposal that the drinking water requirement of Udaipur city is approximately 51.56 million cubic meters (MCUM), which is estimated to increase to 71.04 MCUM by the year 2045. The city is currently facing acute shortage of drinking water,

particularly during the summer months, resulting in challenges for both domestic and public use. This scarcity highlights the urgent need for efficient water management and the development of sustainable water sources. The current project envisages construction of two diversion dams viz., Dewas Stage III and Dewas Stage IV on the tributary of Sabarmati River originating in Udaipur District. The User Agency has proposed diversion of 174.1106 ha of forest land for construction of Dam III and Dam IV with submergence area, dam road, tunnels, tunnel road, scada room, inlets and outlets, 11 kv transmission line with road, the details of which are provided in the inspection report of the AIGF. About 75% of the trees enumerated are reported to have a girth of less than 30 cm, and most of them are shrubs. The CA is proposed in 174.1106 ha of NFL in single patch adjacent to Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar District and also in 3 patches of DFL totaling 205 ha in Udaipur District. The CA land identified is found to be suitable for plantation as per the CA estimates. The project is fully funded by the Government of Rajasthan and reported that it has received approval from the Technical Advisory Committee, and during the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the dam's design and drawings were approved by the Chief Engineer, SWRPD (ID&R). The proposal for diversion of 174.1106 ha of forest land has got high potential to supply drinking water to Udaipur city and the user agency has provided alternate Non-Forest land for compensatory afforestation to compensate for the forest land proposed for diversion. The CA-NFL is near Sariska TR and will help in expanding the habitat of Tiger and other wild animals in this NFL patch in future. Keeping in view of the larger public utility associated with the project, proposed forest land diversion is Recommended.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the IGF (Central), Regional Office, Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer, Government of Rajasthan, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 174.1106 ha Forest land for construction of two dams i.e. Dewas Stage III and Dewas Stage IV on local Nallah of Wakkal River a tributary of Sabarmati River by the Department of Irrigation, Govt. of Rajasthan under Tehsil Gogunda, District Udaipur, Rajasthan State subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:
- i. The State shall submit the complete CA scheme for Compensatory afforestation along with Maps, KML file, suitability certificate along with the compliance of Stage I approval.
  - ii. A copy of the Wildlife management plan, approved by the CWLW, Govt. of Rajasthan for the instant proposal shall be submitted along with the compliance of Stage I approval conditions.

### **Agenda No. 33**

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

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

1. The agenda for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Sikkim and DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. The Government of Sikkim has submitted the subject cited proposal under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 on PARIVESH 2.0 portal on 21.08.2024.
  - ii. The proposal pertains to the diversion of 56.67 hectares of forest land in favour of the Rural Development Department, Government of Sikkim, for the regularisation of pre-1980 settlements on forest land. These settlements are located in Gangtok District (8.0 ha), Namchi District (32.75 ha), and Pakyong District (15.89 ha), and pertain to seven Taungyadar villages.
  - iii. Legal status of the land proposed for diversion is Reserved Forest.
  - iv. Canopy density of the proposed area is reported as 0.01 with Eco Class IV. There is no tree felling involved in the proposal.
  - v. The Proposed land for diversion does not form a part of any seriously eroded areas except which is due to natural factors. No National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. is part of the proposed forest land for diversion. No rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area proposed for diversion.
  - vi. The forest land proposed for diversion is not located within the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of the protected Area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - vii. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area proposed for diversion
  - viii. The State Govt. has submitted the justification for regularization of the proposed habitation/settlement and it has been mentioned that the Pr. Secretary, State Govt. has informed that this proposal is to regularize the pre 1980 settlements of Taungyadars in Forest Lands of Sikkim. Taungyadari was a phenomenon of pre-merger Sikkim but found even now, though to a very limited extent, after the merger of Sikkim with India. Some of the details are documented in a research paper titled "Community Forest Management in Sikkim Himalaya towards sustainable development" authored by Santosh Chettri, A.P.Krishna, K.K.Singh(2015) published in International Journal of Environment and Sustainable Development, Vol.14,No.1,2015 89. Examples of Taungyadars were observed in Three Forest Divisions namely, Namchi, Gangtok and Pakyong. In

this system, plantation activities were undertaken on a limited scale in the marginal forest areas. Each family was called Taungya and provided a few acres of forest land each year to plant and then look after these plantations for a period of three years. Thereafter, they had to return the forest land to the forest department. Taungyadars paid no taxes to the government and remained settled within the forest land. They carried out farming, cattle rearing besides plantation work on their own. This system is now gradually being discontinued Taungyadars are basically labourers engaged for the plantation and silvicultural management of the forestry practices in the early 1960 as documented by a retired officer titled "My Days in the Forest Department" Chapter 9 published in the book titled "Sikkim Forestry- a 100 years of Service" in the year 2009.

- ix. The afforestation works programmes were carried out by way of "Taungya System" of plantation. Under this systems the department had to give (6) six acres of land to the family for plantation of 2 acres each in a year retaining two acres for the families homestead and in the third year, the family would have to complete 6 acres and shift to other clear felled areas. In those days it was very difficult to get labourers for carrying out forestry activities in the high forest.
- x. The forest officials used to set Taungyadars in the fringe of the Reserve Forest and were engaged for forestry activities. The Taungyadars were paid ₹200/- as Taungya Subsidy for the year of plantation which was later raised to ₹500/-. They were engaged on daily wage system in all departmental forest operations such as plantation, logging, sawing timbers, stacking of firewood for sale, etc. In those days there used to be very meagre fund for the forest management. As such most of the afforestation works throughout the State then were taken up by the Taungyadars.
- xi. The Taungyadars were engaged not only for the plantation works, they used to protect and conserve the forest and prevent hunting. There are different locations in East District of Sikkim where Taungyadar systems prevail in the olden days. Out of which at three locations Taungyadars are still living since 6 decades despite the Taungya system was discarded. These are Yali Reserve Forest under Gangtok Range, Tumlabong Reserve Forest under Singtam Range and Karthok Reserve Forest under Pakyong Range, Melli Compound Area and Majhitar R.F, Melli Range, Rayong RF under Ravangla Range, Jholungey RF under Namthang Range. These lands which were allotted to them by the forest officials and are still under their regular occupation. Presently these people sustain their livelihood by cattle rearing and cultivation of the land.
- xii. The Government of Sikkim decided to recognize the Taungyadars contribution and rights by regularizing their settlements in the above areas. It is proposed to regularize their settlements as is where basis to secure their livelihood and their generations in the state. Accordingly, it is proposed to regularize the settled land in the name of Rural Development Department, Government of Sikkim and also bring them within the ambit of rural local body, the panchayats.
- xiii. The State Govt. has proposed the CA area originally over 113.78 ha in which 4 ha found VDF and 43 ha found MDF. As per the observation of the Ministry the CA has been changed by the State Govt. over 65 ha.
- xiv. State Authorities have recommended the proposal.

- xv. Regarding the records of rights (if any) maintained by the State with respect to settlers and the details regarding the eligibility criteria fixed to identify eligible beneficiaries has been submitted by the State Government. In this regard it has been informed that:

**Record of Rights:**

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

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

- a. The committee shall carry out Joint Inspection of the forest land occupied by the Taungyadars. If the Taungya village is located in the middle of the Reserve Forest, the committee will explore the possibilities to relocate them on the periphery of the Reserve Forest.
- b. The committee shall ascertain and ensure that all the occupants of the forest land were settled prior to the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (i.e. prior to 25th October, 1980)

- xvi. Regarding examination and confirmation whether the occupation on forest land are actually encroachments or otherwise, the State Govt. has informed that the settlements are not encroachments but families of Taungyadars settled prior to 1980 by the Forest Department.
- xvii. Regarding any concrete proof like remote sensing maps, Government of Documents etc. which proves that the area proposed for regularization is under occupation prior to 1980, the State Govt. has informed that the Form of Agreement signed in the year 1970 and the payment of Dhuri khazana (tax) has been uploaded in the PARIVESH portal.
- xviii. Regarding details of occupations in the working plan and other records and intimation whether the same has been mentioned therein or not? The State Govt. has submitted the relevant documents and has also informed that Taungyadar system has been explained in following Working Plans publications:
- i. K.C Rai Choudhary (1951-52 to 1970-71)
  - ii. East Division Working Plan (2009-10 to 2020)

- iii. West Division Working Plan (2011-12 to 2020-21)
- xix. The State Govt. has informed that as reported by the Conservator of Forest (Territorial), Forest & Environment Department, Government, the Forest Department facilitated the settlement of Taungyadars under a symbiotic arrangement, allowing them to cultivate designated forest land for their livelihood in exchange for protecting and managing the forest. This practice dates back to the pre-merger era when Sikkim was a kingdom under the Namgyal dynasty, the arrangement was established between the Taungyadars and His Highness, the Maharaja of Sikkim, hence this system of Taungyadar dates back to pre-merger era. In 2012, a committee was formed to identify and regularize these settlements.. Further, in post-merger era, developmental activities were initiated in fringe area for the community benefits like developing educational institutions, healthcare facilities.
- xx. With respect to the requirement of providing a proper justification for why the present proposal was not submitted earlier, the State Government has informed that the necessary documentation for the current proposal was not complete. The survey for identifying Taungyadars had not been undertaken, and the matter was still under discussion with the Government. Formal efforts for the identification and regularization of Taungyadars were initiated only in 2012, vide Notification No. Home/Confdl/04 dated 12.01.2012, and the Committee constituted for this purpose submitted its report in 2014.
- xxi. The State government has submitted a list of Joint Verification Report (JVR) along with requisite details like proceedings, criteria followed etc.
- xxii. Regarding submission of a certificate to certify that no such areas are left out for regularization in the State, the State Govt. has informed that regularization of Taungyadar System, till date is completed and it is further certified that no more proposal for regularization of Taungyadar will be submitted in future.
- xxiii. The Site inspection has been carried out in the instant proposal by the Sub Office, Kolkata on 8-11th May, 2025. The DDGF (Central) has recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- a. The proposed forest lands shall be demarcated with proper fencing to prevent further encroachment.
  - b. The status of the land shall remain as reserved forest.
  - c. The proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites in Yali RF (6 ha) and Thekabong RF (22.78 ha) may be substituted with suitable degraded forest land, as the current sites contain moderately dense forests.
  - d. As the occupation of forest land occurred prior to 1980 with the approval of the erstwhile Sikkim administration, the applicability of penal provisions under the VSESA, 1980 may be determined by the competent authority in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act.
- xxiv. The proposal was considered in the meeting of Advisory Committee held on 26.05.2025. After thorough deliberation and discussion, the Committee decided to defer the proposal and sought the information from the State Government which includes details of the existing numbers of families/occupants along with the detailed layout plan, details of revised CA area. The Ministry sought above

clarification/information online on PARIVESH 2.0 portal from the State Government on dated 09.06.2025.

- xxv. In this reference, the State Government of Sikkim, Forest and Environment Department , Forest Secretariat, Deorali, Gangtok -737102 forwarding the letter vide Ref./letter No. 3018/FCA/F&ED/292, Dated: 30.08.2025 (uploaded on line on 02.09.2025) submitted the information.
- xxvi. The State has submitted the details of existing numbers of families/occupants along, with the detailed layout plan indicating the present/proposed land use under various components like residential areas, agricultural land and roads, submitted by DFO(T) Gangtok, Pakyong & Namchi.
- xxvii. The New CA sites have been provided by the State as under:  
 a. 6 ha in Song RF under Gangtok Territorial Division.  
 b. 22.78 Ha in Amba RF 10 Ha & 12.78 Ha Thekabong Khasmal (Total 22.78 Ha) under Pakyong Territorial Division
- xxviii. The State Govt. has submitted that the settlements are pre-1980 and has also provided the reasons that the proposal was not submitted earlier in 1993-1995.
- xxix. The proposal was considered in the meeting of Advisory Committee held on 26.09.2025. After thorough deliberation and discussion, the Committee decided to defer the proposal and sought the information from the State Government i.e. component wise breakup of the proposed forest land and detailed land use plan with layout. The Ministry sought above clarification/information online on PARIVESH 2.0 portal on dated 06.10.2025.
- xxx. In this reference, the State Government of Sikkim, Forest and Environment Department , Forest Secretariat, Deorali, Gangtok -737102 forwarding the letter vide Ref./letter No. 3018/FCA/F&ED/38, Dated: 18.10.2025 submitted component wise breakup of the land as follows:

Sl. No.	Component	Proposed area	Percentage
1	Residential area	17.55	31%
2	School	1.23	2%
3	Agriculture area	24.44	43%
4	Road/footpath	3.87	7%
5	Ground	0.58	1%
6	Community assets	9	16%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>56.67</b>	<b>100%</b>

- xxxi. The Committee observed that these Taungyadar villages were established in 1960 by the erstwhile administration of Sikkim, prior to Sikkim's accession to India. The Taungyadars have been in continuous occupation since then. Further, the state has already clarified that this is not a case for the regularization of encroachment.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and the Nodal officer (FCA), Government of Sikkim '**recommended**' the proposal for diversion of 56.67 Ha (9.0 ha in Gangtok District. 32.78 ha in Namchi District and 15.89 ha in Pakyong District) of Forest land for regularization of pre 1980 Taungyadar settlements

in Gangtok. Palq/onq & Namchi Districts of Sikkim by Rural Development Department. Government of Sikkim subject to General, Standard and following specific conditions:-

- i. The legal status of the forest land shall not be changed.
- ii. The component-wise land use shall not be changed. The State Government shall ensure that there is no deviation in the component-wise area from that indicated in its letter No. 3018/FCA/F&ED/38 dated 18.10.2025.

### **Agenda No. 35**

#### **proposal No. FP/SK/OTHERS/514965/2024**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 2.4281 ha of forest land for construction of common biomedical waste treatment facility at Payong, Melll under Namchi District by Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Sikkim under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam,1980 (Online proposal No. FP/SK/OTHERS/514965/2024) – reg.**

1. The subject cited proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Nodal Officer, Govt. of Sikkim and DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. State Government of Sikkim vide their letter no. No.3058/FCA/F&ED/562 dated 17.03.2025 has submitted above mentioned proposal on PARIVESH portal to the Regional Office.
  - ii. The instant proposal received from the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for consideration of the competent authority under the provisions of para 1.10(ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the VSS Rules, 2023, for approval under the VSSA, 1980. As per para 1.10 (ii), in case of any ambiguity regarding non-specificity of a particular project, the same shall be referred to the Ministry for decision. Further, the Regional Offices/Sub-Offices shall ensure that non-site-specific proposals, which have been recommended by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) or Regional Office, need to be submitted to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi for decision on case to case basis. Proposals which have been rejected by the REC or Regional Office/Sub-Office should not be submitted to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
  - iii. As per the Ministry's clarification on the site specificity of small public utilities project vis-à-vis diversion of forest land vide OM no.FC-11/155/2020-FC-Part(1) dated 24.09.2024, which clarifies that – *“legitimacy of the requirement of a public utility with no viable alternatives, make such proposals site-specific and use of forest land inescapable and accordingly, the concerned Regional Offices of the Ministry should ascertain the legitimacy of a public utility projects*

*as non-site specific or site specific in the light of justifications provided by the State/UT. Proposals found to be site-specific for want of viable alternatives should be considered on their merits by the concerned Regional Office in accordance with the provisions of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980”*

- iv. The proposal envisages for Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF), construction in 2.4281 ha of forest area in Southern Sikkim near West Bengal border.
- v. The State does not have common facility for treatment and disposal of Bio-medical Waste generated by the Health Care Facilities. As on standing Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order, CBWTF is to be established within certain timeframe.
- vi. The Bio-Medical Waste generated by the Health Care Facilities of the State are infectious waste, the CBWTF cannot be constructed in a place where there are inhabitants so private land meeting the criteria for CBWTF is not available in the State. The Forest land identified at Payong, Melli under Namchi District does not have inhabitants within the surrounding area and is centrally located and accessible from all the districts. Hence, the land identified is suitable for construction of Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF) in the State.
- vii. Entire proposal along with its all components is non-site specific but identifying/procuring non-forest area with specific requirements e.g. at least 500m away from habitation etc. is hard to get in forest rich hilly state of Sikkim.
- viii. The component wise break-up of the total forest land proposed for diversion is given below:

<b>S No.</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>
1	Incinerator Facility	20x20 sq m = 0.04
2	Autoclave, shredder machines area	15x15 sq m = 0.0225
3	Waste Reception Yard	30x30 sq m = 0.09
4	Treated Waste Storage Yard	50x50 sq m = 0.25
5	Landfill for incineration ash disposal	50x50 sq m = 0.25
6	Parking Facility	100 x 100 sq m = 1.0
7	Utilities – DG/Power	10x10 sq m = 0.01
8	Water Provision	15x15 sq m = 0.0225
9	Office Area	30x30 sq m = 0.09
10	Segregation Yard	20x20 sq m = 0.04
11	Quarters	30x40 sq m = 0.12
12	Future extension of project	0.4931
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2.4281 ha</b>

- ix. Legal status of the proposed area is reported Reserved Forest. State Government in online Part-II has reported that canopy density of the proposed

area is 0.4 with Eco Class III. The aerial distance of the proposed site from the nearest Kitam Bird Sanctuary is 9.71 Km.

- x. State Government in online Part-II has reported that total 433 no. of trees enumerated to be felled.
- xi. In lieu of diversion of 2.4281 ha forest land, CA is proposed on 5 Ha Degraded Forest Land (DFL) in Lungchok Forest Block in Melli Range of Namchi Forest Division.
- xii. The proposal was examined in the Ministry wherein it was observed that in case the project is to be located away from habitation does not make it site specific. The State should have explored other alternatives and submitted the proposal with justification. In this regard, the State Government has informed the following: -
  - a) As per CPCB "Guidelines for Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities" (Revised, December 2016), suitable land for CBMWTFs should preferably be away from residential and sensitive areas, located on non-agricultural/non-prime land and Having adequate accessibility by road.
  - b) In Sikkim, more than 48% of geographical area is reserved/ protected forest, while the remaining land is either under organic farming (State Organic Policy, 2016), urban/semi-urban settlements, or is topographically unsuitable due to steep hilly terrain.
  - c) Several private and government lands were explored. However, lands near habitations were found unsuitable due to risk of public exposure, agricultural land could not be diverted as Sikkim has declared itself a 100% organic farming state, various alternative sites were explored and identified and joint inspection by the officials of the line departments were also carried out e.g following sites were identified.
  - d) Private land located at Samardung, Namchi Districts but it did not meet the siting criteria.
  - e) Private land located at PanchGhary, Melli, Namchi Sikkim were identified and the land was also acquired by the State Government for setting up of Common treatment and disposal facility for hazardous and biomedical wastes, but due to mass objection from the local residents, the proposal could not be taken up for further action.
  - f) In view of the above, the present site was selected after eliminating other alternatives, making it a site-specific requirement in compliance with Rule 5 of the BMWM Rules, 2016, which mandates establishment of adequate CBMWTFs in every State to ensure scientific disposal.
  - g) Moreover, the state is sharing international borders with China, Bhutan and Nepal and consider the strategic locations, identifying suitable site meeting criteria for setting up of such waste treatment and disposal facility is highly challenging and led to delay in setting up such facility in the State. Diversion of Forest land is the only viable option available at this stage.

- xiii. Keeping in view the fact that the proposed is for a bio-medical waste treatment facility, the State Government was requested to submit justification for selecting the area near to the river. In this regard, State Government informed that while the proposed site lies near a river, the facility will adhere to all siting safeguards under CPCB Guidelines which prescribe a minimum distance of 200 m from surface water bodies, Impervious flooring and leachate collection system, Proper effluent treatment plant (ETP) with treated discharge conforming General Standards under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. In addition, siting of waste treatment facilities near water bodies is permissible provided adequate environmental safeguards are adopted and facility meets the discharge standard notified under the EPR, 1986. The project design shall incorporate: a. Zero discharge policy with on-site ETP, b. Storage and handling in fully covered, impervious areas, c. Greenbelt development as buffer to river ecosystem. Hence, environmental safety of the river and surrounding ecosystem will be fully ensured.
- xiv. As per the aerial distance certificate attached in the documents, the proposed area is at a distance of 9.7 kms from the Wildlife sanctuary. In this regard, the State Government was requested to furnish the details of the Wildlife Sanctuary and the status of its ESZ. In this regard, State Government informed that the DFO Namchi (Wildlife Division) has furnished map of Eco-Sensitive Zone of Kitam Wildlife Sanctuary Namchi District, specifying Eco-Sensitive Zone of 25 meters and the Wildlife sanctuary is 9.71 Km away from the proposed area for diversion.
- xv. Regional Office in SIR has reported that entire proposal along with its all components is non-site specific but identifying/procuring non-forest area with specific requirements e.g. at least 500m away from habitation etc. is hard to get in forest rich hilly state of Sikkim.
- xvi. State Government in online Part-II has reported that canopy density of the proposed area is 0.4 with Eco Class III. However, Regional Office in SIR reported that canopy density of the proposed area is 0.7.
- xvii. State Government in online Part-II has reported that total 433 no. of trees enumerated to be felled. However, Regional Office in SIR reported that around 600 trees are likely to be affected.
- xviii. Regional Office has reported that proposed area is part of Teesta River catchment. Numerous seasonal streams spontaneously flow into the river through this area as the area is on steep slope and hardly 250 m away from the river in the down valley. The project proponents need to take special care to ensure that these seasonal streams are not wiped out with the project coming up.
- xix. Regional Office has recommended the proposal, subject to the following conditions:
- a. As the State has proposed locating the facility within forest land to keep it away from habitations, the inclusion of residential units would defeat the project's purpose and is therefore not recommended. The State Government shall revise the area requirement as per the applicable guidelines and recast the extent of forest land proposed for diversion.
  - b. In view of the proximity of the river, the State Government shall ensure that the facility adopts a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) system, wherein all

wastewater generated from air pollution control systems and allied operations is treated, recycled, and reused, with no discharge into the environment.

- c. To prevent accidental discharge of waste materials into the forest area or the river, the State Government shall ensure a thorough review of the design and operational aspects of the proposed facility through a reputed technical institution, such as an IIT, for independent design and safety validation. Appropriate contingency measures and containment systems shall be finalised and implemented prior to commissioning. The User Agency shall bear the cost of the study and the implementation of these mitigation measures.
- d. Considering the steep terrain, the State Government shall ensure that the User Agency undertakes soil and slope stabilisation works, along with sediment and runoff management measures.
- e. As a seasonal nallah passes through the facility area, the State Government shall ensure that it remains undisturbed, with an adequate buffer of trees maintained along its course.
- f. The State Government shall also ensure that all other recommendations made by the DIGF in the Site Inspection Report are duly implemented.

4. **Decision of Advisory Committee:** - The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and the Nodal officer (FCA), Government of Sikkim '**deferred**' the proposal for want of following information from the State Government: -

- (i) The area proposed is within the dense forest patch. The criteria for the selection of the site shall therefore be elaborated along with the justification for selecting a dense forest patch for a non-site-specific activity.
- (ii) The state has informed that the facility is to be established away from habitation, whereas the proposal includes the construction of residential accommodation. The inclusion of residential units would defeat the project's purpose. The State Government shall therefore revise the area requirement and recast the extent of forest land proposed for diversion.
- (iii) The State Government, in Part-II of the online proposal, has reported the canopy density of the proposed area as 0.4, while the Regional Office, in its Site Inspection Report (SIR), has assessed the canopy density as 0.7. Similarly, the State Government has indicated that 433 trees are proposed to be felled, whereas the Regional Office has reported that approximately 600 trees may be affected. The State Government shall examine the matter and upload the correct details of the canopy density and the number of trees involved.
- (iv) The State Government shall explore the possibility of alternative site (preferably non-forest land) for establishment of Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF) to treat the biomedical wastes generated in the state.

## Agenda No. 36

### Proposal No. FP/TR/MINOIL/514247/2024

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. for non-forestry use of 2.2068 ha of Reserved Forest for exploration of Hydrocarbon/ Natural Gas through Drilling, Waste-pit and Approach Road of exploratory location AA-ONO-212-KPA-A in Village-Ramprasaipara, District- North Tripura in the State of Tripura (Online Proposal No. FP/TR/MINOIL/514247/2024)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DIGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Tripura attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, note the following:
  - (i) Proposal involves diversion of 2.2068 ha of Reserved Forest for exploration of Hydrocarbon/ Natural Gas through Drilling, Waste-pit and Approach Road of exploratory location AA-ONO-212-KPA-A in Village-Ramprasaipara, District- North Tripura in the State of Tripura.
  - (ii) As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.2372 ha is required for approach road and 1.9696 ha for drill area and waste pit.
  - (iii) Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.1 of Eco class I with 51 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
  - (iv) Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
  - (v) As per Decision Rule- 1 the area does not fall into High Conservation Value Zone while as per Decision Rule 2 the area falls in High Conservation Value Zone as an area of 2 ha is categorized as moderately dense forest. The Nodal Officer informed the Committee that area has been inspected by the DFO reporting total 51 trees of various species constituting canopy density of less than 0.2 and area is sparsely covered with species.

- (vi) Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 4.420 ha degraded forest land. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
  - (vii) No violation of the Adhinyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
  - (viii) The life of Mineral oil reservoir is 10 years, the mining lease was approved on 27.09.2022 for 3 years which is valid till 26.09.2025. One borehole of 20” inches size has been proposed to be drilled in the proposed area.
  - (ix) The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. detail of safety zone area, reason for proposing new road, revisiting the site suitability of the CA land comments location of the area into High Conservation Value zone, etc. which were conveyed to the State Government on 05.05.2025 and 1.10.2025. The State Government submitted its reply online on 09.09.2025 and 28.10.2025, which is found satisfactory.
  - (x) The Regional Office also submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhinyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with certain conditions.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of *‘in-principle’* approval for diversion of 2.2068 ha of Reserved Forest for exploration of Hydrocarbon/ Natural Gas through Drilling, Waste-pit and Approach Road of exploratory location AA-ONO-212-KPA-A in Village- Ramprasaipara, District- North Tripura in the State of Tripura subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- (i) Recommendations made in the Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas (2022-23 (Safety and Security of Oil Installations of Public Sector Oil companies with specific reference to Baghjan Blow -out incident) shall be strictly adhered to by the user agency to avoid disaster in future.
  - (ii) The safety zone of 7.5 meter wide strip along the inner boundary of impact areas of a drilling bore hole(s) or oil well pad shall be maintained by the user agency as a green belt by undertaking plantations or allowing the natural regeneration to come up. In addition, the hazardous zone around the bore well, oil pads or pipelines or other ancillary infrastructure should be maintained by the user agency during the exploitation or transportation of mineral oil as per the norms stipulated in the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, and rules framed thereunder.
  - (iii) The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department should keep the forest area of optimum width along the boundary of the area proposed for diversion clear of vegetation as a fire control line.

## Agenda No. 37

Proposal No: FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/515850/2024

**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 233 ha. forest land (197.0272 Ha Reserved Forest, 26.066 Ha Private Forest and 9.9068 Ha Protected Forest) for construction of Saidongar-I Karjat Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (3000 MW) (Hydro power electricity generation) at Pali, Tal. Kotal Khalati, Saidongar & Dhak Village, Karjat Taluka, Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra in favour of M/s Torrent PSP 3 Private Limited (FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/515850/2024).**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held 02.12.2025. 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-1325/C.R.160/F-10 dated 19.09.2025 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 233 ha. forest land (197.0272 Ha Reserved Forest, 26.066 Ha Private Forest and 9.9068 Ha Protected Forest) for construction of Saidongar-I Karjat Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (3000 MW) (Hydro power electricity generation) at Pali, Tal. Kotal Khalati, Saidongar & Dhak Village, Karjat Taluka, Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra in favour of M/s Torrent PSP 3 Private Limited.
  - ii. The State Government submitted that the proposal seeks diversion of 233.0 ha of forest land for the Saidongar-1 Karjat (3000 MW) Off-stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project in favour of Torrent PSH 3 Private Limited. The project includes formation of a new upper reservoir with a gross storage capacity of 0.56 TMC (15.87 Mm?) and a new lower reservoir with a gross storage capacity of 1.02 TMC (28.96 Mm). The lower reservoir is located in a natural depression in the valley between two hills across the Pej River. This site meets two key requirements: sourcing water from a natural flowing stream during the monsoon for one-time filling and using the natural depression with inherent barriers to impound water. The design minimises land requirements and avoids extensive inundation, thereby optimising land use. The upper reservoir is proposed on flat table-top land on an adjoining hillock.

- iii. The State Government further submitted that the closed ring-type reservoir benefits from a natural barrier on one side, enabling efficient water impoundment. The proximity of the upper and lower reservoirs minimises the length of the water conductor system, enhancing overall efficiency. The proposed pumped storage project (PSP) will utilise 377.0 ha of land, of which 233.0 ha is forest land and the remaining 144.0 ha is private land.
- iv. The lower reservoir for the instant proposal is located in a natural depression in the valley between two hills across the Pej River.
- v. The proposed land for diversion have canopy density of 0.3 of Eco-Class I. Also, the proposal involves felling of 48557 number of trees.
- vi. The State Government submitted that as per Working plan, no endangered or rare species found in proposed forest area. In general, following Flora & Fauna found in the proposed Forest As the proposed area does not come under any Protected Area or Eco Sensitive Zone. As per the working plan wild pig, barking deer, India porcupine, Jungle Fowl, Peafowl, Hares, Monkey, Common fox, Jungle Cat, Hyaena, Giant squirrel, Mongoos, Kite, Horn Bills are mentioned. So to mitigate, wildlife management plan is proposed with the cost of project authority Area.
- vii. The State Government further submitted that the project area is about 15.530 km from Bhimashankar wildlife sanctuary and 15.168 KM from boundary of the Eco-sensitive zone of Bhimshankar Wildlife Sanctuary. The area falls under graft notification of western Ghat Sensitive Area
- viii. The UA has submitted the proposal for getting the Environmental Clearance vide application No. IA/MH/RIV/552857/2025.
- ix. The land use plan as submitted by the State Government is as under:

SI. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)
1.	Site office including workshop and parking area	0	5.2519
2.	Concrete Batching Plant (a)	0	1.4961
3.	Concrete Batching Plant (b)	0	2
4.	Ferrule handling/stacking area and workshop	0	4.5034
5.	Labour camp	0	1.5046
6.	Lower reservoir-dam sheet	10.1134	1.1399
7.	Approach road from highway to project location	0	12.4437
8.	WCS, PH, ADITS	38.6266	0
9.	Labour camp	0	2.9541
10.	Muck disposal area	0	7.9951
11.	Crusher	0	2.3486
12.	Approach road to project component	17.3104	2.841
13.	Muck disposal area	0	7.0022

14.	Muck disposal area	0	26.8874
15.	Upper Reservoir	68.0756	47.7073
16.	Magazine	0	0.5007
17.	Lower reservoir-submergence	98.874	13.4908
18.	Colony Area	0	3.9332
	<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>144</b>

- x. The State Government has proposed the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land at Village Nive, Taluka Chiplun, District Ratnagiri, in a single contiguous non-forest patch admeasuring 243.37 ha. The said site has been jointly verified and found suitable by the Divisional Forest Officer, Chiplun Division, who has submitted the CA Suitability Certificate in accordance with Government of Maharashtra and MoEFCC guidelines.
- xi. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ratnagiri (Chiplun), has prepared the compensatory afforestation plan, including crop improvement, with an estimated cost of ₹486.45 lakhs.
- xii. The land identified for CA is adjoining to Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR). Nive villages proposed for Eco Sensitive Area of Western Ghat of Maharashtra. Nive villages proposed for Eco Sensitive Area of Western Ghat of Maharashtra.
- xiii. The State Government informed that as per the verification records received, the land parcels are presently private agricultural holdings (non-forest) recorded in the names of individual owners in the Revenue Department 7/12 extracts. The land is free from encumbrances and has been confirmed as non-forest in the village Form-VIII records.
- xiv. The project area is about 15.530 km from Bhimashankar wildlife sanctuary and 15.168 KM from boundary of the Eco-sensitive zone of Bhimshankar Wildlife Sanctuary. The area falls under draft notification of Western Ghats Eco-sensitive Area.
- xv. The DFO and CF recommended the proposal with the condition that the project authority shall provide 2 Nos. of wildlife rescue van, 2 Nos. of wildlife Ambulance, 20 Nos. of fire blowers and funds to construct 2 forest protection huts.
- xvi. The State Government recommended the proposal subject to conditions proposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) and Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer, Nagpur along with the following condition:
  - a. User Agency shall obtain wildlife clearance and/or ensure compliance of mitigation measures, if required or suggested by the PCCF (Wildlife).
  - b. User Agency shall submit NOC of the Private landholders of the proposed land along with Stage-I compliance and compensate them as per prevalent Acts and Rules in this regard.
  - c. The non-forest land proposed for CA shall be transferred and mutated in the name of Forest Department and notified as RF/PF prior to Stage-II approval.

- xvii. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a. The State Government shall implement the site-specific Wildlife and Biodiversity Management Plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, at the cost of the User Agency.
  - b. The State Government shall ensure that muck is disposed of only at designated sites located in non-forest areas.
  - c. The State Government shall adopt controlled blasting mitigation measures and ensure that no blasting materials are stored within forest areas.
  - d. The Catchment Area Treatment Plan, duly approved by the PCCF shall be implemented at the project cost.
  - e. Tree felling, wherever required, shall be carried out by the User Agency under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
  - f. The State Shall ensure that gap planting is undertaken in open gap spaces identified in non-forest areas, and a site-specific crop improvement plan shall be implemented at the project cost, in accordance with the rules in force
- xviii. It has been observed that another project (FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/477051/2024) of similar nature is under consideration which is located at a distance of 5.82 Km from the instant project. In this regard, the State Government submitted that similar proposal (FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/477051/2024) for Shirawta PSP (1800 MW) by Tata Power is under consideration approximately 5.82 km (aerial distance) away, but in an entirely different hydrological and administrative setting.
- xix. The State Government submitted that the muck would be disposed in the Non forest land only at 3 identified locations.
- xx. The State Government submitted that at present, there is no forest land involved in the project's internal network for evacuation of power generated. However, a separate proposal of the linear category will be submitted for approval under the Adhinyam, 1980 after finalization of the alignment by STU/CTU
- xxi. The Water Resource Department, Government of Maharashtra has provided the water availability certificate vide certificate dated 16.05.2025 for the instant proposal.
- xxii. The instant proposal falls under the category of High Conservation Zone, as per rule 1 &2 of DSS Analysis. In this regard, the State Government has stated in its response that the CAT Plan and EMP will be implemented in the proposed area to ensure minimal environmental impact.
- xxiii. The Committee observed that a portion of the area proposed for diversion i.e. 197.7653 ha out of 233 ha, falls within the boundary of the proposed Rajmachi Conservation Reserve. The Committee further noted that the area has not yet been formally notified as a Conservation Reserve. The process for diversion of forest land under the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980* is an independent and parallel process. In the event that the area is subsequently declared as a Conservation Reserve, it shall be

the responsibility of the State Government to obtain all requisite approvals in accordance with the applicable Acts and Rules.

- xxiv. As per DSS analysis, out of 143.968 ha non forest land within the project area, 18.25 ha was found within forest boundary. In this regard the State was asked to give justification. The state in this regard has given a justification with respect to the Muck Disposal Area, Upper-Reservoir Area and access Corridor between Upper Reservoir and Muck Yard. The specific details with regard to other components overlapping with forest area i.e. the magazine, workshop, lower reservoir etc. has not been provided. However, the state has mentioned that a combined review of forest-compartment maps, cadastral overlays. and field inspection confirms that the 18 Ha. overlap reflected in DSS arises solely from boundary-layer generalisation at map-scale and does not represent any additional forest land requiring inclusion. Accordingly, after re-verification and reconciliation of records, the concerned forest Division certifies that the entire 143.968 ha non-forest component remains accurately delineated, and no modification to the forest area proposed for diversion is warranted.
- xxv. The Saidongar-1 Pumped Storage Project (3000. MW) is located in Karjat Taluka, District Raigad, and the forest land proposed for diversion falls within the Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA) as delineated in the Draft ESA Notification Issued by MoEFCC dated 31st July 2024. In this regard the State has informed that the conditions and regulatory provisions prescribed in the provisions of the Western Ghats ESA Draft Notification, 2024 shall apply to the instant Proposal. As per the said Notification (Schedule of Regulated and Prohibited Activities), Large hydroelectric projects(including Pumped Storage Projects) are categorized as "Regulated Activities", subject to prior Environmental Clearance (EC) and adherence to ecological safeguards prescribed therein. Activities prohibited under the Notification (such as mining, red- category industries, or new township development) are not part of this proposal. The MoEFCC has granted Terms of Reference (ToR) to the instant project in February 2025. Based on the approved ToR, the Project Proponent, through its accredited environmental consultant, has the Environmental Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) reports prepared in accordance with the prescribed guidelines. The public consultation for the project was conducted by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 3rd September 2025. Subsequently, the proposal was placed before the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for River Valley and Hydro-electric Projects, which has recommended the project for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) after detailed deliberation.
- xxvi. Since both the reservoirs are to be constructed afresh, the state was asked to justify the site specificity of the project. In this regard the state has informed that the selected site near Dhak- Saidongar-Pal villages provide the most technically and environmentally appropriate configuration with minimum land requirement and disturbance to existing forest cover. Further, it has been mentioned that the Non-forest alternatives examined during

preliminary reconnaissance were found unsuitable due to inadequate elevation difference, geological instability, and larger habitation or agricultural impact. State has further mentioned that, it is further confirmed that, through optimisation of layout, the forest involvement has been kept to the minimum necessary extent. The Upper Reservoir is located on higher ridges with thin vegetation and sparse canopy, while the Lower Reservoir makes use of a natural depression adjoining the Pej valley. The committee observed that keeping in view the requirement of water and the proximity of the lower reservoir to Pej River the site specificity of the project is justifiable.

- xxvii. The area proposed for diversion is in High Conservation Zone as DSS analysis, in this regard the state has informed that the project is an off-stream, open-loop Pumped Storage Project (PSP) of strategic importance for renewable energy balancing. The layout has been carefully optimised to restrict forest involvement to the minimum necessary for reservoir and allied components. Alternative locations were evaluated during feasibility studies but found unsuitable due to inadequate elevation difference, unstable terrain, or larger environmental impact. Further, Wildlife movement in the area is limited to common species already addressed under the approved Wildlife Conservation Plan (WCP). The project also incorporates extensive mitigation measures such as Catchment Area Treatment (CAT), Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over 243.37 ha, and strict implementation of the approved Environmental Management Plan (EMP), ensuring ecological restoration far exceeding the impact footprint. In view of the above, it is submitted that the proposed diversion within the High Conservation Zone is site-specific, unavoidable, and adequately mitigated.
- xxviii. The committee further observed that the State Government has submitted that the final concurrence from the CEA is in final stage. However, the Project layout, hydrological aspects, power potential aspects, inter-state matters, transmission system and E&M design chapters has been approved by the CEA.
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-1/In-principle approval for the diversion of diversion of 233 ha. forest land (197.0272 Ha Reserved Forest, 26.066 Ha Private Forest and 9.9068 Ha Protected Forest) for construction of Saidongar-I Karjat Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (3000 MW) (Hydro power electricity generation) at Pali, Tal. Kotal Khalati, Saidongar & Dhak Village, Karjat Taluka, Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra in favour of M/s Torrent PSP 3 Private Limited with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The project activity is partly located within proposed Rajmachi Conservation reserve. In the event that the area is subsequently declared as a Conservation Reserve, the user agency shall obtain requisite approval as applicable in accordance with the prevalent Act/Rules.

- ii. The site-specific Wildlife and Biodiversity Management Plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency.
- iii. As per DSS analysis, out of 143.968 ha non forest land within the project area, 18.25 ha was found within forest boundary. The state has clarified that the overlap reflected in DSS arises solely from boundary-layer generalisation at map-scale and does not represent any additional forest land requiring inclusion. In this regard the State shall take up the matter with FSI for the correction of digital boundaries.
- iv. The State Government shall ensure that the land-use plan indicated in the proposal remains unchanged. A copy of the document or approval issued by the competent authority, confirming a land-use plan consistent with that submitted in the proposal, shall be furnished along with the compliance report.
- v. The State Government shall ensure that muck is disposed of, only at designated sites located in non-forest areas. The State Government shall adopt controlled blasting mitigation measures and ensure that no blasting materials are stored within forest areas.
- vi. The Catchment Area Treatment Plan, duly approved by the PCCF/competent authority shall be implemented at the project cost.

### **Agenda No. 38**

#### **Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024**

**Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 708.204 ha (564.581 ha in Rayagada Forest Division + 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division) of Forest land (including 11.195 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within total Mining Lease land in 1548.786 ha of Sijimali Bauxite Mines in Rayagada Forest Division & Kalahandi (South) Forest Division under Rayagada and Kalahandi District respectively in respect of M/s Vedanta Limited (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024)-reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and APCCF and CCF in the office of Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha 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 to the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

- i. The Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0017-2025-8268/FE&CC dated 08.04.2025 submitted the above subject proposal through PARIVESH 2.0 portal and uploaded on 09.04.2025 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ii. Vedanta Limited has been allocated the Sijimali Bauxite mine spread over Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha in March 2023, having an estimated reserve of around 311 Million Tonnes for meeting the increased requirement of raw material, Vedanta intends to operate Sijimali block for dispatching Bauxite from mines to its Refinery.
- iii. An e-Auction process was conducted in accordance with the tender document for the Sijimali Mineral Block and Vedanta Limited was declared as the "Preferred Bidder" under Rule 9(9)(1) or Rule 10(1A) of Auction Rules dated 09.02.2023. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules and the terms of the tender document of steel & Mines Department, Government of Odisha, issued Letter of Intent for grant of mine lease for Sijimali Bauxite Block over 1549.022 ha (Geo referenced DGPS Area 1549.022 ha, ROR Authenticated area-1548.786 ha) vide letter No SM-MC2-MC-0006-2023/2103/5&M, Bhubaneswar, dated 01 03 2023.
- iv. M/s Vedanta Ltd has the proposal to operate the Sijimali Bauxite Mine with peak Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity of 9.00 Million TPA. The block is located in 18 villages under Thuamul Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandi district and under Kashipur Tahsil of Rayagada district in the State of Odisha.
- v. As M/s Vedanta Limited has an existing alumina refinery plant at Lanjigarh of Kalahandi district of Odisha which very soon will be operated at granted EC capacity of 6.0 Million TPA, due to which the total bauxite requirement will be 18.0 Million TPA at a ratio of 3:1 to meet the partial requirement of the bauxite, Vedanta Ltd is proposing the Sijimali Bauxite Mine with 9.0 Million TPA Capacity, 3. Million TPA from OMC Kodingamali Mine through long term linkage and remaining 60 Million TPA from import.
- vi. The area under consideration is well connected by rail and road to all important business and industrial centres of the country. Nearest Railway station is Sikarpai Railway station at a distance of 20 km in SE direction. The Nearest Port and International Airport are at Visakhapatnam at a distance of 194 Km in SSE direction, Distance of SH-44 from the lease area is 1.5 km in West direction from the project site.
- vii. The Sijimali Bauxite Block has been explored in different phases with 91 bore holes with a total meterage of 2241.61m The boreholes have been drilled at an interval of about 400m grid pattern within the mineralized land in 12.38 sq. km The bore hole density is about 07 (735) BHs/Sq Km.
- viii. The entire geological block land in 1549.022 Ha (As per DGPS) will be brought under mining and allied activities to excavate bauxite. The cross-sectional method has been adopted for estimation of resources of bauxite in the approved mining plan 15 sets of vertical cross sections namely AA', BB', CC' etc in 1:10000 scale have been prepared in E-W direction taking into account 87 boreholes located along the section lines and a few holes

adjacent to the section lines are projected. In order to estimate the mineable reserve, development sections were drawn through the block. The non-mineable bauxite portions considered for estimation of mineable reserve from geological resource are as follows. (a) bauxite occurring within 7.5 m along the lease boundary for the purpose of safety zone (b) Blocked bauxite under and outside the ultimate pit slope Production of maximum 9267402 79 TPA bauxite has been planned in the approved mining plan.

- ix. Mining operations will be carried out by a fully mechanized opencast method. The extractable bauxite reserve of 299.58 Million tonnes is proposed to be excavated in 31 years. Life of mine is considered as 31 years with two years of construction period including surface reorganization.
- x. The total ML area of the Sijimali Bauxite Block is 1548.786 ha. In the applied mining lease area, forest land involved is 708.204 Ha. Non-forest land involved in the Mining Lease is 840.582 ha out of which non-forest private land is 129.089 ha and non-forest Govt. land is 711.493 ha.
- xi. The State Govt. has reiterated / clarified that 0.66 ha of land in village Tadader and 1.57 ha of land in village Tijamali (both under Thuamul Rampur Tahasil of Kalahandi District) have been included in the Forest Diversion Proposal as FRA land. The kisam of the above mentioned land (0.66 ha in Tadader village and 1.57 ha in Tijamali village) are of "Unsurveyed Category" in the Sabik record and 'Donger' in the Hal record over which Title under FRA have been issued to individuals by the Collector, Kalahandi. In this context he has informed that, 0.66 ha of land in village Tadades and 1.57 ha in village Tijamali have been included in the Forest Diversion Proposal as FRA land as reported by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division.
- xii. As per the SIR of DFO, Kalahandi (South), it is revealed that the forest land proposed for diversion is located over 11 patches spreading over 04 no of villages. The Tahasildar Rampur has furnished the land schedule as on 25.10.1980 regarding forest and non-forest land involved in the ML coming under Kalahandi district as well as in Kalahandi (South) forest Division, DFO, Kalahandi (South) has furnished a certificate regarding minimum use of forest land over 143.623 ha.
- xiii. The total district wise forest and non-forest land involved in the Mining Lease is tabulated below:

<b>ABSTRACT OF TOTAL LAND of SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES</b>									
Sl. No.	District Name	Area in Hectares							
		Revenue Forest	PF/FRA Forest	Sabik Forest	DLC Forest	Total Forest	Pvt. land	Non-Forest Govt. land	Total
1	Kalahandi	12.408	65.512	3.699	62.004	143.623	28.531	565.138	737.292

2	Rayagada	0.000	0.000	6.236	558.345	564.581	100.558	146.355	811.494
<b>Total area in Ha</b>		<b>12.408</b>	<b>65.512</b>	<b>9.935</b>	<b>620.349</b>	<b>708.204</b>	<b>129.089</b>	<b>711.493</b>	<b>1548.786</b>

- xiv. The details of Existing Land Use of total lease area in Ha are as mentioned below:

<b>EXISTING LAND USE OF SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES</b>										
SI. No.	District Name	Item	All figures are in Hectares							
			Revenue Forest	PF/FR Forest	Sabik Forest	DLC Forest	Total Forest	Pvt. land	Non-Forest Govt. land	Total
1	Kalahandi	Existing Undisturbed area	12.408	65.512	3.699	62.004	143.623	28.531	565.138	737.292
2	Rayagada	Existing Undisturbed area	0.000	0.000	6.236	558.345	564.581	100.558	146.355	811.494
<b>Total in Ha</b>			<b>12.408</b>	<b>65.512</b>	<b>9.935</b>	<b>620.349</b>	<b>708.204</b>	<b>129.089</b>	<b>711.493</b>	<b>1548.786</b>

- xv. Component wise break up of forest land proposed for diversion in the Sigimali Mining Lease has been mentioned in the SIR of DFO, Rayagada and SIR of DFO, Kalahandi (South) The detailed pattern of use of Forest land is tabulated below:

<b>PROPOSED LAND USE PATTERN (DISTRICT WISE)</b>											
S. No.	District Name	Component	Forest Area in Ha					Non-Forest area in ha			
			Revenue Forest	PF/FR Forest	Sabik Forest	DLC Forest	Total Forest	Govt. land	Pvt. Land	Total N FL	Total Area Ha
1	Kalahandi	Mined out Area	12.408	32.900	3.699	49.852	98.859	400.557	28.531	429.088	527.947

2		Safety Zone Area		2.970		0.628	3.598	15.117		15.117	18.715
3		Untouched Area		29.642		11.524	41.166	149.464		149.464	190.630
<b>Total</b>			<b>12.408</b>	<b>65.512</b>	<b>3.699</b>	<b>62.004</b>	<b>143.623</b>	<b>565.138</b>	<b>28.531</b>	<b>593.669</b>	<b>737.292</b>
1	Rayagada	Mined out Area			6.235	475.351	481.586	96.880	98.717	195.597	677.183
2		Safety Zone Area				7.897	7.597	6.558		6.558	14.155
3		Untouched Area			0.001	75.397	75.398	42.917	1.841	44.758	120.156
<b>Total</b>					<b>6.236</b>	<b>558.345</b>	<b>564.581</b>	<b>146.355</b>	<b>100.558</b>	<b>246.913</b>	<b>811.494</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>12.408</b>	<b>65.512</b>	<b>9.935</b>	<b>620.349</b>	<b>708.204</b>	<b>711.493</b>	<b>129.089</b>	<b>840.582</b>	<b>1548.786</b>

xvi. The consolidated forest land use pattern of the ML area pertaining to both the Forest Divisions is furnished below:

<b>ABSTRACT OF PROPOSED LAND USE PATTERN OF TOTAL AREA</b>											
<b>S . N o.</b>	<b>Distri ct Name</b>	<b>Comp onent</b>	<b>Area in ha</b>					<b>Non-Forest area in ha</b>			<b>Total Area Ha</b>
			<b>Rev enue Fore st</b>	<b>PF/ FRA For est</b>	<b>Sa bik For est</b>	<b>DLC For est</b>	<b>Tota l For est</b>	<b>Govt. land</b>	<b>Pvt. Lan d</b>	<b>Tota l NFL</b>	
1	Kalahandi	Mined out area	12.408	32.900	9.934	525.203	580.445	497.437	127.248	624.685	1205.130

2	Raya gada	Safety Zone Area	0	2.97 0	0	8.22 5	11.1 95	21.67 5	0	21.6 75	32.8 70
3		Untouc hed Area	0	26.6 42	0.0 01	86.9 21	116. 564	192.3 81	1.84 1	194. 222	310. 786
		<b>Total</b>	<b>12.4 08</b>	<b>65.5 12</b>	<b>9.9 35</b>	<b>620. 349</b>	<b>708. 204</b>	<b>711.4 93</b>	<b>129. 089</b>	<b>840. 582</b>	<b>1548 .786</b>

- xvii. The area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes, vegetation loss and mining disturbances leading to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation Factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion.
- xviii. The total extent of safety zone in the ML area over 1548.786 ha is 32.87 ha Out of which, 11.195 ha comes under forest land, 21.675 ha comes under Non-Forest Government land within the limit of both the forest divisions. The classification of safety zone over different KISSAM of land as well as over the different division jurisdiction is furnished below:

<b>Details of safety zone involved within the Sijimali Bauxite Mines NFL in ha</b>											
Sl No.	District	Compon ent	Forest land in ha					NFL in ha			
			Re v.	PF/F RA	Sabi k	DL C	Total	Govt .	Pvt .	Total	Total in Ha
1	Kalaha ndi	Safety Zone	0	2.97	0	0.6 28	3.59 8	15.1 17	0	15.1 17	18.7 15
2	Rayag ada	-do-	0	0	0	7.5 97	7.59 7	6.55 8	0	6.55 8	14.1 55
				<b>2.97</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8.2 25</b>	<b>11.1 95</b>	<b>21.6 75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21.6 75</b>	<b>32.8 70</b>

- xix. The proposed area includes Tropical dry deciduous forest. The vegetation is basically mixed Sal Forest with other miscellaneous species. Further, Wildlife species like Barking deer, wild boar, Monkey, Indian peacock and Indian hare are present in the area.
- xx. The presence of bauxite is characterized by long stretches of Plateau land on hilltop with little or no vegetation and vegetation is usually seen in hill slopes.
- xxi. No rare and endangered species are available in the Mining lease area coming under Rayagada Forest Division However, as per report of DFO, Kalahandi (South), Elephant habitat in Bijepur RF comes within 10 Kms

impact zone. The applied area is not found important from an archaeological point of view. The proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor or any protected area declared under any law of the State or central Government.

- xxii. The DFO, Rayagada has taken up tree enumeration through Range Officer, Kashipur over proposed 564.581 ha forest land of Sijimali Bauxite Block of Vedanta Limited adopting direct counting technique. Due to sparse vegetation on the plateau, the ecological impact of tree felling in this area will be minimal. The plateau's current ecosystem supports limited biodiversity, with most species reliant on valley vegetation for survival. DFO Rayagada has mentioned that the felling of trees near valley areas could lead to disruption of wildlife habitats and potential displacement of species, increased soil erosion and sedimentation of nearby water bodies.
- xxiii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 724.23 ha of Non-forest Government land measuring 565.50 ha in Rayagada District and 158.73 ha Government NFL in Kalahandi District against the proposed diversion of forest land over 708.204 ha for Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd.
- xxiv. The details of area identified for CA in Rayagada district and Kalahandi district are tabulated below:

<b>Rayagada Division:</b>							
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Tehsil</b>	<b>RI Circle</b>	<b>Mouza</b>	<b>Khata No.</b>	<b>Plot No.</b>	<b>Area in ha</b>	<b>Total Area (Ha)</b>
1	Muniguda	Raghubari	Alibhata	11	1	9.70	36.75
					2	11.73	
					3 (P)	15.32	
2	Muniguda	Raghubari	Baringpada r	12	1(P)	8.0	38.24
					43(P)	16.01	
					44	14.23	
3	Muniguda	Raghubari	Baringpada r	3	1	14.14	87.81
					2	16.26	
					3	15.68	
					4(P)	5.74	
					10	4.05	
					11	19.77	
					14(P)	12.17	

4	Munigud a	Raghubari	Baratarana	9	4(P)	7.47	34.09
					23(P)	5.84	
					24	9.31	
					25	11.47	
5	Munigud a		Dambalu	21	1(P)	3.27	3.279
6	Munigud a	Raghubari	Demupadar	10	129	9.49	58.00
					132(P)	7.71	
					133	7.08	
					134	7.63	
					135(P)	7.76	
					136	11.48	
					137(P)	6.84	
7	Munigud a	Raghubari	Jambapada fr	7	4(P)	2.388	40.40
					6	8.26	
					25	6.576	
					46(P)	13.242	
					47	9.935	
8	Munigud a	Kumudaba li	Kauguda	9	44(P)	24.136	38.95
					46(P)	14.816	
9	Munigud a	Tikarapad a	Lidipanga	59	208(P)	11.882	46.22
					362	15.714	
					363	12.562	
					364	6.066	
10	Munigud a	Raghubari	PidelPadar	9	2	16.19	77.81
					3	15.27	
					4	16.39	
					5	15.19	
					219(P)	14.78	
11	Munigud a	Raghubari	Umbere	11	46(P)	7.49	69.66
					87	16.60	

					88(P)	15.24	
					91	12.79	
					92	17.54	
12	Muniguda	Raghubari	Madagalu	4	1	17.179	34.29
					3	5.868	
					5	11.242	

Kalahandi (South) Forest Division							
Sl. No.	Village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Kissam		Area in Ac.	Suitable Area For plantation in Ac
1	Sampala	29	103(P)	Dangar	AAA	25.42	23.65
2			104	Dangar	AAA	32.70	32.70
3			105	Dangar	AAA	36.25	36.25
4			106	Dangar	AAA	42.00	42.00
5			107(P)	Dangar	AAA	41.38	40.07
6			108(P)	Dangar	AAA	38.50	35.28
7	Kanjiguda	32	240(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	32.50	30.00
8			237(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	37.50	35.00
9			241(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	36.15	33.00
10			242(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	41.73	37.85
11	Malatipadar	38	302	Dangar	AAA	22.50	22.50
12			307(P)	Dangar	AAA	31.50	23.78
<b>Total area in ac</b>						<b>392.08</b>	
<b>Total area in ha</b>						<b>158.73</b>	

- xxv. The CA schemes have been prepared in respect of Rayagada and Kalahandi (South) forest Divisions to the diversion proposal. It has been proposed to adopt chain link wire mesh fencing for the protection of the planted species over the entire area in 17 patches coming under 12 villages. The perimeter proposed for fencing over 17 patches.
- xxvi. The total forest land proposed for diversion in the proposal is 708.204 ha. The user agency has provided 565.50 ha NFL in Rayagada forest Division and 158.73 ha NFL in Kalahandi (South) division against the proposed forest land for diversion. Thus, the user agency has provided 724.23 ha NFL land for CA It is required to plant 7,08,204 nos. seedlings in the CA However, both the DFOs have made schemes to plant 2,28,157 + 69,986=2,98,143 nos. seedlings Balance seedlings of 7,08,204 - 2,98,143 = 4,10,061 nos. seedlings will be planted through Additional CA schemes in Rayagada Forest Division. The DFO, Rayagada has identified 546.0 ha of notified degraded forest land in his division to take up the additional CA Plantation.
- xxvii. The financial outlay approved by the APCCF (Nodal) for the Addl. CA plantations proposed in Rayagada Division comes to ₹44,71,21,000/-
- xxviii. The total financial outlay of the CA and Additional CA schemes pertaining to Rayagada and Kalahandi (South) Forest Division come ₹107,63,89,300 (₹53,09,26,800+ ₹9,83,41,500 + ₹44,71,21,000) The user agency has furnished undertaking to pay the amount of ACA plantation as per the demand of DFO, Rayagada.
- xxix. The DFO, Rayagada has prepared the Cost-Benefit analysis of the project pertaining to both the Forest Divisions. The cost of the forest is assessed as ₹42401.893 Lakh and the benefit of the project is estimated at ₹2,76,27,164 65 lakhs The Cost-Benefit ratio comes to 1:651.554.
- xxx. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (IA Division) have issued Term of Reference (TOR) vide File No IA-J-11015/6/2023-IA-II(NCM) dt 14.08.2023 for mining of Sijimali Bauxite Block over 1549.022 ha for peak rated Capacity of 9.0 MTPA along with installation of two crushers (2x1200 TPH) located at Thuamul and Kasipur Tahasils of Kalahandi and Rayagada Districts respectively/MIN/439954/2023 dt 06.11.2023 to the user agency The ToR would be valid for a period of three years.
- xxxi. The Mining plan including Progressive Mine closure plan has been approved by the Regional Controller of Mines, Office of the Regional Controller of Mines, BBSR (IBM) over 1549.022 ha in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block in Tehsil Rampur and KasipurTahasils of Kalahandi and Rayagada Districts in the state of Odisha in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd vide L: No MCDR- MIFLOBXT/4/2023-BBS-IBM RO BBS dt 16.08.2023 with 17 no of terms and conditions The approval of Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has been accorded by the Indian Bureau of Mines.
- xxxii. The field Inspection envisages that the project involves displacement of 100 nos. of families in 02 villages i. e. Malipadar under Rayagada District and Tijamali Under Kalahandi District. In this regard the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Rayagada to

submit the approved R & R Plan in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd in Rayagada and Kalahandi Districts to the Competent Authority immediately after its approval under Section 16 of LARR Act, 2013. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) to submit the approved R&R Plan in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd in Rayagada and Kalahandi Districts to the competent authority immediately after its approval under section 16 of LARR Act, 2013.

- xxxiii. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the project has been approved by the PCCF (WL) and CWLW, Odisha vide Memo No 9718 dt 16.08.2024. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Rayagada to bear the cost of SSWLCP.
- xxxiv. As stated by the Additional PCCF, Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, there are no court cases pending against the user agency on the applied area as revealed from the Site Inspection Reports of report of the DFO, Rayagada and DFO, Kalahandi (South) Divisions. However, a Writ Petition was filed before the Hon'ble High Court vide WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & others-Vrs-Union of India & others) by the Petitioners with the following prayers:
- a. Issue a writ of certiorari or any other appropriate writ quashing the Gram Sabha resolutions dated 08.12.2023 [Annexure 2 (Series) and Annexure 3 (Series)] and the subsequent certificate issued by the Collector, Kalahandi (Annexure 8) as the same are fraudulent and are against the provisions of FRA, 2006 and the Constitution of India.
  - b. Issue of writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Ops to accept the resolutions passed by the Gram Sabha held between 30.08.2024 to 04.09.2024 [Annexure 9 (series)] wherein no consent for the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes have been given by the villagers of the said villages.
  - c. Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Opposite Parties not to take any further steps pertaining to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine Project till the rights of the villagers in the project affected areas are settled as per the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
  - d. Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writs constituting a judicial inquiry into the illegalities committed in the alleged Gram Sabhas which took place on 08.12.2023 in the villagers of Kantamal, Sagaban, Dumerpadar, Aligana, Chulbari, Tijimali, Pelanakona, Katibhata, Malipadar and Bondel and an action taken report be submitted before this Hon'ble Court in a time bound manner.
  - e. Union of India through Secretary, MoEF&CC, Ministry of Tribal Affairs through its Secretary, State of Odisha through Secretary, Department of Revenue & Disaster Management, State of Odisha through Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Department of Steel & Mines, Collector, Kalahandi, Collector,

Rayagada and M/s Vedanta Ltd. were Opposite Parties No 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 respectively.

- f. The Hon'ble High Court vide Order No 1 dated 12.02.2025 had directed the State to issue written instruction on Petitioners allegation recorded in their order and directed to list on 19.02.2025 In the matter, the Collector & District Magistrate, Kalahandi and Collector & District Magistrate, Rayagada were requested to furnish the instruction/ PWC on the aforesaid Writ Petition to the O/o the AG, Odisha, Cuttack at the earliest under intimation to this Department vide this Department Letter No 6289/FE&CC dated 12.03.2025.
- g. The Hon'ble High Court vide Judgement dated 05.03.2025 has disposed of the Writ Petition. In the said judgement, the Hon'ble High Court in Para 7 has directed as follows.

*"7 Mr. Mohanty submits, his clients have not conceded but on the contrary maintained that Impugned Gram Sabha resolutions were fraudulently got made. He submits, subsequent to impugned resolutions, the Gram Sabhas convened between 30th August, 2024 and 4th September, 2024. They resolved that no consent for diversion was duly obtained. Mr. Mohanty points out, there has not been process duly undertaken to grant recognition to his clients, who are forest dwellers in the area. Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no 8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note"*

- xxxv. The aforesaid order dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court passed in WP No 3729 of 2025 (Shri GobindaMajhi& others Vrs Union of India & others) has been received in this Department on 26.03.2025 from the Superintendent of the High Court of Orissa vide his Issue No 8805 (3) dated 13.03.2025. *The copy of the aforesaid letter of the Superintendent of the High Court of Orissa along with a copy of the Order dated. 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa is enclosed for favour of kind information and necessary action of the Ministry.*
- xxxvi. The Collector, Rayagada has issued certificate in Form-II under Schedule Tribe and other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 for forest land of 565.70 Ha involved in the Sijimali Bauxite Block leased out in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd On 24.01.2024
- xxxvii. The Collector, Kalahandi has issued certificate in Form No -II under Schedule Tribe and other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest

- Rights) Act, 2006 for forest land of 133.95 Ha involved in the Sijimali Bauxite Block leased out in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd. on 18.01 2024.
- xxxviii. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) to submit the FRA certificate for the balance forest land over 03 villages coming in Kalahandi district after obtaining from the Revenue authority.
- xxxix. The State has informed that the user agency does not have any other existing bauxite mines in Odisha. This will be their first bauxite mine in Odisha. The user agency, Vedanta Ltd., has been declared the Preferred Bidder for this block in the auction held on 09.02.2023 under the MMDR Act, 1957. However, they do operate the Jamkhani opencast coal mine in Sundargarh district with a lease area of 847 ha, a reserve of 222.13 million tonnes, and a capacity of 2.6 MTPA.
- xl. The State has informed that the valley area is non-mineralized, has no bauxite presence, and will be left untouched. It is proposed to be developed as a greenbelt.
- xli. The State has given justification for the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation which are seen in the forest area. The State has clarified that these features are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar, which fall within the mining lease area. These villages will be rehabilitated and resettled as per the LARR Act, 2013. A notification under Section 11(1) has already been issued. Seasonal agricultural use is non-permanent and can be vacated anytime.
- xlii. The State Govt. has clarified that 116.5 ha of forest area marked as 'untouched' because as per Para 2.11 of the mining plan, this area, part of a non-mineralized valley, was included in the lease block but will remain undisturbed. The total untouched area is 311.02 ha, including 116.5 ha of forest.
- xliii. The State has clarified that cultivation and settlements are seen within the lease boundary because the seasonal cultivation is done by local villagers on a temporary basis and does not indicate permanent land use. The settlements are located in Tijimali and Malipadar, which are private lands. These villages are to be relocated under the R&R plan per the LARR Act.
- xliv. The State has clarified the requirement of water, electricity, and evacuation from the mine
- a. **Water:** Will be drawn from groundwater (approval from CGWA obtained).
  - b. **Power:** To be supplied through Diesel Generators.
  - c. **Evacuation:** Bauxite will be transported via PWD road from Malipadar to SH-44, then via rail from Singarama siding to Lanjigarh refinery. A separate proposal has been submitted for diversion of 4.911 ha forest land for constructing an access road to SH-44.
- xlvi. The State has informed that cultivation is visible on CA land because of seasonal signs of cultivation, but the land is still classified as degraded forest. These signs do not indicate permanent land use and the land is suitable for afforestation, as per the approved CA Plan.

- xlvi. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the 10 km impact zone has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha, with a budget of ₹34.44 Cr. Funds will be deposited in State CAMPA and used in Kalahandi South and Rayagada Forest Divisions. Activities will be implemented under DFO guidance, with a 5-year plan period and monitoring provisions.
- xlvii. The Regional Office has inspected the area proposed for diversion and proposed CA land. The DDGF (Central), RO Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:
- (a) A total of 310.786 hectares of land located within the mining lease boundary (beyond the safety zone), shall remain undisturbed, as submitted by the User Agency. This area shall be maintained as a green belt owing to the absence of bauxite reserves. The User Agency shall ensure that no tree felling or mining activity is undertaken in the said forest area.
  - (b) The State Government shall ensure that 8.082 hectares of forest land, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) and have also been included in the present proposal, are compensated by identifying and providing an alternative CA site for the said project. Approval for the partial change in CA site shall be obtained from the competent authority for Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017.
  - (c) As mining is proposed at the hilltop and may affect the natural catchment area, the User Agency shall implement comprehensive soil conservation measures on the hillock and adjoining forest areas. These measures shall aim to prevent surface runoff from leaving the mining zone and to safeguard downstream ecosystems.
  - (d) The User Agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, along with the restoration schedule and forest land surrender schedule, to the Ministry prior to the grant of final approval.
  - (e) A separate proposal (Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025) involving the diversion of 4.911 hectares of forest land in favour of the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) for the construction of an access road from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hilltop) to State Highway-44 (SH-44) is presently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for "in-principle" approval. As this road is an ancillary component of the Sijimali Bauxite Mines project, the competent authority may consider appraising both proposals concurrently to ensure an integrated evaluation and to avoid any fait accompli situation.
  - (f) The User Agency shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are free from encroachments before being handed over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall ensure that the CA sites are properly fenced, cleared of encroachments, and planted, at the cost of the User Agency.

- (g) The State Forest Department (SFD) shall implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.
- xlvi. The Hon'ble High Court vide Judgement dated 05.03.2025 have disposed of the Wnt Petition In the said judgement, the Hon'ble High Court in Para 7 have directed as follows:  
*"7 Mr. Mohanty submits, his clients have not conceded but on the contrary maintained that Impugned Gram Sabha resolutions were fraudulently got made. He submits, subsequent to impugned resolutions, the Gram Sabhas convened between 30th August, 2024 and 4th September, 2024. They resolved that no consent for diversion was duly obtained. Mr. Mohanty points out, there has not been process duly undertaken to grant recognition to his clients, who are forest dwellers in the area. Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no 8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note" order.*
- xlix. Further, the committee has also noted that a separate proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. Diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in KashipurTahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO has been submitted by the State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2025-10894/FE&CC dated 09.05.2025 to the RO Bhubaneswar (Online proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025). The RO has submitted this proposal to the Ministry for holistic decision.
- I. Further, the DDGF (Central) has mentioned that:
- a. The instant proposal pertains to the construction of a road submitted by the Government of Odisha, with the primary objective of facilitating the transportation of bauxite ore via bulkers/trucks from the mines of M/s Vedanta Limited to State Highway 44 (SH-44).
  - b. In response to the EDS raised by the Regional Office on 19.05.2025, the State Government has clarified that, apart from serving the aforesaid purpose, the proposed road is also intended to connect the villages of Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda, and Malipadar, which presently lack road connectivity.
  - c. However, as per the KML file submitted, the specifications of the proposed road (width) indicate that it is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles.

- d. In this context, it is pertinent to mention that the associated mining proposal—vide proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024—is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi. The in-principle approval for the same is yet to be granted. In the event that the mining proposal is not favourably considered by the competent authority, positive consideration of the road proposal at this stage by the Regional Office may lead to a fait accompli situation.
  - ii. The committee further observed that the road proposal has been submitted by the other agency i.e. by IDCO, however the road is primarily proposed keeping in view the requirement of mineral evacuation in the instant mine. The separate proposal for the road construction may be allowed, However, the proposal for road can only be considered for approval once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the mining lease is approved.
  - lii. The above facts were considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 30.07.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:
    - a. Keeping in view the Judgement dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha w.r.t. the WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri GobindaMajhi& others-Vrs-Union of India & others), the state shall ensure strict compliance of the order of the Hon'ble Court and submit a detailed report.
    - b. The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the justification and plan to mitigate the soil erosion shall be submitted.
    - c. An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The state shall give justification for keeping this area in the diversion proposal. The State shall provide the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area and intimate as to how this area will be compensated.
    - d. The State has informed that the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation seen in the forest area are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter and submit a report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.
    - e. The State shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments. In this

regard, a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation area shall be provided.

- liii. The State Govt. submitted the reply online on 18.08.2025 which was examined by the Advisory Committee wherein the committee observed that:
- a. The State Govt. has submitted the detailed report submitted by the District Collector Rayagad and Kalahandi alongwith all supportive documents mentioning therein that the process has been completed in a fair and transparent manner. However, the reports are silent on the concerns raised by the people in their representations and in the petition before the Hon'ble Court.
  - b. An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The State has not provided the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area.
  - c. The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the plan to mitigate the soil erosion has not been submitted.
  - d. The State govt. has informed that as per data available in the census handbook of District Koraput and Kalahandi for year 1981, it is found that village Tijimali and Malipadar were existing during 1981 i.e. have been existing much before the enactment of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 due to which some patches of the Revenue Forest land have been used by the villagers for the purpose of cultivation prior to 1980. Similarly, temporary roads were also being used by the local villagers much before 1980. Hence, the breaking of forest land for the purpose of cultivation and road may not be treated as violation under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in respect of the project. However, the details of existing transmission lines have not been provided.
  - e. The RO in the SIR had mentioned that presence of shifting cultivation and village paths has been found in maximum proposed CA sites. Accordingly, the State was asked to ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments. In this regard, a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation was asked. In this regard the State has referred to the detailed CA scheme only and the detailed report for each site ensuring that it is free from all encumbrances has not been submitted.
  - f. The State has informed that the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation seen in the forest area are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar. Moreover, the State has not mentioned

anything about the transmission lines. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter and submit a detailed report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.

- liv. The committee further observed that the area has the presence of elephants and therefore it would be prudent to seek comments from the Project Elephant Division in the matter.
- iv. The proposal was considered in Advisory Committee meeting held on 25.8.2025. The Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:
  - (a) The State Govt. has submitted the detailed report submitted by the District Collector Rayagad and Kalahandi alongwith all supportive documents mentioning therein that the process has been completed in a fair and transparent manner by following due procedure. However, the reports are silent on the concerns raised by the people in their representations and in the petition before the Hon'ble Court. Keeping in view the Judgement dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha w.r.t. the WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & others-Vrs-Union of India & others), the state shall address the concerns raised by the petitioners and those raised by the local people in their representations.
  - (b) An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The State has not provided the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area. The same shall be provided.
  - (c) The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the plan to mitigate the soil erosion has not been submitted, which shall be submitted.
  - (d) The RO in the SIR had mentioned that presence of shifting cultivation and village paths has been found in maximum proposed CA sites. Accordingly, the State was asked to ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments and a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation site was asked. In this regard the State has referred to the detailed CA scheme only and the detailed report for each site ensuring that it is free from all encumbrances has not been submitted.
  - (e) The State was asked to submit a report on the status of violation wherein the State has not mentioned anything about the existing transmission lines. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter

and submit a detailed report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.

- (f) The presence of elephants has been reported in the proposed area therefore the comments from the Project Elephant Division may also be sought on the matter.
- lvi. The observation of Advisory Committee conveyed to the State Government vide EDS dated 01.09.2025. In this reference, State Government vide letter dated 23.09.2025 has reported that all concerns raised by the petitioners and local inhabitants have been carefully examined and duly addressed in a fair and transparent manner by the District Administration. Further, adequate safeguards have been ensured under the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 alongwith the Rules of 2007 and the Amendment Rules of 2012 so as to ensure proper and effective implementation of the FRA.
- lvii. The Committee has observed that the User Agency has submitted the "Scheme to Mitigate Soil Erosion" proposing various structural and biological measures such as construction of retaining walls (45422 m), garland drains (7511 m), check dams (28 Nos), settling ponds (11 Nos), contour bunds (447 m), Loose Boulder Check Dams (LBCDs-100 Nos), periodic de-silting, and associated plantation works.
- lviii. With regard to compensate the reduction of 8.082 ha of CA land of OMC Ltd., an additional 8.082 ha has also been included in the total CA land of 724.23 ha, allotted by both the District Collectors in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts towards Compensatory afforestation of the project. Further clarified that no Compensatory Afforestation has been raised over the aforesaid 8.082 ha, which forms part of the CA area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines Project (Proposal No FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) and has now been included in the lease area of the instant proposal.
- lix. State Government has informed that the presence of certain seasonal land-use features, including temporary cultivation and footpaths. As certified by the Tahasildars and jointly endorsed by the Range Officers, these activities represent temporary usages by local villagers in the past and can be discontinued or removed at any point of time. Such transient indicators do not amount to any permanent change in land use, and accordingly, the identified land patches are considered suitable for afforestation.
- lx. The State has informed that the existing transmission line was established under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) (RGGVY XII Plan), for electrification of Malipadar village within the present Sijimali Bauxite Block prior to its auction. It is evident that the establishment of the said transmission line predates the involvement of the present applicant, Vedanta Ltd. and therefore no violation of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, is attributable to the User Agency.
- lxi. Further, the State has informed that as per the Summer and Winter Elephant Census, figures for the year 2024-25, a total of 35 elephants have

been recorded in the Rayagada Forest Division. There is one resident male elephant in Rayagada Forest Division at aerial distance of approximately 85-90 km from the lease boundary in Gunupur Range, while the remaining elephants are migratory, frequently moving in and out of Rayagada into adjacent Divisions. The Division encompasses two elephant corridors (Ref Elephant Corridors of India, 2023 published by MoEF CC), namely the Kotgarh-Chandrapur Corridor and the KarlapatUrladani Corridor Both corridors are situated beyond the 10 km impact zone of the Sijimali Mining Lease boundary, however, elephant movement has been recorded at aerial distances of approximately 15-20 km from the lease boundary during the years 2022-23 (2 Elephants), 2024-25 (10 Elephants), and 2025-26 (4 Elephants) in the recent past. Further, to mitigate any potential negative impacts a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) has been prepared and duly approved by the PCCF (Wildlife)-cum-CWLW, Odisha, vide Letter No. 9718 dated 16.08.2024.

- lxii. The committee observed that the Hon'ble High court while disposing the matter ha iter-alia observed that *"Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no.8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note"*.
- lxiii. The above facts were considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.10.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter
- a. The State Government shall submit a copy of affidavits filed by the petitioner and respondents in W.P. (C) No.3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & Others-Vrs-Union Of India & Others) filed before Hon'ble High Court of Odisha for further necessary action in the Ministry.
  - b. The copy of affidavit filed by state may also be given.
- lxiv. The observation of Advisory Committee was conveyed to the State Government vide EDS dated 06.11.2025.
- lxv. The committee noted that the State Government vide letter dated 13.11.2025 has reported that there was no affidavit filed by the Petitioner nor the Respondents. State Government has submitted copies of the Orders dtd. 12.02.2025, 05.03.2025 and 02.09.2025 passed in the W.P. (C) No.3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & Others-Vrs-Union Of India & Others) and dtd.09.10.2025 passed in IA No.4490 of 2025 by the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa. Further, State Government has reported that Counter Affidavit has not been filed by State in the said Writ Petition.

- lxvi. The Committee noted that several representations have been received alleging irregularities and fraudulent conduct of Gram Sabha proceedings related to the proposal. Recently, another representation dated 22.11.2025 has also been received, alleging that misleading replies were submitted to the Ministry. The Committee took note of the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court dated 05.03.2025, wherein the Hon'ble Court directed that the submission of petitioner is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency.
- lxvii. In compliance with the Hon'ble High Court's directions, the Ministry requested the State Government to examine and address the concerns raised in the representations and in the petition. The State Government in this regard forwarded the response of the District Collectors of Rayagada and Kalahandi. Both the District Collectors have affirmed that the entire FRA process, including Gram Sabha proceedings, was undertaken in a fair and transparent manner and in accordance with due procedure. The Committee noted that, under the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA, 2006), the District Collector is the competent statutory authority responsible for issuing the FRA compliance certificate. The District Collectors of Rayagada and Kalahandi have maintained that the entire process pertaining to FRA compliance, including Gram Sabha proceedings, has been conducted in a fair and transparent manner without any procedural lapses. The Committee observed that these confirmations from the statutory authorities form the basis of FRA compliance for the proposal.
4. **Decision of Advisory Committee:-** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and the CCF in the office of Nodal officer (FCA), Government of Odisha '**recommended**' the Stage-I / In-principle approval for diversion of 708.204 ha (564.581 ha in Rayagada Forest Division + 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division) of Forest land (including 11.195 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within total Mining Lease area in 1548.786 ha of Sijimali Bauxite Mines in Rayagada Forest Division & Kalahandi (South) Forest Division under Rayagada and Kalahandi District respectively in respect of M/s Vedanta Limited subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-
- i. The State Government shall ensure complete compliance of the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA, 2006);
  - ii. A total of 310.786 hectares of land located within the mining lease boundary (beyond the safety zone) shall remain undisturbed, as the User Agency has indicated that no bauxite reserves are present in this area. This land shall be maintained as a green belt, and the User Agency shall ensure that no tree felling, mining operations, or any other form of land disturbance is carried out within this area.

- iii. The State Government shall take steps to ensure that the approval for the change in CA site for 8.082 ha CA area shall be obtained from the competent authority in case of Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017.
- iv. As mining is proposed at the hilltop and may affect the natural catchment area, the User Agency shall implement comprehensive soil conservation measures on the hillock and adjoining forest areas. These measures shall aim to prevent surface runoff from leaving the mining zone and to safeguard downstream ecosystems. The Plan for the same shall be approved by the State Forest Department and implemented under its supervision.
- v. The User Agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, including the restoration schedule and the schedule for surrender of forest land, along with the compliance report.
- vi. The User Agency shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are free from encroachments before being handed over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall ensure that the CA sites are properly fenced, cleared of encroachments, and planted, at the cost of the User Agency.
- vii. A comprehensive site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared and implemented at the cost of the user agency to reduce the adverse effect of project on wildlife. This will also include a comprehensive Human–Elephant Conflict Monitoring and Mitigation Plan. The preparation of the Wildlife Management Plan and monitoring of its implementation shall be done by Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The plan shall include systematic monitoring of human–elephant interactions, research on habitat use and conflict drivers, and capacity-building programmes for local communities, forest managers, and mine developers to ensure effective conflict prevention and management.

### **Additional Agenda No. 1**

**Proposal No. FP/RJ/OTHERS/509218/2024**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking Ex-Post Facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.487 ha Protected forest land in favour of Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department of Rajasthan for Beautification and Renovation work in Kaila Devi Temple Jheel KaBada, Bayana Tehsil, Bharatpur District of Rajasthan State**

1. The agenda for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 02.12.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The IGF (Central), RO Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Rajasthan were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions

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

3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. The Govt. of Rajasthan through their letter No F.No.1(25)forest/2025 dated 21.02.2025 forwarded an online proposal on dated 09.04.2025 to the Ministry for seeking Ex-Post Facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.487 ha Protected forest land for Beautification and Renovation work in Kaila Devi Temple JheelKaBada, Bayana, Bharatpur District of Rajasthan State.
  - ii. The proposed forest area is having canopy density of 0.3 (Eco Class-3) and 222 number of trees have been proposed to be felled. The State Govt. has informed that the proposed area to be diverted falls in the TTZ (Taz Trapezium Zone) but working agency has given a certificate ensuring that it will not cut any trees coming in the diversion area.
  - iii. The State Govt. has informed that the proposed area should be diverted as there is high inflow of pilgrims for the temple. It would be better that area is diverted and some other area is given to the forest department where better ecosystem could be developed adjoining to existing forest patch. The present area already has many structures which can not be revived back to the forest ecosystem.
  - iv. The justification of locating the project in forest area is that the Chief Minister's budget announcement in the year (2022-23) of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, administrative approval has been given to get the work done in the limit of Rs. 5.00 crore for the renovation and development work of Atma Nirbhar Mandir Shri Kaila Devi Ji, Jheel Ka Bada, Bayana, Bharatpur. "Beautification and Renovation work in Kaila Devi Temple". But Kaila Devi Temple falling in the Forest Land. Hence without forest land involvement Beautification and Renovation work can't be complete.
  - v. The State Govt. informed that the distance of the proposed area submitted for diversion is about 12 km from Bandh Baretha Sanctuary and 11 km from the ESZ area.
  - vi. Compensatory afforestation (CA) has been proposed in a single patch comprising an area of 4.487 ha Revenue land for which the DCF, Bharatpur has certified that 4.4870 ha. land bearing Survey no./Khasara no:- 1389 Village Gajnua tehsil Bayana district Bharatpur. The land is suitable for plantation from management point of view and is free and all sorts of encumbrances and encroachments.
  - vii. The proposal was submitted by the State Govt. to the Regional office (RO), Gandhinagar of the Ministry wherein based on the examination of the KML files of the project, the RO, Gandhinagar returned the proposal to the State Govt. and requested to submit the proposal to the Ministry as per Rule 10 (2) of VSES Rules 2023.
  - viii. Accordingly, the State Government has submitted the instant proposal to the Ministry under Violation category because the work done by PWD is

part of the forest land and no permission under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 has been taken by the PWD. Further, the some renovation work like Kali sil and Ravi Kunda, Chabutara renovation work, Interlocking work on path and service, Tin shade work and Sulabh complex have been developed in the proposed forest land. Total area under violation reported as 1.0268 Ha Forest land and Notices have been issued for violations done. Furthermore, Notices seeking explanation have been issued to the Deputy commissioner, Devasthan Department, Bharatpur forest staff who was posted during whose tenure the violation was done.

- ix. The State has informed that the Dharamshala or other buildings seen in the adjoining areas of the said temple, were built in the past and are not constructed in the recent times. Further, Renovation and Maintenance works have been done by the Devasthan department with PWD as working agency in some other project in the same forest area of Kaila Devi Temple Jheel Ka Bada, Bayana in Distt. Bharatpur where the present project has been proposed.
- x. As per the DSS analysis, the satellite imagery shows the presence of Agriculture fields and a Boundary wall is passing through the proposed CA land. In this regard, the State Govt. informed that the Revenue Department has ensured that land would be given to the forest department without any encroachments on it. The boundary wall is made by the Bharatpur (Wildlife) Division as they have their area adjoining to it.
- xi. The component wise land use details submitted with the proposal is as follows:

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Purpose/ component</b>	<b>KML Area (ha)</b>
1.	CC Road 7 meter widening	0.2796
2.	Main Gate	0.0042
3.	Infrastructure developement in Mandir and Shoes Stand	0.1441
4.	Public facilities works	0.0081
5.	New Toilet work	0.0067
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.4428</b>

- xii. As per the DSS analysis, some Non-forestry activity like construction work has been carried out recently in the proposed forest land. In this regard, the State Govt. informed that none of the works mentioned in the present project, for which diversion proposal has been uploaded, have not been started in the forest land and no non-forestry activities have been done in this present proposal. Dharamshala or other buildings seen in the adjoining areas of the said temple, were built in the past are not constructed in the recent times. Further, renovation and maintenance works have been done by the Devasthan department with PWD as working agency in some other

project in the same forest area of Kaila Devi Temple Jheel Ka Bada Bayana in Distt. Bharatpur where the present project has been proposed.

- xiii. The State Govt. has proposed diversion of 4.487 Ha of forestland while as per component-wise breakup submitted by the State Govt., the construction/renovation work proposed on 0.4428 Ha. In this regard, State Government informed that in place of 0.4428 ha. 4.487 Ha of land is required as during the annual fair, a large crowd of lakhs of devotees gathers at the temple premises, and to insure proper crowd management and provide essential public amenities such as development and beautification of the temple, street lighting, public toilets, parking space, sitting areas, havan vedikas, drinking water facilities, sufficient widening of approach areas, and adequate space for shops and public movement, additional land is necessary. Therefore, although the earlier proposal for 0.4428 ha, was submitted on the parivesh portal, considering the present and future requirements of the fair and associated public facilities, the proposal has been revised to 4.487 ha. and resubmitted on the parivesh portal accordingly. Diversion of 4.487 hectare of this forest land is required as many old structures are already present, and the area cannot have its true ecological value restored. It would be better that some non-forest land is allocated to the forest department adjacent to the existing forest area so that a better contiguous forest area could be developed.
- xiv. As per Site Inspection Report by RO, Gandhinagar, RO has recommended the instant proposal. As per SIR, it is learnt that the temple was established during 1920s during the reign of Maharaja Kishan Singh and has been a center of faith for people not only from Bharatpur but across the states from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh etc. It is given to understand that the people believe that the idols of deity are thousands of years old though no specific documents are available in this regard. Every year annual fair is being organized where lakhs of pilgrims visit this place which needs proper management and amenities to manage such huge crowd to avoid any untoward incidence. Perusal of the time series Google Earth images indicated some additions at intervals of time period near to the main temple. A detailed list of structures created without taking prior approval under the FCA, 1980 is shown in the SIR submitted by the AIGF (C). Had the local forest officials taken timely action, there would not have violation at different times. Presently, the SFD had issued SCN to the concerned officials including the forest staff. Instant proposal is recommended for regularization subject to:
- a. Taking appropriate action against the violations noticed in the area on the concerned officials. The instant area is surrounded by natural vegetation in the remaining portion of the forest block.
  - b. To safeguard the undisturbed area of the forest block and to prevent any further expansion of the temple associated infrastructure, a boundary wall may be constructed all around the temple and its associated infrastructure developed.

- c. SFD shall take necessary precautions to prevent any adverse effect especially on the floral and fauna of the adjoining forest land and also prevent Human Wildlife conflicts in the future
  - xv. The Committee noted that the State Forest Department has issued notice dated 18.8.2025 to Devasthan Department and forest officials. The Nodal Officer informed the Committee that the action against the violations and the forest officials for not stopping the violation is under process. The Committee noted the same.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the IGF (Central), Regional Office, Gandhinagar and officials from Government of Rajasthan, recommended the proposal for grant of '***in-principle***' approval for diversion of 4.487 ha Protected forest land in favour of Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department of Rajasthan for Beautification and Renovation work in Kaila Devi Temple Jheel KaBada, Bayana Tehsil, Bharatpur District of Rajasthan State subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:
- i. The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
  - ii. The Regional Office, Gandhinagar shall initiate action against violations in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - iii. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.
  - iv. To safeguard the undisturbed area of the forest block and to prevent any further expansion of the temple associated infrastructure, State Govt. shall construct a boundary wall all around the temple and its associated infrastructure developed.
  - v. The State Forest Department shall take necessary precautions to prevent any adverse effect especially on the floral and fauna of the adjoining forest land and also prevent Human Wildlife conflicts in the future.

***(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 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)