



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



MoM ID FC/MOM/AC/636216/2026
Agenda ID FC/AGENDA/AC/815808/2026
Title of Meeting List of the proposals to be listed for 5th Advisory Committee (AC)
Meeting Venue Krishna Conference Room, IPB, Jor Bagh, New Delhi
Meeting Mode Hybrid
Meeting Dates & Time Start Date : 10/06/2026
End Date : 10/06/2026

List of AC Members:

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

Proposals considered during Meeting:

1. Project Name ANJAN HILL OPENCAST COAL MINE PROJECT
Proposal Number FP/CG/REDIV/554519/2025
User Agency Ramesh Basant Sindhur
Forest Land Area(Ha)
Division MANENDRAGARH DIVISION
Recommendation Raise EDS
Brief Description of Project:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Additional information sought from State Government

2. Project Name Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling, Waste-pit, DSA and Approach Road of Exploratory location AA-ONO202-RJA-A

Proposal Number FP/TR/MINOIL/441472/2023

User Agency JAGDEV SINGH NEGI

Forest Land Area(Ha) 2.89

Division South 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 Execution of the Jaipur Metro Phase-1C Project from Badi Chaupar to Transport Nagar at Jaipur (Rajasthan)"

Proposal Number FP/RJ/RAIL/552879/2025

User Agency Subhash Chandra Kalia

Forest Land Area(Ha) 2.01

Division Wildlife Zoo Jaipur

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

4. Project Name Baharai to amrora Dhuwa
Proposal Number FP/RJ/ROAD/488121/2024
User Agency Hari Prasad Meena
Forest Land Area(Ha) 1.97
Division Baran 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

5. Project Name Forest Clearance for Integrated Steel Plant of M/s Sree Metaliks Limited, at Village Lo idapda & Rugudidihi, Tahsil- Barbil, Dist- Keonjhar, Odisha

Proposal Number FP/OR/IND/543441/2025

User Agency Sujit Kumar Ray

Forest Land Area(Ha) 17.1552

Division Keonjhar Division

Recommendation Raise EDS

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Additional information sought from State Government

6. Project Name PROPOSAL FOR DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND OVER 0.021 HA FOR LAYING OF PIPELINE FOR DRAWL OF SALINE WATER FROM Bay of Bengal to EXISTING J.B.S. AQUATICS

Proposal Number FP/OR/Pipeline/462465/2024

User Agency BALUNKESWAR BISWAL

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.021

Division Chilika WL 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

7. Project Name Proposal for Diversion of Forest land required for laying of Slurry pipeline from Village: Kalamanga to Palaspanga of JSW Utkal Steel Ltd.

Proposal Number FP/OR/Pipeline/467100/2024

User Agency Anil Kumar Singh

Forest Land Area(Ha) 6.42

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

8. Project Name Diversion of Forest Land by MCL in respect of Balabhadra OCP coming under Talcher Tahasil, Angul District, Odisha

Proposal Number FP/OR/MIN/QRY/539291/2025

User Agency Bonthal Mahmood Miya

Forest Land Area(Ha) 96.127

Division Angul 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 Proposed Quarry for Construction of Vadhavan Port, Road & Railway Project, at Village – Gargaon & Khaniwde along with existing road widening by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority

Proposal Number FP/MH/MIN/QRY/550969/2025

User Agency Dr. G. Vaidyanathan

Forest Land Area(Ha) 66.6314

Division Dahanu 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

10. Project Name Diversion of 61.45 ha forest land for Ramdongri Manganese ore mine
Proposal Number FP/MH/MIN/QRY/409811/2022
User Agency JAYASWAL NECO INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Forest Land Area(Ha) 61.45
Division Nagpur Division
Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval

11. Project Name Chhindwara Irrigation Complex - Sangam Dam 1
Proposal Number FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/540189/2025
User Agency Kumkum Kaurav Patel
Forest Land Area(Ha) 82.029
Division Chhindwara West(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

12. Project Name Kirthai-II Hydroelectric Project
Proposal Number FP/JK/HYD/IRRIG/402507/2022
User Agency Rahul Srivastava
Forest Land Area(Ha) 197.27
Division Kishtwar Forest Division
Recommendation 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 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval

13. Project Name Diversion of 0.6972 ha of forest land in favour of Sh. Ved Kumar , S/o Sh. Chatter Singh, Village-Firnoo, P.O., Sarahan, Tehsil-Karsog, Distt. Mandi, H.P. for extraction of sand, stone & bajri within the jurisdiction of Karsog Forest Division, Distt. Mandi. H.P.

Proposal Number FP/HP/MIN/QRV/464991/2024

User Agency VED KUMAR

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.6972

Division Karsog Division

Recommendation Rejected

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 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and representative of Nodal Officer, Government of Himachal Pradesh recommended for the rejection of the proposal for non-forestry use of 0.6972 ha of Protected Forest.

14. Project Name	C/O CHANIKAR TO HARABOI ROAD KM 0/00 3/200
Proposal Number	FP/HP/ROAD/538698/2025
User Agency	Suresh Kapoor
Forest Land Area(Ha)	1.9784
Division	Suket 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 Chaudhary Transport Company
Proposal Number FP/HR/OTHERS/540759/2025
User Agency Mr. Arvind Kumar
Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.0428
Division Karnal Division
Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval

16. Project Name Raw Water arrangement for Existing water works at village Kirawar, Tehsil Tosham, District Bhiwani.
Proposal Number FP/HR/WATER/494748/2024
User Agency Vikas Dhankhar
Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.276
Division BHIWANI WEST CIRCLE 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 Mother Teresa Modern Public School
Proposal Number FP/HR/SCH/497829/2024
User Agency Sh Kailash Chand
Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.0024
Division Kurukshetra Division
Recommendation 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

18. Project Name Diversion of Forest Land for new proposed Independent 33KV Line for Releasing the new connection of Govt. Medical College Koriyawas Emanating from 220KV Sub Station Nar naul in District Mahendragarh (Hr)

Proposal Number FP/HR/PWR_TRANS/536206/2025

User Agency Xen Construction Rewari

Forest Land Area(Ha) 2.5984

Division Mahendergarh 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

19. Project Name AMNS 15.6 / 21 MTPA Steel Complex Expansion
Proposal Number FP/GJ/OTHERS/464635/2024
User Agency ANKIT SINGH
Forest Land Area(Ha) 48.6512
Division Surat 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 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

20. Project Name Diversion of 0.018 ha of forest land for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of HPCL on Khata No.-1397, Plot No.-3737, Thana No.-142, Thana-Forbisganj, Post-Rampur to SH77 Saifganj-Forbisganj Road in Araria district of Bihar.

Proposal Number FP/BR/PetrolPump/490384/2024

User Agency md taufique amanullah

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.018

Division Araria Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval

21. Project Name

Diversion of Forest land for Shri Mandareswara Kashi Viswanatha Mandir, Mandareswar Parvath, Bounsi Tehsil, Banka District, Bihar - Renovation of the Mandir by Shri Rama Karma Bhumi Nyas, Patna, Bihar

Proposal Number

FP/BR/ROAD/465458/2024

User Agency

Krishnakant Ojha

Forest Land Area (Ha)

0.707

Division

Banka Division

Recommendation

Raise EDS

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

SH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Additional information sought from State Government

22. Project Name ONGC, Drilling of Exploratory Location KSAI
Proposal Number FP/AS/MINOIL/562828/2025
User Agency LILY P CHAWANG
Forest Land Area(Ha) 2.1
Division Golaghat 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 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of the Stage-II approval.

23. Project Name Forest diversion proposal for Oil & Gas Well Drilling at Loc. ODHB located within Unclassified State Forest and approximately 4 Km away from Langting-Mupa Reserve Forest under Hatikhali Range in Dima Hasao District in the state of Assam under OALP-III Block AA-ON HP-2018/3

Proposal Number FP/AS/MINOIL/490589/2024

User Agency RUPAM JYOTI SUTRADHAR

Forest Land Area(Ha) 4.75

Division Dima Hasao Forest East Division, Haflong

Recommendation Accepted

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Brief Description of Project:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

24. Project Name

Proposal for diversion of 28.28 Ha forest land for Construction of Double lane road to provide air connectivity between Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar and Naharlagun Railway Station via Sonajuli and Durpang (0.00 to 34.09 Km)

Proposal Number

FP/AR/ROAD/490538/2024

User Agency

Nabam Zomleen

Forest Land Area (Ha)

28.28

Division

Banderdewa Forest Division, Banderdewa

Recommendation

Raise EDS

Brief Description of Project:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

Previous Deliberation Details:

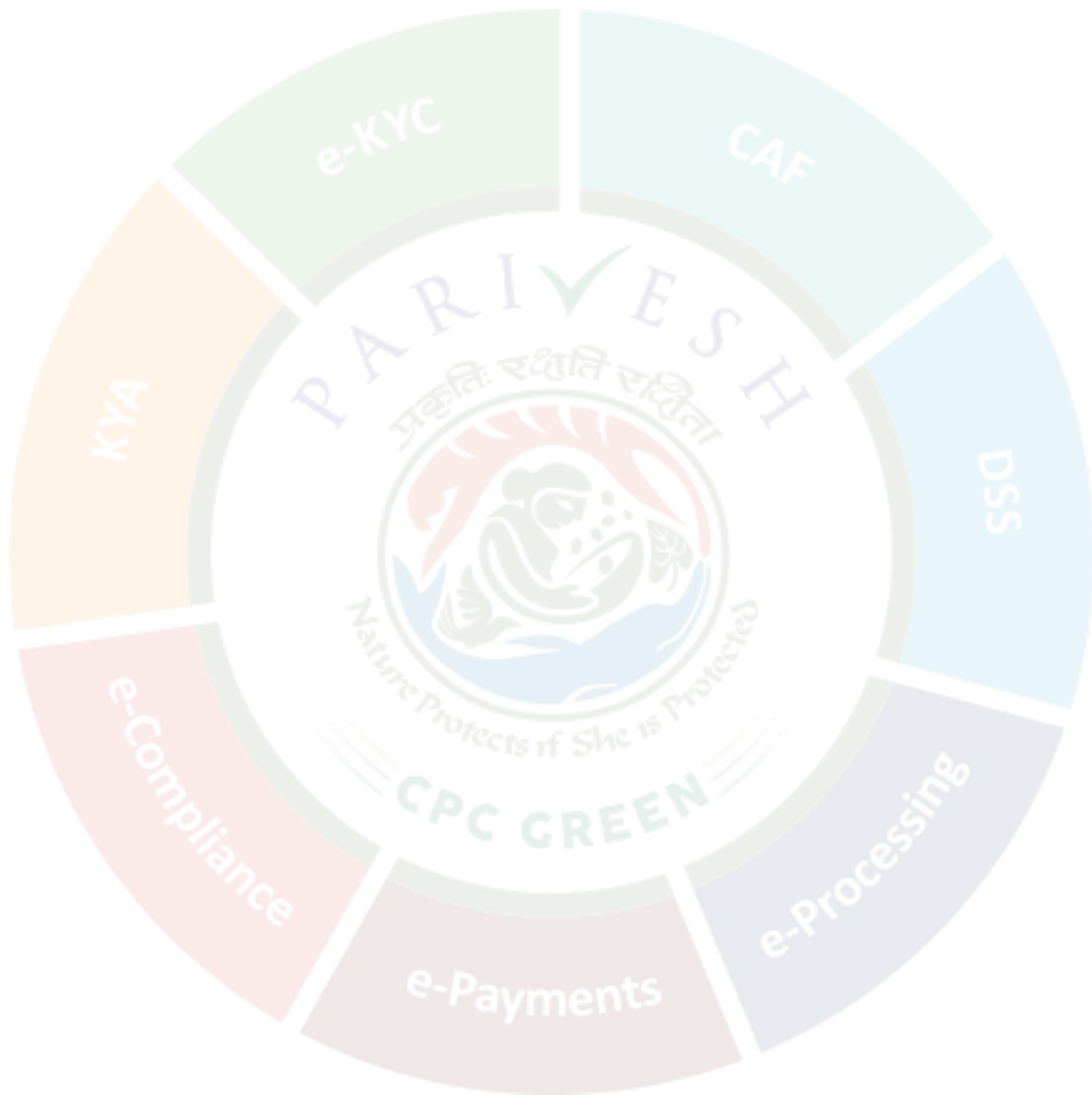
N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 10.06.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

Recommendation Remark:

Additional information sought from State Government.



(PARIVESH 2.0)

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on
10.06.2026**

Agenda No. 2

Proposal No. FP/AR/ROAD/490538/2024

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 for non-forestry use of 28.28 ha of Reserved Forest for Construction of Double lane road to provide connectivity between Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar and Naharlagun Railway Station via Sonajuli and Durpang (0.00 to 34.09 Km) in District- Papum Pare in the State of Arunachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/AR/ROAD/490538/2024)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Shillong and Representative of Government of Arunachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 28.28 ha of Reserved Forest for Construction of Double lane road to provide connectivity between Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar and Naharlagun Railway Station via Sonajuli and Durpang (0.00 to 34.09 Km) in District- Papum Pare in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ii. Total length of the road is 34.09 km with width of 12.0 m. Out of total length, 21.90 km falls within the forest land involving an area of 26.28 ha and an additional area of 2.0 ha been proposed for dumping sites, thereby making the total area proposed for diversion as 28.28 ha.
 - iii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 26.28 ha is required for road and 2.00 ha for muck dumping area.
 - iv. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.4 (Eco class I) with 2015 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.

- v. The proposed road is located at an approx. aerial distance of 8.35 Km from Itanagar WLS and 2.35 Km from Kaziranga-Itanagar Tiger Corridor. As per site inspection report of Regional Office, Shillong proposed area is outside of protected area (Itanagar WLS).
- vi. 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.
- vii. Proposed forest area does not fall in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 1, however, as per Decision Rule 2, the proposed area falls under High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 1 ha is very dense forest, 11 ha is moderately dense forest, 12 ha is open forest and 5 ha is non-forest (land without tree cover).
- viii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 56.56 ha degraded forest land in Village- Ango lomdak, Daporijo Forest Range, Lel Attam VRF, Tehsil- Puchi Geko, Division- Daporijo, District- Upper Subansiri. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO. The Regional Office has confirmed the suitability of the area proposed for compensatory afforestation.
- ix. Almost entire forest land has been cleared and broken up by the user for the construction of road without the prior approval of the Central Government in 2023-24. As per initial report received from the State, the violation was reported over an area of 6 ha in the year 2024. However, in its subsequent reply, the State Government has mentioned that an area of 26.28 ha is under violation of the Adhiniyam. An offence has been drawn against Executive Engineer, PWD. Further, the State Government has also mentioned in their reply dated 07.05.2026 that action under 3A/3B shall be initiated against the erring official for the negligence.
- x. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. furnish comments on the proposed diversion of forest land falling under an HCV Zone; comments on possible instances of tree felling, clarify exact area actually encroached/used in violation and submit a detailed violation report indicating the period of violation, number of trees felled, if any, and action taken under Sections 3A and 3B of the Adhiniyam and comprehensive muck disposal plan etc. Additional information was requested from the State on 25.03.2025. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.

- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 07.05.2026 and informed following:
- a) The proposed area for diversion does not form part of any Wildlife Sanctuary & National Park. The Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary is approx. starting point 2.08 Km and end point 8.24 Km from the project site and Kaziranga National Park of Assam is at an aerial distance of approx. 26.09 Km from the project site. The proposed work primarily involves widening and improvement of existing mole track alignments and no tree felling is involved within the reserve forest areas. No significant tree felling is envisaged beyond the existing alignment.
 - b) Total area proposed for diversion is 28.26 ha. out of which area under violation is 26.28 ha has been reported during June 2024 and accordingly offence case is submitted. Action under 3A/3B shall be initiated against the erring official for the negligence.
 - c) The alignment has been planned through areas where a significant portion of the adjoining settlements are low-lying, necessitating earth filling. Accordingly, a substantial quantity of the excavated muck will be gainfully utilized for filling in these low-lying areas. The balanced quantity of muck will be utilized in construction activities, including the formation of approaches for various bridges and culverts along the alignment. Most muck sites have been mostly equally distributed within an average of one muck location per kilometer, keeping the earthwork into consideration. Since the proposal is for road construction 21.90 km long, there are 2 muck locations proposed, keeping the earth work into consideration for which 2 ha. of land is required.
- xii. The Regional Office submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhiniyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with certain conditions:
1. The State Govt. shall ensure the transfer of the admissible cost of penalty for the act of violation to NCAMPA by the user agency.
 2. Necessary actions against erring officials under section 3A and 3B of van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 3. The recommendation of this proposal is subject to the decision of the Hon'ble Court (the CJM, Yupia) in the matter.
- xiii. The authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- xiv. The Committee observed that the KML file submitted with the proposal does not correspond to the areas that appear to have already been clear-felled

and broken. In several locations, the proposed alignment appears to deviate from the clear-felled stretches, creating ambiguity regarding the extent of requirement of forest land whether the alignment is along the clear felled area or along the unbroken virgin forest area. The Committee, therefore, desired that the alignment be restricted, to the extent possible, to the already clear-felled areas. Wherever re-alignment is considered necessary, the State Government shall furnish detailed justification, clearly indicating the extent of forest land already broken up and the additional virgin forest area proposed by the user agency.

- xv. The proposal does not contain adequate details regarding the violations committed by the user agency. The State Government shall provide a comprehensive account of the violations, including the year-wise and date-wise extent of forest land cleared and broken up by the user agency. The report shall also include details of the actions taken by the State Forest Department to prevent and address violations of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
 - xvi. The Committee further noted that the subject forest land has been utilized by the user agency in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. However, no action appears to have been initiated by the State Forest Department under Sections 3A and 3B of the Adhinyam. The Committee observed that extensive clear-felling of vegetation has been carried out over a substantial portion of the forest land, which could not ordinarily have occurred without requisite financial and administrative approvals. The State Government shall, therefore, furnish details of all financial, administrative, and other approvals granted for commencement of project activities, along with the authority responsible for issuing such approvals.
 - xvii. The officers of the State Forest Department informed the Committee that an Original Application (OA) concerning the matter has recently been filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT). However, details of the said proceedings are not available in the proposal. Accordingly, the State Government shall provide complete particulars of the OA, including the issues raised therein and its present status.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Shillong and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:
- (i) The alignment of the proposed area for diversion as seen from the KML file does not correspond to the areas that appear to have already been clear-felled and broken. In several locations, the proposed alignment appears to

deviate from the clear-felled stretches, creating ambiguity regarding the extent of requirement of forest land i.e. whether the alignment is along the clear felled area or along the unbroken virgin forest area. The Committee, therefore, desired that the alignment be restricted, to the extent possible, to the areas already clear-felled. Wherever re-alignment is considered necessary, the State Government shall furnish detailed justification, clearly indicating the extent of forest land already broken up and the additional virgin forest area proposed by the user agency.

- (ii) The proposal does not contain adequate details regarding the violations committed by the user agency. The State Government shall provide a comprehensive account of the violations, including the year-wise and date-wise extent of forest land cleared and broken up by the user agency. The report shall also include details of the actions taken by the State Forest Department to prevent and address violations of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- (iii) The Committee further noted that the proposed forest land has already been utilized by the user agency in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. However, no action appears to have been initiated by the State Forest Department under Sections 3A and 3B of the Adhiniyam. The Committee observed that extensive clear-felling of vegetation has been carried out over a substantial portion of the forest land, which could not ordinarily have occurred without requisite financial and administrative approvals. The State Government shall, therefore, furnish details of all financial, administrative, and other approvals granted for commencement of project activities, along with the authority responsible for issuing such approvals.
- (iv) The officers of the State Forest Department informed the Committee that an Original Application (OA) concerning the matter has recently been filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT). However, details of the said proceedings are not available in the proposal. Accordingly, the State Government shall provide complete particulars of the OA, including the issues raised therein and its present status.

Agenda No. 3

Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/490589/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Oil India Ltd. for non-forestry use of 4.75 ha Unclassed Forest land

for Oil & Gas Well Drilling at location ODHB located within Unclassed State Forest in Dima Hasao District in the State of Assam under OALP-III Block AA-ONHP-2018/3 (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/490589/2024)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 4.75 ha Unclassed Forest land for Oil & Gas Well Drilling at location ODHB located within Unclassed State Forest in Dima Hasao District in the State of Assam under OALP-III Block AA-ONHP-2018/3.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.56 ha is required for approach road, 3.47 ha for Plinth, 0.12 ha for flare & 0.6 ha for safety zone.
 - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.2 of Eco class I with 22 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
 - iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 Km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
 - v. 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. Proposed forest area falls under Not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 1. However, as per Decision Rule 2, the proposed area falls in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 2 ha is moderately dense forest and 3 ha is open forest land.
 - vii. Compensatory afforestation has been allotted inside land bank of 830 ha of evicted non-forest land adjacent to Burahchapory Wildlife Sanctuary under

Nagaon Wildlife Division, Nagaon. Upon inspection, it is found to be suitable for raising compensatory afforestation and suitable for plantation in the proposed area. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.

- viii. No violation of the Adhinyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- ix. The life of Mineral oil reservoir is 20 years, the mining lease was granted for 6 years w.e.f. 24.04.2020 to 23.04.2026. In addition to this DGH, MoPNG has granted a further extension of two years till 05.12.2027. One borehole of 17 ^{1/2}" (17 ^{1/2} inches) diameter will be drilled at the proposed site.
- x. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. comments on recommending the forest land for diversion in a High Conservation Value Zone, details of bore wells already drilled along with detail of requisite approval and those bore wells proposed in the near future including any involvement of forest land, measures proposed by the agency for the disposal of the waste generated from the earth cuttings; number and dimensions of bore holes proposed to be drilled and clarify the correct validity period of the exploration license etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 05.01.2026. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 06.02.2026 which is found to be satisfactory.
- xii. The Regional Office submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhinyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with certain conditions as under:
 - (1) The cumulative impact study on the flora and fauna due to Oil and Gas exploration and production activities in Dima Hasao district.
 - (2) The recommendation in 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) are strictly adhered to in order to avoid similar disaster in future.
 - (3) The well wise CSR and CER action plan are to be strictly implemented.
 - (4) To ensure safety measures of the habitat/settlement area around the proposed exploratory drilling location area as per the prescribed relevant guideline.

(5) Proper signages indicating the latitude and longitude and name of the proposed exploratory drilling location shall be placed in the proposed area and follow the strict mitigation measures to avoid oil spillage, etc. during the exploratory drilling along with other component like fire extinguisher, ETP, pond etc.

(6) The security fence of the area to prevent from grazing and other unwanted intrusion in the proposed area.

- xiii. The Nodal Officer informed the Committee that the Exploration Block covers a total area of 1,234.42 sq. km. It is stated that, in the past, one exploratory borehole at the ODHA location was drilled by the agency without involving any forest land. Out of the three exploratory wells proposed within the block, one has already been drilled, one forms part of the present proposal, and the third exploratory borehole is proposed to be taken up subsequently. Third bore well is also planned in the same forest area applied under the extant proposal. Accordingly, the requirement of plinth area is relatives higher in the extant proposal.
 - xiv. Estimated volume of 500 cum of waste is to be generated from the pit. Adequate safeguards, accordingly, needs to be ensured for the collection, management and scientific disposal of waste generated from earth-cutting activities during the exploration period need to be deliberated to prevent its dispersal into nearby forest areas and the consequent adverse impact on the forest ecosystem.
 - xv. Proven reserve of crude oil in the area are estimated to the tune of 100 tonnes per annum. It has been mentioned that Oil/gas reserve in this location ODHB is yet to be established in this exploratory well. Accordingly, the life of 20 years indicated for the reservoir is tentative.
 - xvi. The authorities in the State have recommended the proposal, emphasizing its importance in the national interest and its potential contribution towards strengthening the country's energy security.
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 4.75 ha Unclassed Forest land in favour of M/s Oil India Ltd. for Oil & Gas Well Drilling at location ODHB located within Unclassed State Forest in Dima Hasao District in the State of Assam under OALP-III Block AA-ONHP-2018/3 subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:

- (i) To avoid avert disasters, the hazardous zone around the bore well, oil pads or pipelines or other ancillary infrastructure including Blow Out Preventer (BOP) should be maintained by the user agency engaged in the mining or transportation of mineral oil as per the norms stipulated in the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, and rules framed thereunder.
- (ii) 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.
- (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.
- (iv) Silent transformers to be used during exploration activity to avoid noise pollution on surrounding wildlife.
- (v) The user agency shall undertake adequate measures for the collection, management, and scientific disposal of waste generated from earth-cutting activities, and shall prevent its spillage into nearby areas, including water bodies, during the exploration period. A detailed waste management plan in this regard shall be submitted along with the compliance report for the Stage-I approval conditions.

Agenda No. 4

Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562828/2025

Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in final approval for diversion of 2.1 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat for exploratory location KSAI in Doyang Reserved Forest under Golaghat Division, Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562828/2025)-regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee

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

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

i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-II approval vide letter 3 ASB/125/2022/GHY dated 25.07.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

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

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

ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:

a. Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.

b. Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.

c. Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.

d. It is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.

iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Accordingly, considering the major technical and operational complexities and economical viability of the project, amendment of conditions are recommended by DDGF (C), Regional Office, Shillong certain modifications based on ground observation.

- iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I and Stage- II approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
 - v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest area proposed for diversion is surrounded by habitations and does not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of the Stage-II approval, with the following conditions:
- i. No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*
 - ii. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*

Agenda No. 5

Proposal No. FP/BR/ROAD/465458/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.707 (revised) (earlier proposed area 0.76 ha) ha Protected Forest in favour of Sri Ram KarmbhumiNyas for renovation/upgradation of existing temples and development of various other facilities of Sri Mandareswar Kashi Viswanatha Mandir, Mandar in Bounsi Tehsil in Banka District of Bihar (Proposal No.: FP/BR/ROAD/465458/2024)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Ranchi attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the

Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 27.10.2025. After detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO, Ranchi and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to **'defer'** the proposal for want of following information:
 - (i) The State Government shall clearly bring out the locus standi of the User Agency on the proposed land alongwith legal status of user agency and documentary evidence in this regard, as mentioned in SIR.
 - (ii) The Regional Office Ranchi shall clarify the basis for referring the proposal for consideration of FAC and also inform whether there is any violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 and rules thereunder in the instant proposal and submit its recommendations accordingly.
 - (iii) In a reply to EDS by Regional Office, Ranchi, the State Government informed that a set of structures, including toilet blocks, and rain shelters, constructed by Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation. In-principal approval (Stage I clearance) for these structures has been accorded by MOEFCC. However, no supporting documents submitted by the State Government in this regard. The State Government shall submit a copy of the approvals.
 - (iv) The above decision of the Committee was communicated to the State Government on 09.11.2025. The State Government on 05.05.2026 submitted reply to queries raised by the Ministry on 09.11.2025 informing following:
 - a. User Agency for the present proposal is Shri Ram Karmabhumi Nyas, which is a duly constituted non-profit charitable trust registered under the applicable provisions of law. The Nyas has been established with the primary objective of preservation, restoration, and management of religious and cultural heritage sites. The locus standi of the User Agency over the proposed land is derived from its authorized role in the restoration and development of the historic Mandar Temple surroundings, as recognized by the competent authority. The Nyas has formally undertaken responsibility for restoration and associated developmental activities of the temple, which is of significant religious and cultural importance.

Further, the legal status of the User Agency is substantiated by the following documents (already submitted/annexed in the proposal and SIR):

- (i) Registration Certificate of the Trust, evidencing its lawful existence as a non-profit entity.
- (ii) Trust Deed, outlining its objectives, governance structure, and operational mandate.
- (iii) Undertaking/Affidavit by Shri Ram Karmabhumi Nyas, confirming its commitment to restoration of the Mandar Temple and compliance with all statutory provisions, including those under the Forest (Conservation) Act and rules framed thereunder

It is thus submitted that the User Agency possesses a valid legal identity, clear mandate, and demonstrable locus standi for undertaking the proposed activity, as detailed in the Site Inspection Report (SIR) and accompanying documents.

- b. The contextual site inspection report as prepared and uploaded on portal by Regional Office Ranchi highlights the following:
 - (1) Explaining the reason for forwarding the proposal for FAC consideration the Regional Office has clarified that this proposal has several components like Yoga Centre, Adhyayan Kendra, Administrative Building, Meditation Platform, hall etc. which are non-site specific and hence the Regional Office, Ranchi forwarded the application to ministry (HQ) for further consideration in accordance to para 1.10 (ii) of Consolidated Guidelines and conducted the inspection of site to prepare the present Site Inspection Report (SIR) in consonance to Rule 10(4) of V (S&S) R, 2023.
 - (2) It is also mentioned that the inspecting team observed that the forest area circumfencing the Mandar Hill is not completely delineated by boundary pillars. The entrance, from where the flight of steps to hill top starts, is marked by presence of numerous small –small shops selling puja samagri or souvenirs. In absence of knowledge of exact boundary, it could not be ascertained if few of such shops are located in forest land thereby encroaching upon it.
 - (3) Further, the SIR has highlighted that the present proposal seeks to divert 0.707 ha of forest land for renovation of existing structures as well as construction of few new structures at 10 different locations. During the visit no proposal related work was found to be started at any of these 10 locations and hence there is no work in violation to Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 involved in

the extant proposal. But several other constructions/works were seen during the inspection for which no explanation could be provided.

(4) Therefore, in the SIR Regional Office has already recommended that Non-forest works, not connected to extant proposal but done post 1980 (like steps, transmission lines, rest areas, Jain temple related ancillary works etc.), shall be accounted by the concerned DFO and follow up action shall be ensured.

c. In-principle approval for these structures has been accorded by MoEFCC. In-principle approval is uploaded and attached by DFO, Banka. All the required documents are submitted in the proposal on Parivesh portal.

(v) The Committee was informed that the DDGF, RO Ranchi has not recommended the 0.4265 ha out of the 0.707 ha forest area proposed for new construction.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO, Ranchi and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:

- i. In light of the recommendations of the Regional Office, Ranchi, the proposal for diversion of forest land may be restricted to 0.2801 ha for renovation/upgradation of existing structures. The State Government may submit the revised proposal accordingly.
- ii. As per the State Government and the Regional Office, Ranchi, the violations have been carried out in areas wherein in-principle approvals have been accorded by the Central Government and Final approvals have not been obtained. Accordingly, action shall be initiated by State Government under Local Forest Acts and section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 against the erring officials for carrying out violation in Protected Forest without obtaining final approval of the Central Government. An action taken report may be submitted by the State Government.
- iii. The State Government shall initiate action under relevant provisions of the Local Forest Act against the instant user agency for unauthorized use of Forest land without permission.
- iv. The State Government shall submit the compliance reports of the proposals pertaining to Mandar Hill landscape for which in-principle approvals have

been accorded by the Central Government and Final approvals have not been obtained. The same shall be duly certified by the Regional Office.

- v. The Regional Office shall submit a monitoring report of the Final approval granted for the Ropeway project on the Mandar Hill landscape.

Agenda No. 6

Proposal No. FP/BR/PetrolPump/490384/2024

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 0.018 ha of Protected Forest in favour of Md. Taufique Amanullah for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of HPCL on Khata No.-1397, Plot No.-3737, Thana No.-142, Thana-Forbisganj, Post-Rampur to SH77 Saifganj-Forbisganj Road in Araria district of Bihar (Online Proposal No. FP/BR/PetrolPump/490384/2024)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Ranchi attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 0.018 ha of Protected Forest in favour of Md. Taufique Amanullah for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of HPCL on Khata No.-1397, Plot No.-3737, Thana No.-142, Thana-Forbisganj, Post-Rampur to SH77 Saifganj-Forbisganj Road in Araria district of Bihar.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.009 ha is required for entrance path and 0.009 ha is required for exit path, totaling to 0.018 ha.
 - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.1 of Eco class III with no tree felling involved during implementation of the project.

- iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 Km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- v. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area falls under Not In- High Conservation value Zone.
- vi. Planting of 100 trees on both sides of the HPCL retail outlet along the Rampur SH-77–Forbesganj road has been proposed by DFO, Araria is proposed by the State Government towards compensatory afforestation in the extant proposal. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. It is mentioned that breaking up of forest land and its encroachment to utilize it for entry/exit purpose was considered violation of IFA by the forest staff and an offence case against PP (Mr. Md. Taufique Amanullah) under Section 33 of Indian Forest Act was registered in March 2024 after thorough investigation. The case is presently under consideration in Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Araria. The User Agency has carried out roadside clearing and earthfilling work for the establishment of HPCL retail outlet at the proposed site. No trees were available at the proposed site. But after comparing the current landscape with the previous Google satellite images, trees were clearly visible in the earlier image, which have now been removed from the site. This is a violation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Araria has registered a preliminary observation report, CC No. 05/2025 and all the work at the proposed site has been stopped. Further, it is informed that provisional NOC was granted to User Agency for five (5) years for developing the land as an access road for the construction of a retail outlet proposed by HPCL. The Executive Engineer, Road Division, Araria vide letter No. 1800 dated 28/11/2024 in apparent violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 has issued this NOC. No action is taken towards this by the Forest Department.

- viii. The Regional Office has mentioned in their site inspection report that the proposal does not involve any natural forest but only road side notified forest, it is not very detrimental to natural flora and fauna. The proposal may be considered for recommendation, if the user agency is appropriately penalized for violating forest related regulations and state authorities are reprimanded for being passive towards forest protection laws.

DDGF (C), Regional Office, Ranchi has recommended the proposal subject to following condition:

- a. The State Government shall initiate appropriate action against any violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3A and 3B of the Act and paragraph 1.16(ii)(a), (b), and (d) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the allied rules.
 - ix. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz details of the additional forest land (if required), to fulfill the requirement of water and electricity, detailed chronology of the events, violation report along with the area involved and the number of trees (species, girth) illegally felled, details of CA site identified to plant 100 number of plants along with Map, KML file, suitability certificate and details of working permission granted by the State Government to the User Agency & clarify whether any action has been taken to stop or prevent the unlawful activities carried out by the User Agency etc. Additional information was requested from the State on 22.12.2025. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
 - x. The State Government submitted its reply online on 06.05.2026 submitted CA scheme with 10 years maintenance submitted by DFO, Araria along with suitability certificate. The Committee noted the same.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of ***'in-principle'*** approval for ex-post approval for diversion of 0.018 ha of Protected Forest in favour of Md. Taufique Amanullah for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of HPCL on Khata No.-1397, Plot No.-3737, Thana No.-142, Thana-Forbisganj, Post-Rampur to SH77 Saifganj-Forbisganj Road in Araria district of Bihar subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. In accordance with the provisions of para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhiniyam by the user agency which shall be five times the NPV of forest land used in violation, plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand and till the deposit is made by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.
 - ii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify

land towards penal compensatory afforestation, as applicable, in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhinyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.

- iii. Penal compensatory afforestation, as applicable by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Ranchi and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- iv. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 against the erring officials shall be initiated by State Government for carrying out violation in Protected Forest and a status report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of the in-principle approval.

Agenda No.7

Proposal No. FP/GJ/OTHERS/464635/2024

Subject: -Proposal for seeking Ex-post fact approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 48.6512 ha Reserved Forest land Survey No 434/A1/2 & 434/A1/1 Village Hazira and Survey No 178 Village Shivrampur for establishment of 15.621 MTPA Steel complex by M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd at Hazira, District Surat in the Gujarat State. (Online Proposal No.FP/GJ/OTHERS/464635/2024).

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026 The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional office, Gandhi Nagar attended the meeting. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Gujarat was not present during the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

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

(i). The proposal is for diversion of 48.6512 ha of forest land in favour M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd at Hazira, District Surat in the Gujarat State for establishment of 15.621 MTPA Steel complex. The proposal forwarded by State Government of Gujarat. The proposal involved violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam,1980. Accordingly, proposal submitted by the State Government to the Ministry as per 10 (2) (v) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules.

(ii)The proposed forest area is Reserved Forest and Unclassed Forests with canopy density of 0.04 (Eco Class-3) and 4409 nos of trees (16 species) have been proposed to be felled.

(iii) The proposal involved violation. A boundary wall, existing plant road, railway track, peripheral greenbelt, security gates, MRSS Switchyard, Processes and unprocessed slag and a truck parking area have been established within the forest area of 48.65 Ha since 2010-11. The period of work started in 2010 and completed in 2011. The State Government has noted the violation in 2022. On March 23, 2022, the Range Forest Officer (RFO), Dumas, issued a notice to the User Agency regarding the unauthorized encroachment of 39.69 hectares of forest land on Survey no. 434/A/1 and informed of impending action. Similar notice was issued on 18.05.2022, for the 9.26Ha encroachment on Survey No. 178.

(iv) A total of 93.67 Ha of forest land encroached for the instant project by the User Agency has been regularized by the Ministry since 2013, details of which are given below: -

S. No.	Details of proposal	Area (Ha)	Date of Stage I	Date of Final Approval
1	Construction of housing accommodation and allied employees infra facilities for Ms Essar Steel Limited	20.76	08-06-2013	Final approval not yet accorded.

2	Construction of Raw material Facilities and Utilities for Ms Essar Steel Limited	27.02	13/7/2021 5	16-03-2021
3	Setting up 300 MW Power Plant at Hazirain favour of Essar Steel (Hazira) Limited	38.71	07-04-2014	16-03-2021
4	15.6 MTPA Steel Complex Expansion in favour of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd (AMNS)	7.18	13-07-2023	13-02-2024
	TOTAL AREA	93.67		

The instant proposal (**48.6512 ha**) is 5th such proposal submitted by the State Government for regularization of encroachment.

(v) The proposal is non-site specific. As per para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines and clarifications on Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan), Adhinyam, 1980, "Proposals seeking ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under the VSESA, 1980 are normally not to be entertained. The central Government will not accord approval under the Act unless under exceptional circumstances that may justify the case."

(vi) The site inspection of the proposal was carried out by Shri Shrawan Kumar Verma, RO, Gandhinagar on 31st May, 2025. As per recommendation in SIR. The proposal for diversion of 48.6512 ha Reserved Forest Survey No. 434/A1/2 & 434/A1/1, Village- Hazira& Survey No. 178, Village-Shivrampur for 15.6/21 MTPA Steel Complex at Hazira, District- Surat in Gujarat State is recommended in two possibilities:

A. The proposal recommended for sending back for submitting comprehensive single proposal by the User Agency as its in piecemeal which is against the condition

imposed in the diversion of 7.18 ha forest land (FP/GJ/OTHERS/148274/2021) with the approval of the competent authority which was as condition "(8) The User Agency will not submit any future proposal for diversion of forest land in piece meal and they will submit a comprehensive single proposal if needed."

OR

- B. If the specific condition imposed in the diversion of 7.18 ha forest land (FP/GJ/OTHERS/148274/2021) with the approval of the competent authority "(8) The User Agency will not submit any future proposal for diversion of forest land in piece meal and they will submit a comprehensive single proposal if needed." is waved off by the competent authority, then the Proposal is recommended with specific conditions mentioned in SIR.

The proposal is not specifically recommended by RO, Gandhinagar in the SIR. The proposal is recommended in two possibilities as mentioned in the para vii above.

- (vii) The proposal was considered in Advisory Committee in its meeting dated **30.7.2025**. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Gujarat, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal with the following recommendation:-
- (a) The State Govt. shall submit the valid justification for site specificity of the proposal.
 - (b) The State Govt. shall submit the detailed justification regarding the waving off the condition no. 13 of the earlier approval letter dated 13.02.2024 given in respect of the proposal no. FP/GJ/OTHERS/148274/2021.
 - (c) One proposal bearing No.FP/GJ/ENCRH/3534/2008, for 20.76 Ha has been accorded in principle approval in 2013 for the same steel manufacturing complex. However the User Agency has not yet complied with the condition of providing 131 Ha land for Compensatory Afforestation in the said proposal. The User Agency shall comply with the conditions of Stage-I approval in the said project.
- (viii) As per the above observation of Advisory Committee, the Ministry vide EDS dated 09.08.2025 has requested the State Government to furnish the reply of the above points. The State Government has furnished the reply of EDS on PARIVESH 2.0.

- a. Regarding valid justification for site specificity of the proposal, the State Government has informed that proposed proposal is needed for expansion of the existing steel unit for capacity augmentation and is adjoining to the existing unit. The User Agency has also procured adjoining revenue land also for this purpose. Hence it may be considered as site specific.
- b. Regarding the detailed justification regarding the waving off the condition no. 13 (*The User Agency will not submit any future proposal for diversion of forest land in piece meal and they will submit a comprehensive single proposal if needed.*) of the earlier approval letter dated 13.02.2024 given in respect of the proposal no. FP/GJ/OTHERS/148274/2021, the State Government has informed that there were issues related to survey by the DILR and further promulgation regarding exact land measurements and necessary corrections by the revenue department. The survey issues were resolved after the earlier proposals and hence the current proposal is submitted after ascertaining the exact boundaries of two different parcels and combining the same in one proposal.
- c. Regarding one proposal bearing No. FP/GJ/ENCRH/3534/2008, for 20.76 Ha has been accorded in principle approval in 2013 for the same steel manufacturing complex. The User Agency has not yet complied with the condition of providing 131 Ha land for Compensatory Afforestation in the said proposal. The User Agency shall comply with the conditions of Stage-I approval in the said project, the State Government has informed that the User Agency has provided the stipulated NFL in the stated proposal and it has been mutated in the name of Forest Department.
- ix. The State Government has submitted the CA scheme for total area of 133.83 Ha. However, CA will be carried out over an equivalent NFL area as per VSESA, 1980. As per SIR of RO, Gandhinagar, 'It may be appropriate to restrict the number of plants to around 200-300 per hectare to maintain the natural habitat of the region. To compensate the number of trees to be planted (1111 numbers per ha.), the balance plantation may be raised on any degraded forest land. Accordingly, a suitable condition may be stipulated.'
- x. As per SIR of RO, Gandhinagar, the instant proposal needs to be considered with respect to condition No. 13 imposed in the final/Stage-II approval accorded for diversion of 7.18 Ha of forest land (proposal No.

FP/GJ/OTHERS/148274/2021). In this regard, the Advisory Committee considered the proposal in light of the aforementioned recommendation of RO, Gandhinagar. The Committee noted that with regards to submission of the current proposal, it involves violation and the entire forest land proposed for diversion is under the unauthorised possession of User Agency for all practical purposes as per SIR by RO, Gandhinagar dt. 05.05.2026. Further, the State Government has reported that there have been serious issues of encroachment by the original User Agency in the above area and the present management after the NCLT procedure has tried to resolve these legacy issues of the earlier management. There were issues related to survey by the DILR and further promulgation regarding exact land measurements and necessary corrections by the revenue department. The survey issues were resolved after the earlier proposals and hence the current proposal is submitted after ascertaining the exact boundaries of two different parcels and combining the same in one proposal. Accordingly, this proposal needs to be considered because User Agency is already occupying the area, hence, Penal NPV and Penal CA need to be imposed immediately.

4. Decision of the Advisory Committee: The Advisory Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Gandhi Nagar recommended the proposal for grant of 'in-principle' approval for **diversion of 48.6512 ha** Reserved Forest land Survey No 434/A1/2 & 434/A1/1 Village Hazira and Survey No 178 Village Shivrampur for establishment of 15.621 MTPA Steel complex by M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd at Hazira, District Surat in the Gujarat State subject to general, standard and following specific conditions: -
- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
 - ii. Penal compensatory afforestation, if proposed by the State Government, shall be verified by Regional Office, Gandhinagar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.

- iii. The User Agency shall pay five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- iv. The State Government shall initiate action/ penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The State Govt. shall submit action taken report with respect to 3A/3B violation alongwith Stage-I compliance.
- v. The State Government shall submit the action taken report against the user agency along with the Stage-I compliance.

Agenda No.8

Proposal No. FP/HR/PWR_TRANS/536206/2025

Sub:- Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 2.5984 ha of Protected Forest land in favour of XEN, Construction Division, DHBVN, Rewari, Haryana for laying of new proposed independent 33 KV Line for releasing the new connection of Government Medical College, Koriawas emanating from 220 KV Sub Station Narnaul in District Mahendragarh in the State of Haryana (Proposal No. FP/HR/PWR_TRANS/536206/2025)

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. the corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer (FCA) from the Government of Haryana attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after through deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Proposal envisages diversion of 2.5984 ha of protected forest land for laying of new proposed independent 33 KV Line for releasing the new connection of

Government Medical College Koriyawas Emanating from 220 KV Sub Station Narnaul in District Mahendragarh in the State of Haryana.

- ii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is mentioned as Protected Forest.
- iii. Vegetation density of 0.2 has been reported with Eco class III.
- iv. Proposal is expected to generate 20 man-days of permanent employments and 100 man-days of temporary employment.
- v. The Component wise breakup of the area submitted along with the proposal is as follows: -

Component wise breakup			
S.no.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non-Forest Land (Ha)
1.	Independent 33KV Line	2.5984	0
Total		2.5984	0

- vi. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 5.1968 ha degraded forest land in Compartment No- RF Mukandpur, Survey No. RF Mukandpur, Village- Mukandpur, Range- Narnaul, Tehsil- Narnaul, Division- Mahendragarh, District- Mahendragarh. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. DFO, Mahendragarh has mentioned in Part- II that violation of over an area of 0.0035 ha has been done by Dilbag Singh, Contractor, K. Electrical, Badhara, Bhiwani in the year 2025. FOR has been issued vide FOR No. 015/0570 has been issued on 11.04.2025. PC case No. 07N/2025-26 has also been issued against the contractor.
- viii. The proposal does not form the part of any protected Area, or Eco-sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc.
- ix. DFO, Mahendragarh has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/ endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
- x. The proposal involves a violation as reported by the DFO in Part II. The User Agency had carried out breakage on 0.0035 ha of Protected Forest land out of the total 2.5984 ha without prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- xi. Forest officials informed that the violation occurred in 2025. A damage report was subsequently issued on 11.04.2025, and thereafter the User Agency applied on Parivesh 2.0 on 02.05.2025 for approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - xii. Regional Office in SIR observed that as the User Agency had carried out breakage on 0.0035 ha of Protected Forest land, the case pertains to post-facto approval of 0.0035 ha and fresh approval for 2.5949 ha under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - xiii. The State Government has proposed CA on 5.1968 Ha. As per DSS analysis, software-calculated area of CA land is found to be 8.029 ha. The State Govt. informed that as the area is having some native plants of trees/shrubs of Aravalli area which need to be protected. So the area required for plantation has been given more than the required area.
 - xiv. In the instant proposal, total number of 538 trees to be affected. Out of 538 trees proposed for felling, 98 trees have a girth of more than 90 cm. The Advisory Committee observed that State Government shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees.
 - xv. DDG (C), RO, Chandigarh has recommended the proposal for consideration as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer from the Government of Haryana recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 2.5984 ha of Protected Forest land in favour of XEN, Construction Division, DHBVN, Rewari, Haryana for laying of new proposed independent 33 KV Line for releasing the new connection of Government Medical College, Koriyawas emanating from 220 KV Sub Station Narnaul in District Mahendragarh in the State of Haryana subject to general, standard and following specific conditions: -
- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure

- compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- ii. Penal compensatory afforestation, if proposed by the State Government, shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
 - iii. The User Agency shall pay five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
 - iv. The State Government shall initiate action/ penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. The State Govt. shall submit action taken report with respect to 3A/3B violation alongwith Stage-I compliance.
 - v. The State Government shall submit action taken report against the user agency alongwith Stage-I compliance.
 - vi. In the instant proposal, total number of 538 trees to be affected. The State Government shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees.

Agenda No.9

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

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

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026 The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF

(Central), Regional office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer, Government of Haryana attended the meeting.

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC 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 through deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The proposal envisages diversion of 0.0024 ha Protected Forest for access permission for Mother Teresa Modern Public School Belonging to Right Bell Educational Foundation, on Pipli/Ladwa- Lohara road (ODR), RD: - 0.296 (LHS) at Village- Mathana, Tehsil- Thanesar, District- Kurukshetra in the State of Haryana.
 - ii. Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest.
 - iii. Vegetation density of 0 (zero) has been reported with Eco class 3.
 - iv. The Component wise breakup of the area submitted along with the proposal is as follows:-

Component wise breakup			
S.no.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non-Forest Land (Ha)
1.	Approach access	0.0024	2.2494
Total		0.0024	2.2494

- v. Proposal is expected to generate 300 (man-days) permanent employment and 10 (man-days) temporary employment.
- vi. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 0.1 ha degraded forest land in Survey No. H43Q13, RF Seonti, Village Bahran, Division & District Kurukshetra. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. DFO, Kurukshetra has mentioned in Part- II that violation over an area of 0.0024 ha has been done by Shri. Kailash Chand by using kacha rasta. Damage report has been issued vide D.R. No. 058/0172 dated 10.12.2024. In inspection report, it is mentioned that user agency has violated provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Indian Forest Act, 1927. Further, it is also mentioned that violation done by the user agency has been removed.

- viii. The proposal does not form the part of any Protected Area, or Eco-Sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc.
- ix. DFO, Kurukshetra has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
- x. As per Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Chandigarh, It was noted during the site inspection that the User Agency has used forest area for approach to the school without prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. It was observed that at present school has constructed two gates through the forest strips. The User Agency is continuously using the entire forest land proposed for diversion and dedicated approach has been developed. Further, the present proposal is for expansion of the already existing gates at same place. As the gates have already been constructed and are operating since long time; the instant case is for post-facto approval per prevailing provisions under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, wherein, the forest land has been already used for non-forest purpose.
- xi. DDG (Central), RO, Chandigarh in the Site Inspection Report has stated that the proposal is for approach access to private School of the User Agency and has been recommended by the State Government, accordingly same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xii. The Advisory Committee noted that the State Government has submitted the instant proposal under the category '**School**'. However, the proposal is actually for an '**Approach Access**'.
- xiii. The proposal was placed before Advisory Committee in its meeting dated 24.03.2026. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Haryana and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**deferred**' the proposal with the following observations:-
- “The State Government shall submit a copy of notification notifying the Pipli/Ladwa- Lohara road as protected forest.”
- xiv. As per the above observation of Advisory Committee, the Ministry vide EDS dated 05.04.2026 has sought the above information from the State Government.
- xv. The State Government has attached a document regarding notifying the road as protected forest. However, proper notification for notifying the Pipli/Ladwa- Lohara road as protected forest has not been submitted.

xvi. The Advisory Committee noted that The Nodal Officer, Govt. of Haryana has provided a copy of notification dated 6th July, 1979 during the meeting notifying the Girdharpur Link Road as protected forest.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer from the Government of Haryana recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for M/s Right Bell Educational Foundation for non-forestry use of 0.0024 ha Protected Forest for access permission for Mother Teresa Modern Public School Belonging to Right Bell Educational Foundation, on Pipli/Ladwa- Lohara road (ODR), RD:- 0.296 (LHS) at Village- Mathana, Tehsil- Thanesar, District- Kurukshetra in the State of Haryana subject to general, standard and following specific conditions: -
- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
 - ii. Penal compensatory afforestation, if proposed by the State Government, shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
 - iii. The User Agency shall pay five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
 - iv. The State Government shall initiate action penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The State Govt. shall submit action taken report with respect to 3A/3B violation alongwith Stage-I compliance.

Agenda No.10

Proposal No. FP/HR/Water/494748/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.2760 ha. of protected Forest land in favour of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Tosham for laying of 250 mm i/d DI pipe for raw water arrangement for Existing water works at Village Kirawar from existing pump house at Khanak Minor at RD-20000L, Tehsil Tosham, District Bhiwani, Haryana. (ONLINE PROPOSAL NO. No. FP/HR/Water/494748/2024)

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer, Government of Haryana attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC 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 proposal envisages diversion of 0.2760 ha. of Forest land for laying of 250 mm i/d DI pipe for raw water arrangement for Existing water works at Village Kirawar from existing pump house at Khanak Minor at RD-20000L, Tehsil Tosham, District Bhiwani, Haryana. The proposal is submitted under drinking water category.

(ii) The Vegetation density of 0 has been reported, with Eco-Class III.

(iii) No trees are proposed to be felled under the proposal.

(iv) Component wise breakup of the area submitted along with the proposal is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
(i)	For pipe line	0.276 ha	0
	Total	0.276 ha	

(v) The proposal is expected to generate 501 man-days of employment during the construction phase and 1,700 man-days during the operational phase.

(vi) The CA has been proposed over 0.552 ha Degraded forest land in Nigana Canal RD 7-12 L&R/Side in Bhiwani Forest Division, District Bhiwani. The total financial outlay for CA has been indicated as 0.0821 crore.

(vii) The CA scheme, including species composition, cost structure, and implementation schedule, has been uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.

(viii) DCF, Bhiwani has mentioned in Part-II The proposal is recommended for the acceptance

(ix) No wildlife is present in the project area.

(x) There is no Protected archeological/Heritage site/Defence establishment in the proposed area for diversion as per part II filled by the DCF.

(xi) DCF, Bhiwani has mentioned that the requirement of forest land is unavoidable and barest minimum.

(xii) According to the detailed violation report submitted by the State Government, during a patrol on February 6, 2025, it was observed that a Public Health contractor had laid a 250 mm pipeline along the Tosham-Ratera road (between the 3rd and 6th kilometer markers on the left side) without departmental permission, resulting in the encroachment of 2,760 square meters of land; additionally, 56 saplings planted during the 2022-23 drive were found destroyed, having been buried under the soil. Although the work was halted upon inspection, the Public Health Engineering Department, Tosham, had already submitted a proposal to this office on August 30, 2024, seeking approval under the FCA (Forest Conservation Act). Forest Offence Report No. 064/0700, dated 18.02.2025, was registered against the accused, M/s Mayank Man Power Services (c/o Vikas Dhankhar, Executive Engineering Division, PHED, Tosham). Subsequently, a prosecution case regarding the forest offence—titled *State of Haryana (through Range Forest Officer) vs. M/s Mayank Manpower Services* (Case No. COMA/276/2025)—was prepared and filed before the Hon'ble Civil Court, Bhiwani, on 09.06.2025. The next date of hearing for the case is scheduled for 26.07.2026 for the recording of prosecution evidence.

(xiii) As per SIR by Regional Office, Chandigarh, there was a violation of the said proposal by the User Agency due to which the FOR has been issued vide FOR no 064 dated 18.02.2025 and date of violation is mentioned 06.02.2025. Further on examination of the proposal in PARIVESH Portal, it has been found that the User Agency has submitted the proposal on 30.08.2024 and violation has been conducted on 06.02.2025. 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.

(xiv) DDGF, RO, Chandigarh has recommended the proposal for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Haryana recommended the proposal for grant of *'in-principle'* approval for diversion of 0.2760 ha. of protected Forest land in favour of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Tosham for laying of 250 mm i/d DI pipe for raw water arrangement for Existing water works at Village Kirawar from existing pump house at Khanak Minor at RD-20000L, Tehsil Tosham, District Bhiwani, Haryana subject to general, standard and following specific conditions: -

- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- ii. Penal compensatory afforestation, if proposed by the State Government, shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- iii. The User Agency shall pay five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- iv. The State Government shall initiate action penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The State Govt. shall submit action taken report with respect to 3A/3B violation alongwith Stage-I compliance.
- v. The Status of ongoing court case shall be submitted by the State Govt. alongwith compliance report.

Agenda No.11

Proposal No. FP/HR/OTHERS/540759/2025

Sub: - Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion 0.0428ha. of protected forest land in favour of M/s Chaudhary Transport Company for access to reach mining site along the roads situated in village: - Labkari, District- Karnal under Karnal Forest Division in the State of Haryana (Proposal No. FP/HR/OTHERS/540759/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026 The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer, Government of Haryana attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC 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 through deliberation and discussion observed the following:-
 - i. The Proposal envisages diversion of 0.0428 ha of Protected Forest for access to reach mining site along the roads village: - Labkari, District- Karnal and Karnal Forest Division in the State of Haryana. **The** access permission of forest area (0.0428Ha.) is required along the road Situated on Newal -Garhi Birbal Road, at RD:-27.580 (RHS), Village :- Garhi Birbal, on Newal - Garhi Birbal Road, at RD:-21.207 (RHS), Village :- Kalsoura, on Naggal - Randoli Approach Road, at RD:-3.592 (RHS), Village :- Naggal, on Naggal - Kamalpur Viran Approach Road, at RD:-0.044 (RHS)+(LHS), Village :- Naggal, Village :- Garhpur Tapu, Village :- Kalsoura, on Indri-Garhi Birbal Road, at RD:-10.677 (RHS), Village :- Labkari, on Garhpur Tapu Approach Road, at RD:-0.380 (RHS), Village :- Labkari, on Newal - Garhi Birbal Road, at RD:-24.470 (RHS)+(LHS), Village :- Labkari, Distt.- Karnal and Forest Division-Karnal (Haryana).

- ii. The Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest.
- iii. Vegetation density has been reported as 0.1 with Eco Class 4 with 02 trees proposed to be felled.
- iv. The proposed land use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
(i)	Approach Access	0.0428	3.1553

- v. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has been proposed over 0.1 ha degraded forest land in Compartment/ Khasra No. Augmentation Canal KM 30-31 L/Side, Survey No. 0, Village- Tusang, Tehsil- Indri, Range- Indri, Division- Karnal Division, District- Karnal. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vi. DFO, Karnal has mentioned in Part- II that violation of IFA, 1927 has been done by Shri. Arvind Kumar, partner in M/s Chaudhary Transport Co., Village Podowali, Distt. Haridwar, Uttrakhand over an area of 0.1725 ha. in the year 2025. Further, it is also mentioned that FOR against Sh. Arvind Kumar C/o M/s Chaudhary Transport Co. FOR No. 316/33,34 dt. 23.05.2025, 0316/35,36 dt. 24.05.2025 & 312/59 dt. 24.05.2025 has been issued.
- vii. The proposal area does not fall within any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, or Eco-Sensitive Zone, etc.
- viii. DFO, Karnal has reported that no rare/endangered/unique species of flora or fauna are found in the area.
- ix. The User Agency has uploaded Lol dated 21.06.2022 issued by Mines and Geology Department, Govt. of Haryana for extraction of sand over an area of 94.35 Ha. The validity of Lol is 12 months from date of issue of Lol. The Lol expired on 21.6.2023. However, the mining is on non-forest land.
- x. The approach access to the two mining sites has been proposed under the instant proposal. The User Agency has proposed nine entry and exit points for two mining sites. The details are as follows:-

S.No.	Forest Area (in sq. metre)	Non-Forest Area (in sq. metre)
Access1	54.46	3921.29
Access2	28.27	2530.22
Access3	46.90	4353.47
Access4	60.00	5515.88
Access5	46.18	5617.04
Access6	46.18	3138.03
Access7	54.46	2447.33
Access8	70.00	2674.50
Access9	21.88	1355.40
Total	428.33 m ² = 0.0428 Ha	31553.16 m ² = 3.1553 Ha

- xi. As per SIR by RO, Chandigarh, two mining sites have different mining lease, LOI and two different proposals for the Environment Clearance, however, the single forest clearance have been proposed for both mining leases.
- xii. As per SIR by RO, Chandigarh, the proposal involves felling of two Eucalyptus trees having girth of 156 cm and 116 cm, possibility of retaining both trees may be explored.
- xiii. The Advisory Committee noted that there was a violation by the User Agency by construction of approach access through strip forest due to which the DRs were issued vides FOR No. 0316/033, 0316/034, both dated 23.05.2025 and 0316/035, 0316/036 both dated 24.05.2025.
- xiv. As per SIR by RO, Chandigarh, the approach access has been completely constructed and was in use. The work in forest area has been completed without the approval of the Central Government, accordingly, in pursuance to the Sub-rule 2 (v) of Rule-10 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 the ex-post facto approval involving violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam; shall be examined and disposed of by the Central Government in the manner specified under these rules.

- xv. The proposal category has been marked as "Others"; however, the current proposal pertains to approach access to reach mining area. In this regard, the State Government has informed that the haul road leading to the mining area is forest-free and has been lawfully acquired by the Project Proponent (PP) on lease basis. The said haul road does not pass through or involve any forest land. It is further submitted that the land falling on both shoulders of the PWD road has been notified as forest land by the Government of Haryana. Accordingly, forest diversion has been applied for only to facilitate the crossover from the PWD road to the haul road, through the forest-declared shoulder portion of the PWD road.
- xvi. The State Government has informed that the User Agency has applied only for diversion of 0.0428Ha of forest land which is required for approach road. The rest of forest land has been made encroachment free by the State Forest Department.
- xvii. DDGF, RO, Chandigarh in SIR has recommended the proposal 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 Nodal Officer from the Government of Haryana recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 0.0428ha. protected forest land in favour of M/s Chaudhary Transport Company for access (nine entry and exit points) to reach two mining sites along the roads situated in village: - Labkari, District- Karnal under Karnal Forest Division in the State of Haryana subject to general, standard and following specific conditions: -

- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- ii. Penal compensatory afforestation, if proposed by the State Government, shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for

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

- iii. The User Agency shall pay five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- iv. The State Government shall initiate action penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The State Govt. shall submit action taken report with respect to 3A/3B violation alongwith Stage-I compliance.
- v. The State Government has informed that the User Agency has applied only for diversion of 0.0428Ha of forest land which is required for approach road. The rest of forest land has been made encroachment free by the State Forest Department. The State Government shall submit the supporting documents in this regard alongwith compliance of Stage-1 approval.

Agenda No. 12

Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/538698/2025

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 1.9784 ha of forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department, Shimla for construction of Chanikar to Haraboi Road Km 0/00 3/200 within the jurisdiction of Suket Forest Division, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No FP/HP/ROAD/538698/2025)- regarding.

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh and representative of Nodal Officer, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:

- i. The proposal envisages diversion of 1.9784 ha of forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department for construction of Chanikar to Haraboi Road Km 0/00 3/200 within the jurisdiction of Suket Forest Division, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
- ii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is mentioned as Protected Forest.
- iii. The Vegetation density of 0 has been reported with Eco class 5. There is no felling of trees involved in the proposal.
- iv. Component wise breakup of the area submitted along with the proposal is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
(i)	ROAD	1.8176	0
(ii)	DUMPING SITE-1	0.08	0
(iii)	DUMPING SITE-2	0.0808	0
	Total	1.9784 ha	

- v. The proposal is expected to generate 5800 (man-days) employment during construction phase and 22180 (man-days) employment during operational phase.
- vi. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 3.9568 ha degraded forest land in Site Name/Compartment - DPF Chaludhar, Survey No. 52E/2, Village- DPF Chaludhar (505), Range- Kataula, Tehsil- Padhar, District- Mandi, Mandi Forest Division. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. DFO, Mandi has mentioned in Part- II that HPPWD has constructed the road during 2003 which has been reported in list of 2183 violated roads in Hon'ble High Court
- viii. The proposal does not form the part of any Protected Area, or Eco-sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc. The wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion are Hare and Wild boar.
- ix. It has been found that the user agency has violated the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Indian Forest Act, 1927/any other forest Act. Action has been taken in accordance with CWP No.5600 of 2012 titled as Sh. Manoj Kumar V/s UoI and as per instruction issued by higher office time to time, road has been inspected by the joint inspection committee as on 18/08/2020.

- x. DFO, Mandi has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/ endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
 - xi. The part of the road under the instant proposal has already been constructed and work has been carried out in part of the forest land. The instant case is part of already constructed 2183 road in Himachal Pradesh, wherein, violation has been reported in Hon'ble High Court and is appearing in the list of 2183 cases at serial no. 349 of violation list submitted to Hon'ble High Court.
 - xii. The instant proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as under.
"In the circumstances, we hope that the officials of MoEF or any other department of the Government of India shall not insist for compliance of furnishing the names, designations and complete addresses of the officers of the State Government responsible for past violations".
 - xiii. As per Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Chandigarh, the violation under the instant case needs to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh vide order dated 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009.
 - xiv. DDGF (C), RO, Chandigarh in the Site Inspection Report stated that the instant proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and -5.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009. The 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.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The committee took note of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as elaborated at (xix) above. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Himachal Pradesh recommended the proposal for grant of **'in-principle' approval** for non-forestry use of 1.9784 ha of forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department, Shimla for construction of Chanikar to Haraboi Road Km 0/00 3/200 within the jurisdiction of Suket Forest Division, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-
- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in

violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.

- ii. Penal compensatory afforestation, if proposed by the State Government, shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- iii. The User Agency shall pay five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- iv. The User Agency shall obtain the requisite wildlife clearance and comply with all conditions stipulated therein, if applicable.

Agenda No.13

Proposal No. FP/HP/MIN/QRY/464991/2024

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 0.6972 ha of Protected Forest in favour of Sh. Ved Kumar, S/o Sh. Chatter Singh, Village-Firnoo, P.O. Sarahan, Tehsil-Karsog, District- Mandi for extraction of sand, stone & bajri within the jurisdiction of Karsog Forest Division, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/MIN/QRY/464991/2024)– regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026 The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional office, Chandigarh and representative of Nodal Officer, Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC 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 through deliberation and discussion observed the following:
- i. The State Government has proposed diversion of 0.6972 ha of forest land proposed for diversion in favour of Sh. Ved Kumar, S/o Sh. Chatter Singh, Village-Firnoo, P.O., Sarahan, Tehsil-Karsog, dist. Mandi, H.P. for extraction of sand, stone & bajri within the jurisdiction of Karsog Forest Division, distt. Mandi Himachal Pradesh.
 - ii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest.
 - iii. Vegetation density of 0 has been reported with Eco class VI. No tree felling is involved in the proposal.
 - iv. The Component wise breakup of the area submitted along with the proposal is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-forest land
(i)	Block A Mining Area	0.1788 ha	0
(ii)	Block A safety Zone	0.2349 ha	0
(iii)	Block B Mining Area	0.147 ha	0
(iv)	Block B safety Zone	0.1365 ha	0
	Total	0.6972ha	0

- v. The proposal is expected to generate 28,000 (man-days) permanent employment and 600 (man-days) temporary employment.
- vi. Compensatory Afforestation is proposed over 1.344 ha degraded forest land in Site Name- Sainjali Sub-village, Compartment No. 43/7, Survey No. H43F7, Village- Rashog Abbal (562), Range- Seri, Sainjali UPF, Tehsil-Karsog, District- Mandi, Division- Karsog Forest Division. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO. Detailed CA schemes for 10 years is uploaded on Parivesh portal.
- vii. DFO, Karsog has mentioned in Part- II that there is no violation of provision of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. However, as per site inspection report uploaded by DFO (Sl. No. 5 of view documents) it is

mentioned that user agency has violated provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

- viii. The proposal does not form the part of any Protected Area, or Eco-sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc.
- ix. DFO, Karsog has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
- x. There is no Protected Archeological/Heritage site/Defense establishment in the proposed area for diversion as per part II filled by the DFO.
- xi. DFO, Karsog has mentioned that the requirement of forest land is unavoidable and barest minimum.
- xii. As per SIR by Regional Office, Chandigarh, the proposed mining lease has been inspected and the visually lease area appeared to be sediment of stone, sand and soil without any vegetative growth. The area appears to be vulnerable to soil erosion and small land slips were visible. The DFO, Karsog informed that due to loss strata, the area has landslide in the monsoon accordingly, soil conservation measures has been proposed in approved mining plan.
- xiii. The Government of Himachal Pradesh, Department of Industries vide letter dated 21.04.2026 has extended the validity of Lol by two years w.e.f.07.03.2026.
- xiv. The State Government has ensured that the proposal for extraction of sand, stone & bajri is formulated in accordance with the Sustainable Sand Management Guidelines, 2016 and the Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 issued by the Ministry.
- xv. The proposed mining activity shall be carried out in a regulated and scientific manner within permissible limits, with due safeguards such as control on depth of mining, maintenance of safe distance from river banks, and adherence to environmental norms to avoid any adverse impact on the forest ecosystem.
- xvi. The State Government has stated that although the area falls in hilly terrain and within Seismic Zone-IV, a detailed site assessment indicates that the specific patch proposed for diversion is relatively stable and not significantly prone to soil erosion or landslides due to its localized topography, existing ground conditions and limited scale of proposed activity. However, as a precautionary measure, necessary mitigation measures shall be implemented, including controlled and scientific extraction, avoidance of steep and vulnerable slopes, maintenance of natural drainage, and stabilization of disturbed areas through bio-engineering measures such as plantation and turfing, wherever required. With these safeguards in place, the proposed activity is not likely to induce soil erosion or landslide risks.

- xvii. The State Government has informed that the overburden/mine waste shall be managed in a controlled manner by identifying designated temporary stacking locations outside the effective safety zone to the extent feasible, and where unavoidable, such temporary stacking shall be carried out in a regulated manner without causing damage to vegetation or altering the protective function of the safety zone. Further, the dumped material shall be removed within a stipulated time and the area shall be restored to its original condition through leveling and plantation. Adequate measures such as toe walls, retaining structures, proper drainage arrangements and slope stabilization shall also be adopted to secure the overburden dumps.
- xviii. The State Government has informed that the provision of safety zone around the mining area shall be strictly maintained as per the approved norms. The mention of temporary dumping of mine waste over the safety zone in the mining plan pertains only to a short-duration operational arrangement during initial bench formation and shall not lead to permanent disturbance of the safety zone.
- xix. The State Government has enclosed a copy of NoC dated 26.02.2026 by Jal Shakti Vibhag, Government of Himachal Pradesh stating that this office has no objection in granting NOC for extraction of the proposed sand, stone & bajri at the said location, subject to fulfilment of following conditions and that it does not fall within the restricted zone of any water supply source of this department;-
- (a) Water Supply Schemes/ Sources nearby:- The nearest water supply body/ source/scheme is located at a distance of approximately 100 meters from the proposed site. There is not any water storage tank, supply pipeline, irrigation channel or other departmental structure passing through or nearby the proposed site.
- (b) Effect on Departmental Infrastructure:- The proposed site does not affect/ affects the existing departmental infrastructure or water supply system of Jal Shakti Vibhag.
- xx. DDGF, RO, Chandigarh has recommended the proposal for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xxi. The Advisory Committee observed that the proposed lease area comprises primarily of stone, sand and soil with sparse vegetation. However, despite limited vegetative cover, the area performs important ecological and geomorphological functions by stabilizing slopes, regulating surface runoff,

- facilitating groundwater recharge and supporting the integrity of the local drainage system.
- xxii. The Advisory Committee noted that the Site Inspection Report of Regional Office revealed that the proposed mining lease appeared to be of sediment of stone, sand and soil without any vegetative growth. The area appears to be vulnerable to soil erosion and small land slips were also visible. The systematic mining with necessary soil conservation measures as per the approved mining plan may be accepted.
- xxiii. The Advisory Committee noted that mining operations in the proposed area may adversely affect nearby water channels and drainage courses through increased sedimentation, alteration of flow patterns and destabilization of stream banks. Such impacts could have long-term consequences on watershed functions, hydrological regimes and downstream ecological processes. The proposed activity may also aggravate soil erosion and increase the risk of landslides, thereby affecting adjoining forest areas and their ecological stability.
- xxiv. Considering the fragile geology of the area, its high susceptibility to erosion and landslides, the likelihood of adverse impacts on adjoining forests, wildlife habitat, drainage systems and watershed functions, and the potential for irreversible long-term ecological degradation, the Committee concluded that the Ecosystem Goods and Services costs associated with the proposed diversion outweigh the benefits accruing from the mining activity.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and representative of Nodal Officer, Government of Himachal Pradesh recommended for the **rejection** of the proposal for non-forestry use of 0.6972 ha of Protected Forest in favour of Sh. Ved Kumar, S/o Sh. Chatter Singh, Village-Firnoo, P.O. Sarahan, Tehsil-Karsog, District- Mandi for extraction of sand, stone & bajri within the jurisdiction of Karsog Forest Division, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The Committee further advised the State Government to explore and identify suitable alternative sites having lower ecological sensitivity, stable geological characteristics and minimal environmental implications for meeting the requirement for extraction of minor minerals.

Agenda No. 14

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

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited for non-forestry use of 197.27 ha. of Reserved Forest for construction of Kirthai- II Hydro Electric Project (820 MW) on Chenab river within the jurisdiction of Kishtwar Forest Division, District- Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir (Online proposal No. FP/JK/HYD/IRRIG/402507/2022) – regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer (FCA) from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:-
 - i. The proposal envisages diversion of 197.27 ha. of Forest land (Reserved Forest: 191.95 Ha and Others: 5.32 Ha) for construction of Kirthai- II Hydro Electric Project (820 MW) by Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL) on Chenab river within the jurisdiction of Kishtwar Forest Division, District- Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir.
 - ii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is 191.95 ha of Reserved Forest and 5.32 ha of deemed forest. The Vegetation density of 0.4 & 0.6 has been reported with Eco class VI. 8723 number of trees are proposed to be felled for the instant proposal.
 - iii. The component wise land-use details (as per Site Inspection Report) of the proposal is as under:-

S. No.	Component		Legal Status	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest land (ha.)
1.	Submergence	98.95	52.62	4.01	155.58
2.	Project Components	69.76	-	-	69.76
3.	Clay Quarry	3.00	-	-	3.00

4.	Rock Quarry	9.74	2.95	-	12.69
5.	Muck Disposal Sites	15.82	-	-	15.82
6.	Colony area	-	-	8.00	-
	Total	197.27	55.57	12.01	264.85

- iv. The Proposal is expected to generate 5,25,600 (man-days) permanent employments and 74,20,000 (man-days) temporary employments.
- v. The compensatory Afforestation is proposed over 251.12 ha (NFL & DFL) in 5 patches in Kishtwar District. details are as under:

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

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

- vi. The Proposal does not form the part of any Protected Area, or Eco-sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the proposed area.
- vii. DFO has mentioned in Part- II that the area is sloppy from moderate to steep slope, as such during rock cutting, earth work some forest erosion is likely to occur. However, the user Agency shall construct retaining protection wall to avoid soil erosion. The User Agency has submitted the quarry restoration & muck dumping plan for slope stabilization of the project site.

- viii. DFO, Kishtwar has mentioned in Part- II that there is presence of Endangered Mammals species viz. Himalayan Tahr, Asiatic Black Bear and Himalayan Brown Bear come under the vulnerable category and only one species Asiatic Ibex (*Capra ibex*) belong to the Endangered Category as per the IUCN 2008. Besides, the presence of Spotted Forktail, Little Forktail, Koklass Pheasant were among the rarely sighted species, whereas Himalayan Monal was reported from high altitude nearby area by the local inhabitants, Accordingly, a Wildlife Biodiversity Management Plan, Habitation Management Plan & Animal Passage Plan of ₹144.00 Lakh has been Approved by Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K vide his No: WLP/Tech/2024/297-99 dt: 29.06.2024.
- ix. The project site is a natural habitat of *Pinus gerardiana* (Chilgoza Pine). The in-situ conservation plan to the tune of ₹87.56 lakh. has been proposed as an additional CA.
- x. DFO, Kishtwar has mentioned in Part- II that there is no violation of Adhinyam or guidelines. 20 families will be displaced out of 446 project affected families from 7 villages.
- xi. It is mentioned that BRO road connecting Paddar for 6.5 Km will be realigned due to submergence before impounding of reservoir.
- xii. The cost benefit analysis of the proposal with C:B ratio of 1:292.
- xiii. As per DSS analysis, calculated area of shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is 197.213 ha. The proposed forest land is not situated within 10 Km from any wildlife Sanctuary, National Park, Tiger Reserve and Tiger Corridor. The Compensatory afforestation has been identified in five patches [4: NFL (197.066 ha) and 1: DFL (54.02 ha)] and its software-calculated area is found to be 251.086 ha whereas area proposed for CA is 251.12 ha.
- xiv. There are 02 clay quarry and 04 rock quarries part of forest proposal of Kirthai II HEP. The online application for obtaining approval and mining permission from Department of Geology and Mining, UT of J&K for all these quarry sites have been submitted and, presently, the applications are pending at Department of Geology and Mining, Jammu for further processing. The obtaining of approval from State Mining deptt. & preparation of mining plan is under process. The User Agency has assured that all the clearance for quarrying the material shall be taken well in time, before start of mining the construction material for the construction of project.
- xv. The J & K Government has provided list of existing HEPs on river Chenab along with their status and capacities. The projects are currently being developed and implemented by multiple agencies across the region. Kiru

HEP (624 MW) of CVPPL and Kirthai-I HEP (390 MW) of JKSPDC is located at downstream and upstream of Kirthai-II HEP, respectively. There is no impact on the generation/ production capacity of existing hydroelectric projects due to upcoming of Kirthai II HEP.

- xvi. The TEA (Techno economic appraisal) to Kirthai II HEP accorded by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) vide letter dated 14.06.2019 and CEA vide letter dated 29.12.2021 has transferred the TEA of Kirthai II HEP in favour of CVPPL. Moreover, CEA has agreed vide letter dated 20.11.2024, to extend the validity of appraisal of Kirthai II HEP for further two years i.e. up to 13.06.2026. As per the appraisal accorded by CEA the installed capacity of Kirthai II HEP was 930 MW (Main power house 840 MW + Dam Toe PH 90 MW) and now the revised installed capacity is 820 MW (Main power house 800 MW + Dam Toe PH 20 MW). The capacity of main power house is revised based on updated revised water availability series for the period 1975-76 to 2021-22 duly approved by CWC. Further the capacity of dam toe PH (for utilising the e-flow to be released) is restricted to 20 MW due to topographical, geological, hydrological & hydraulic constraints together with slope stability, etc considerations. The CEA has accorded approval to CVPPL for revised installed capacity and design energy vide letter dated 01.09.2025.
- xvii. The J & K Government stated that Kirthai II HEP is under survey, investigation & clearance stage of development and at this juncture the approvals from State Dam Safety Authority (SDSA) and National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) is not required as per the Dam Safety Act 2021. This has been confirmed by the NSDA, Chandigarh in its mail dtd 14.05.2025, in case of FC proposal of Sawalkoat HE Project (1856 MW), Ramban of NHPC Limited. Further, it is intimated that the Kirthai-II HEP has been accorded approval from National Committee on Seismic Design Parameters (NCSDP) vide letter dtd 24.06.2024. Moreover, the requisite NOCs and clearances required for taking up project, are available with Kirthai II HEP project like clearance from GSI and NoC from State Geology department of J&K.
- xviii. The proposed area i.e. 15.82 Ha. of forest land for muck dumping sites have been critically examined in terms of their location, extent, ecological sensitivity, quantity of muck and nearer to source of generation, and it is confirmed that the requirement of forest land sought is the barest minimum necessary for the said purpose. The feasibility of shifting the muck dumping to non-forest land has also been duly explored; however, no suitable non-forest land is available in the vicinity. Moreover, since the land surrounding the project site is forest land and shifting of muck dumping site to far

locations is not environment friendly too. In view of the above, the proposed use of forest land for muck dumping is unavoidable and confined strictly to the minimum area required.

- xix. The J & K Government stated that the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan for the project affected families and families to be displaced formulated has been formulated in the EIA & EMP report of project which has been recommended by the EAC, MoEF&CC in its meeting held on 15.04.2021. The acquisition of private land falling in the project, under the aegis of "The RFCTLARR Act 2013 (The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013) is under process. The approval of the R&R shall be taken afresh from the competent authority of state govt. in accordance with the relevant sections of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013, when the process reaches the prescribed stage.
- xx. Regarding the presence of proposal in in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone, the proposed forest land falls under Eco-class VI, characterized by moderate to dense forest cover, with habitations located in the surrounding area and an existing BRO road passing through the proposed site. The presence of dense forest or the Chenab River in the broader landscape does not render the site an HCV Zone, as the proposed area does not meet criteria for irreplaceability, critical habitat, or irreversible ecological impact. The project avoids ecologically sensitive patches, and the forest diversion is limited to the minimum required area. Being a hydropower project, its site-specific in nature, with no feasible/viable alternative location, and is being implemented in the larger public interest. All prescribed environmental safeguards and mitigation measures, including compensatory afforestation, soil and water conservation measures, and wildlife protection measures, etc shall be implemented.
- xxi. The road visible in the proposed forest area is BRO road connecting Gulabgarh to Kishtwar. Due to construction of Kirthai-II HE Project, some portion of existing Kishtwar Gulabgarh- Sansari road from dam site to Kirthai village is likely to be submerged. The total length of existing road under submergence is about 6.5 km from Dam site. The project will do the realignment of existing Kishtwar Gulabgarh Sansari road well before commissioning of the project for smooth diversion of the traffic. The existing road will be utilized during construction of the project and at the same time the work on alternative road will be carried out so that Padder area could be connected to Kishtwar after construction of project. An MoU with BRO for RSTC & preparation of DPR for the road coming under submergence has already been signed on 04.11.2023. BRO had taken the forest land for

construction of road, and due to the construction of project the road will submerged. Therefore, the portion of road falling under submergence has been included in the forest proposal for the use of Kirthai II HEP.

- xxii. As per DSS analysis, a solid structure is also visible in the Clay Quarry. In this context, J & K Government stated that the solid structure visible in clay quarry is a reservoir & slow sand filtration plant at Gulabgarh, Paddar constructed on 0.015 ha & 0.029 ha of forest land, respectively, after getting approval vide orders no. 483-FST dated 13.12.2012 and no.421-FST dated 25.10.2019. There is no violation occurred at this site.
- xxiii. As per the report of District administration, Kishtwar dated 31.12.2025, the structure visible in the proposed CA site is house of local inhabitant and is situated along the boundary of the proposed CA site. It was suggested to exclude the portion containing the residential structure to avoid inclusion of inhabited areas and to include correspondingly available uninhabited area in same patch of land. Accordingly, this portion has been excluded and correspondingly available portion in same patch has been included. The updated kml of this NFL patch at Kishtwar of same area i.e. 36.67 ha has been uploaded in the proposal.
- xxiv. As per Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Chandigarh, Kirthai Hydro Electric Project Stage-II is a run of the river scheme on the River Chenab and is located in tehsil Padder, district of Kishtwar of UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The project is being implemented by Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL), a joint venture of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) & Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC). The proposed dam site is located near Kirthai Village and Kishtwar town is about 58 Km downstream of this site. The UT Government of Jammu and Kashmir submitted this proposal for diversion of 197.27 ha of forest land for construction of Kirthai II HE Project (820 MW) in Kishtwar Forest Division in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir on PARIVESH Portal 2.0 seeking prior approval of Central Government under Van (Sanrakshshan Evam Samvardhana) Adhiniyam, 1980. This proposal is for diversion of 197.27 ha (191.95 Ha Reserved Forest + 5.32 Ha Deemed Forest) of forest land proposed for Kirthai-II Hydroelectric Project under Forest Division & District Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir.
- xxv. As per Site Inspection Report by RO, Chandigarh, the project site is located within a high mountainous gorge along the river Chenab characterized by moderate to steep slopes. The User Agency (UA) needs to exercise special caution during project implementation, as activities such as rock cutting and earthwork may lead to soil erosion. To mitigate these impacts, the User

Agency is required to construct appropriate retaining/protection walls to prevent soil erosion.

- xxvi. As per Site Inspection Report by RO, Chandigarh, a total of 8723 number of trees are proposed to be felled in the proposed project. The removal of trees would definitely affect the ecosystem in general, especially in terms of increased run-off and soil erosion that may lead to landslides. However, the proposed project is of national importance for harnessing hydropower potential of Chenab River, and hence, some trade-off is required between the developmental activities and environmental conservation. Therefore, effect of removal of trees can be minimized by proper monitoring and safety measures as per standard conditions of approval.
- xxvii. As per Site Inspection Report by RO, Chandigarh, the total Catchment Area of Chenab River is 9987 ha. Free Drainage Catchment Area considered in CAT Plan is 1602.04 sq km. Total Cost of the CAT Plan: Rs. 30.69 Crore. The Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan has been approved by the J&K Forest Department vide letter No. PCCF/FCA/4935/6291-94 dated 23.01.2025.
- xxviii. As per Site Inspection Report by RO, Chandigarh, Kirthai II HEP, with an installed capacity of 820 MW, is to be developed on the Chenab River. A total of 197.27 hectares of forest land is proposed for diversion. Out of total 197.27 ha forest land; 191.95 ha is classified as reserved forest and 5.32 ha as deemed forest. The reservoir of the project begins near the Kijayee Village (at the confluence of Uffan Nalah), Padder, Kishtwar. The project site is located within a high mountainous gorge along the river Chenab characterized by moderate to steep slopes. The User Agency (UA) needs to exercise special caution during project implementation, as activities such as rock cutting and earthwork may lead to soil erosion. To mitigate these impacts, the User Agency is required to construct appropriate retaining/protection walls to prevent soil erosion. The Full Reservoir Level (FRL) begins near the Kijayee Village and the Dam site is proposed at village Kidroo, while the Power house is located near the Lidrari Nalla. The project area is prone to landslides and require engineering and biological measures for stabilization.
- xxix. The project site features a dense forest comprising Pine species, Silver fir, Oak species and other temperate and broadleaf species. There are two clay quarry sites and three rock quarry sites are proposed in the project, which also lies inside the forest area. There are 07 muck dumping sites proposed in the project, which are located near the edge of the river Chenab. All the muck dumping sites are located inside forest land. As all the muck dumping sites are located near the banks of the River Chenab, appropriate

engineering and biological measures are required to prevent erosion, siltation, and any adverse environmental impacts on the river ecology.

- xxx. The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), RO, Chandigarh, has stated that the proposed project is of great public utility and is located on Chenab river. The electricity to be generated from the project, will improve the power scenario in the region, and likely to strengthen the economic condition of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, the project will generate employment which will benefit the local population. Hence, the proposal is recommended with general and specific conditions for hydroelectric project along with the following conditions: -
- a) As Chilgoza is endemic to this region, and as per the tree enumeration list, this species is being lost in large number due to diversion of forest land, the Forest Department must ensure to prioritize this species for plantation at the proposed CA site.
 - b) Clarification from UT Government of J&K w.r.t some households and a road passing through 36.67 ha NFL CA area located in Kishtwar town just above Dulhasti HEP, Residential Colony. (J&K Government has informed that as per the report of District administration, Kishtwar dated 31.12.2025, the structure visible in the proposed CA site is house of local inhabitant and are situated along the boundary of the proposed CA site. It was suggested to exclude the portion containing the residential structure to avoid inclusion of inhabited areas and to include correspondingly available uninhabited area in same patch of land. Accordingly, this portion has been excluded and correspondingly available portion in same patch has been included. The updated kml of this NFL patch at Kishtwar of same area i.e. 36.67 ha has been uploaded in the proposal.)
 - c) The strict monitoring of implementation of CAT plan and Wildlife Mitigation Plan by higher authority.
- xxxi. The proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The Committee decided to 'defer' the proposal for want of Certain information. Accordingly, the Ministry vide EDS dated 05.04.2026 has requested Govt. of J&K to submit the information.
- xxxii. Regarding CIA/CCS study, the J&K Government has informed that MoEF&CC vide its OM dated 28.07.2025 (F. No. Z11012/11/2025-IA-I(RV)) has dispensed with the requirement of Cumulative Impact Assessment & Carrying Capacity Study (CIA & CCS) in respect of the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum river basins in view of strategic nature of three trans-boundary rivers and country's need to fully utilize its water resources.

- xxxiii. Regarding structural safety of the proposed dam, the J&K Government has informed that the clearance for the structural safety of the proposed dam of Kirthai II HEP has been accorded by CMDD (E&NE) Directorate, Central Water Commission, Dept. of Water Resources, RD&GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India, vide letter dtd. 13.03.2025.
- xxxiv. Regarding exploration of non-forest land involved in the project for muck disposal, it is informed that the feasibility of utilizing non-forest land involved in project for muck disposal has been explore and it has been found that out of 67.58 ha non forest land (NFL), 56.63 ha of NFL is part of reservoir, 2.95 ha is for quarry and 8.0 ha NFL is for residential colony development of the project. Therefore, none of the non-forest land involved in project is technically feasible/suitable/available for muck disposal.
- xxxv. J&K Government informed that muck dumping will be carried out in a scientific and controlled manner, with adequate retaining structures, proper terracing, and bio-engineering measures to prevent erosion siltation and any adverse impacts on the river ecology, to ensure long-term stabilization. All necessary mitigation measures as per applicable guidelines will be strictly implemented.
- xxxvi. Regarding CA scheme for plantation of Chilgoza, it is informed that Chilgoza (*Pinus gerardiana*), being an endemic and ecologically significant species of the region, has been duly considered within the framework of CA scheme. Further, plantation activities under the CA plan shall prioritize Chilgoza to the extent feasible, keeping in view site suitability, ecological requirements, availability of planting material.
- xxxvii. Regarding approval of clay quarries and rock quarries, it is informed that initial requirement of aggregates and stones shall be met with the materials coming out from the excavation of Head Race Tunnel and excavation of river bed for laying dam foundation. At the later stage of construction, quarrying shall be done at the proposed 02 clay quarries and 04 rock quarries to meet the requirement of aggregates and stones. The application for obtaining requisite approvals, for the quarrying permits & mining plan for all the identified quarry sites have been formally submitted to the Department of Geology & Mining, UT of J&K, and the same are presently under active consideration by the competent authority. It is hereby assured that all the clearance for quarrying the material shall be taken well in time, before start of mining the construction material for the construction of project and no quarrying or mining activity shall be taken prior to approvals from the Department of Geology & Mining, UT of J&K.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee recommended the proposal for grant of **'in-principle'** approval for diversion of 197.27 ha. of Forest land (Reserved Forest: 191.95 Ha and Others: 5.32 Ha) for construction of Kirthai- II Hydro Electric Project (820 MW) by Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL) on Chenab river within the jurisdiction of Kishtwar Forest Division, District- Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir subject to general, standard and following specific conditions: -

(i) The State Government has informed that applications for 02 clay quarries and 04 rock quarries are under process with the Department of Geology & Mining, UT of J&K. However, approval for quarrying and the Mining Plans have not yet been obtained. As per Para 7.2 (Point 5), Chapter 7 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, the approved Mining Plan is required to be submitted along with the compliance report of Stage-1 approval.

(ii) All the muck dumping sites are located near the banks of the River Chenab, the State Government will take appropriate engineering and biological measures to prevent erosion, siltation, and any adverse environmental impacts on the river ecology.

(iii) The project site is located within a high mountainous gorge along the river Chenab characterized by moderate to steep slopes. The User Agency (UA) needs to exercise special caution during project implementation, as activities such as rock cutting and earthwork may lead to soil erosion. To mitigate these impacts, the User Agency is required to take appropriate measures to prevent soil erosion.

(iv) The trees proposed to be felled in the project area would affect the ecosystem in general, especially in terms of increased run-off and soil erosion that may lead to landslides. Therefore, the State Government should take necessary mitigation measures and put in place necessary safety and monitoring measures.

(v) The State Government shall ensure implementation of the Site-Specific Wildlife and Biodiversity Management Plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.

(vi) The State Government shall ensure implementation of the duly approved CAT Plan at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.

Agenda No. 16

Proposal No: FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/540189/2025

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 82.029 ha Forest land for the construction of Chhindwara Irrigation Complex - Sangam Dam 1 in favour of Water Resource Department under Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State (Proposal No: FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/540189/2025)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained 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 letter No. एफ-3/45/856263/0056/4 dated 11.11.2025 (received on 18.11.2025) forwarded a fresh proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 82.029 ha Forest land for the construction of Chhindwara Irrigation Complex - Sangam Dam 1 in favour of Water Resource Department under Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State.
 - ii. Sangam Dam-I is proposed across the Kanhan River on the Kanhan Sub-Basin, and is situated at Saijukhapa Village in Junardeo Tehsil of Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh, with the objective of providing assured irrigation to 46 villages. The project will have a command area of 8,282.99 ha, supported by an independent catchment area of 122.00 sq. km, and a gross storage capacity of 31.77 MCM. The scheme is designed to supply irrigation water for a period of four months during the Rabi season, catering to the entire command area. In the region, Rabi crops are generally sown during October–November and harvested during April–May. The project is proposed to provide irrigation facilities only.
 - iii. The State Government informed that the Chhindwara Irrigation Complex is proposed in the Kanhan Sub-Basin to irrigate an area of 1,90,500 ha in

Chhindwara and Pandhurna districts. The scheme involves the construction of multiple dams/barrages/balancing reservoirs to store 651.33 MCM of water and to provide irrigation benefits to 628 villages. The other proposals of the Chhindwara Irrigation Complex include CIC Balancing Reservoir (Pandhurna Dam) (Proposal No. FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/458645/202; area: 136.724 ha; Stage-II approval granted on 25.11.2025), Sangam Dam-1 (subject proposal), Sangam Dam-2 (under preparation), and Ramghat Dam (under survey). The catchment and command areas of these dams are stated to be independent, allowing each to be developed as a separate project.

- iv. Out of the 82.029 ha of land proposed for diversion, 81.071 ha is revenue forest, 0.499 ha is reserved forest and 0.459 ha is protected forest.
- v. The canopy density of the land proposed for diversion is 0.3 to 0.4 of Eco Class III. Further, the State Govt. reported that 2425 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- vi. The State Govt. reported that the proposed area is neither a part of any protected area nor it falls in any notified Wildlife corridor. The proposed area is located at a distance of 48.51 km from Pench Tiger Reserve, 18.20 km from Satpura Tiger Reserve, and 2.30 km from the proposed Satpura–Pench corridor.
- vii. The land use for the instant proposal is as under:

Component	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
Dam Structure	12.193	41.281
Pump House & Approach Channel	0	3.277
Spillway	0.629	2.392
Pipeline	0.958	0
Approach Road	0	1.924
Submergence	68.249	393.618
Total	82.029	442.492

- viii. The State Government submitted that against the diversion of 82.029 ha of forest land, a total of 85.455 ha of revenue land has been identified for Compensatory Afforestation. The State Government stated that, in accordance with the provisions relating to CA over revenue forest land, only

7.855 ha (i.e., half of the 15.710 ha patch) of the "Bade Jhad Ka Jungle" land has been considered for afforestation, resulting in a total CA area of 85.455 ha.

- ix. Further, the Regional Office in its SIR stated that for Proposed CA area under this project, a total of 106.015 ha of non-forest land across 9 khasras has been made available. Out of this, 7 khasras totaling 93.31 ha have been designated for afforestation. In khasra 4/1/1, which comprises 15.710 ha of Revenue forest (Chhote Bade Jhad Ka Jungle), only half (7.855 ha) is considered for afforestation. Therefore, the net area available for afforestation in the 7 khasras is 85.455 ha
- x. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:
 "The proposal for diversion of 82.029 ha of forest land for the Chhindwara Irrigation Complex – Sangam Dam-I project under Jamai and Damua Forest Ranges of West Chhindwara Forest Division is site specific in view of the terrain gradient and the natural flow of drainage, which is proposed to be dammed for irrigation purpose. The CA is proposed in non-forest land, which are found suitable for afforestation. The proposal is recommended".
- xi. With regard to the encroachment over the land proposed for diversion, the State Government submitted that out of the total 82.029 ha forest land involved, only 0.958 ha is under the control of the Forest Department, comprising Compartment Nos. 477 (0.459 ha) and 476 (0.499 ha), while the remaining 81.071 ha is Revenue Forest Land. It was further stated that the agricultural land, kutchra roads and settlements visible in satellite imagery are temporary encroachments on Revenue Forest Land and that no FRA title holders exist in the area.
- xii. The State Govt. also furnished the following purpose wise 0.958 ha of forest land involved in the proposal:

Purpose of forest land involved in the project	Location	Forest Area in ha	Present Status
Proposed to establish an Under ground pipeline	PF-477	0.459	Free from encroachments
	PF-476	0.499	Mixed Plantation raised in the year 2017 (survival rate of

			74.70% as per 2022 monitoring).
xiii.	The State	Total	0.958

Govt. further submitted that mixed plantation over an area of 0.499 ha of forest land was raised in the year 2017 ((survival rate of 74.70% as per 2022 monitoring). In this regard, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking to compensate the damage.

- xiv. The State Government also reported that an existing PWD road passing through Compartment No. 476 was constructed prior to 1980 and is depicted in the Survey of India Toposheet; however, details of forest clearance for the road are not available. However, the State Govt. has not provided the details of the approvals granted for the existing road.
- xv. The State Government submitted that the State Dam Safety Authority has issued a No Objection Certificate vide letter dated 01.08.2025, stating that no specific concurrence from the National Dam Safety Authority is required.
- xvi. The State Govt. has recommended the proposal subject to the implementation of the Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan and CAT plan at the cost of the User Agency.
- xvii. The Committee observed that the Water resource Department vide its letter dated 17.04.2026 has furnished the Compliance report of the Stage-II approval dated 25.11.2025 for non-forestry use of 136.724 ha Forest land in favour of Water Resource Department, Chhindwara for the construction of CIC (Chhindwara Irrigation Complex Project) Balancing Reservoir (Pandhurna Dam) under Pandhurna District (Formally in Chhindwara District) of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/458645/2024). However, as requested, the compliance report has not been dully verified by the Regional Office Bhopal.
- xviii. The Committee further observed that the proposed area is located at a distance of 48.51 km from Pench Tiger Reserve, 18.20 km from Satpura Tiger Reserve, and 2.30 km from the proposed Satpura–Pench corridor. Accordingly, a duly approved Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be implemented by the State Govt.
- xix. The Committee further observed that the State Government further stated that the CA land has already been transferred to the Forest Department.
- xx. The Committee further observed that the State Govt. has recommended the proposal subject to the implementation of the Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan at the cost of the User Agency.

- xxi. The Committee further observed that the mixed plantation over an area of 0.499 ha of forest land was raised in the year 2017 ((survival rate of 74.70% as per 2022 monitoring). In this regard, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking to compensate the damage.
- xxii. The Committee also observed that the State Government also reported that an existing PWD road passing through Compartment No. 476 was constructed prior to 1980 and is depicted in the Survey of India Toposheet; however, details of forest clearance for the road are not available.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee recommended the proposal for '**Stage-I/In-principle**' approval for diversion of 82.029 ha forest land for the construction of Chhindwara Irrigation Complex - Sangam Dam 1 in favour of Water Resource Department under Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The State Forest Department shall implement the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP), approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.
 - ii. The State Govt. shall implement the soil and moisture conservation measures as per the approved scheme, at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.
 - iii. The State Government shall implement the Catchment Area Treatment Plan duly approved by the competent authority, at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.

Agenda No. 17

Proposal No: FP/MH/MIN/QRY/409811/2022

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 61.45 ha forest land for Manganese ore mining project in Survey No. 101, 102, 105 & 106 of Mauza Ramadongari at Village-Ramdongri, Tehsil- Saoner,

Nagpur District of Maharashtra State in favour of M/s Jayaswal Neco Industries Ltd. (Online No. FP/MH/MIN/QRY/409811/2022) – reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at 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-3423/CR-166/F-10 dated 20.07.2023 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 61.45 ha forest land for Manganese ore mining project at Village Ramdongri, Tehsil- Saoner, Nagpur District and the proposal has been received in the Ministry on 03.08.2023.
 - ii. The extant proposal for diversion of 61.45 ha was originally submitted by the same user agency on dated 20.11.2008 on the PARIVESH (Proposal No. FP/MH/MIN/4666/2008).
 - iii. The Ministry vide its letter No. J-11015/698/2007-IA.II(M) dated 05.02.2009 accorded the Environmental clearance within the Mine lease (ML) area of 61.45 ha for Manganese ore mining in favour M/s Jayaswals Neco Ltd. (present user agency). Moreover, in the said approval, Ministry noted that the Forest clearance for the extant proposal is under process but the approval under the VSESA, 1980 was not obtained by the user agency.
 - iv. This area (61.45 ha) was earlier excavated by Manganese Ore India Ltd. and later surrendered. The same was thrown open for mining purposes by Govt. of Maharashtra vide notification dated 14/06/2001 & 06/06/2001.
 - v. The area was notified for mining lease by the Govt. of Maharashtra on dated 29/08/2002. The Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India vide letter No 5/46/2004-M.IV dated 01.12.2006 conveyed approval under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for grant of mining lease over an area of 61.45 ha. Thereafter, Govt. of Maharashtra vide letter dated 24.01.2007 had issued a letter of intent (LoI) for grant of mining lease over an area of 61.45 ha.
 - vi. There are Manganese mines in the adjoining Private/ Govt. revenue lands. Now, the user agency has submitted the extant proposal for diversion of

- 61.45 ha Protected forest land on dated 12.12.2022 on the PARIVESH for obtaining approval under the FCA, 1980. The total forest area involved in the instant proposal is 61.45 Ha Protected Forest land.
- vii. The land proposal for diversion is having the canopy density of 0.4 to 0.5 of Eco Class III with 13553 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
 - viii. The State Govt. submitted that the proposal does not involves the Rehabilitation and Re-settlement.
 - ix. The PCCF (Wildlife) vide their letter dated 03.04.2025 has mentioned that the proposed project is located at 3.5 km. away from boundary of Eco Sensitive Zone and Buffer area of Pench Tiger Reserve and Mansinghdeo Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - x. As per the information available on the PARIVESH portal, the proposal does not forms part of the any protected area. The proposed area lies in a tiger corridor area based on telemetry studies and partly in the Eastern Vidarbha landscape identified by the Wildlife Institute of India.
 - xi. Earlier, during initial examination of the proposal, it was observed that the PCCF (WL) in their letter dated 10.05.2016 (S.No. 65 view document tab) informed that the SBWL in its 8th meeting held on dated 20.02.2014 rejected the extant proposal because the proposed area is important from the wildlife perspective and diversion of forest land will adversely affect the management of wildlife corridors and it was mentioned in the letter that the Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 15.01.2015 directed that the final decision should be taken by Central Government since the project is rejected by the State Board of Wildlife. Accordingly, the State Govt. was requested to provide Hon'ble NGT order dated 15.01.2015. In this context, the State Govt. has now clarified that the order of Hon'ble NGT dated 15.01.2015 (S.No. 103, view document tab on PARIVESH) mentioned in the PCCF (WL), Nagpur letter dated 10.05.2016 is not pertaining to the diversion of Ramdongri Mine. Only reference was taken by the wildlife department. This order is related to Kranti Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd Vs Revenue and Forest Department and other.
 - xii. The NTCA vide their O.M dt. 20.05.2025 has submitted their comments that as per report of the PCCF and HoFF, Maharashtra, the proposed area lies in a tiger corridor based on telemetry studies and partly in the Eastern Vidarbha landscape. The State has clearly remarked in its letter that final approval shall be granted after wildlife clearance as per provisions of Section 38 0 (1)(g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The said proposal was further analyzed vis-a-vis corridors identified as part of the statutory Tiger Conservation Plan of the Pench Tiger Reserve, mandated under Section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, provided by the State, wherein

too the said project area is part of the tiger corridor. Hence, the instant proposal shall require wildlife clearance as per Section 5C, clause (2), proviso (c) r/w section 38 (1)(g) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

- xiii. The PCCF (WL)/ CWLW vide their letter No. Desk23(2)/WL/Survey/C.No.237/54 /24-25, dated 03.04.2025 submitted its comments with specific recommendation regarding Ramdongri forest diversion proposal which are as under:
- a. As per para 3 of the Government of India, MoEF&CC (Wildlife Division), New Delhi vide letter no. F. No. WL6/14/2023 WL dated 18.03.2024, the proposal requiring recommendation / approvals of the SCNBWL and forest clearance under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be placed for consideration on the SCNBWL, only after receipt of forest clearance. In view of this, proposal can be approved for forest clearance for grant of 'in-principle' approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - b. The final approval will be granted after wildlife clearance by SCNBWL as per section 38-O (1) (g) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- xiv. The State Government submitted that some parts of the lease area is hilly. Accordingly, the concerned DFO has recommended the proposal with Soil and Moisture Conservation Measures.
- xv. The Lol for the instant proposal has been accorded vide letter dated 21.01.2007 subject to terms and conditions like environmental clearance, forest department clearance and mining plan approval within six months. However, the Industry, Energy, Labour and Mining Department, Govt of Maharashtra vide its letter dated 23.08.2024 informed that the Lol for the instant proposal is still valid.
- xvi. The Mining Plan has been approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines vide letter dated 26.04.2007. The State Govt. submitted that the mining plan approved in the year 2007 is valid as on date, as the lease has not been executed. The modification of mining plan if needed, it will be made with technological advancement and shall be submitted to IBM for approval and mining operation will be carried out as per approved mining plan.
- xvii. The land use for the instant proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha)	Non forest land (ha)
i.	Mining	55.60	0

ii.	Ore Storage and Mine Infrastructure	3.24	0
iii.	Road	0.3	0
iv.	Safety Zone	2.31	0
	Total	61.45	0

- xviii. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed on the Non-Forest Land in nine (9) patches comprising 61.45 ha area in Yavatmal District of Maharashtra State.
- xix. The proposed area was earlier inspected by National Tiger Conservation Authority and recommended the project vide their letter F. NO. 7512017-NTCA dated 13.07.2017 with subject to the strict adherence to the following mitigation strategies:
- a) All conditions laid down by Indian Mining Bureau, MoEF&CC, Maharashtra Forest Department, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board shall be complied with to make mining operation less detrimental to the Forest & Wildlife.
 - b) The Environment Management plan (Part of the mining Plan) should be strictly complied with. Reclamation should be done by backfilling and supplementing /assisting the native vegetation rather than rehabilitation by creating reservoir.
 - c) 5% of the Project cost and the CSR funding shall be made available to Pench Tiger Foundation for conservation works.
 - d) The concerned Forest authorities shall ensure compliance of the above mentioned conditions
- xx. Thereafter, the proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 28.11.2024 and the committee deferred the proposal for the want of the following additional information from the State Government:
- a) The NTCA has submitted their recommendation on the proposal in the year 2017 and since then the land use along with other regional factors/ dimensions in the adjoining forest land proposed for diversion have been changed. Therefore, fresh comments of the NTCA shall be sought by the Ministry in the matter.
 - b) The State Government reported that, there is no wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion whereas the proposal has been recommended by the State with a specific condition that the wildlife clearance needs to be obtained as the proposed forest land is part of Tiger Corridor as per Telemetry

- Corridors. Therefore, the comment of the CWLW, Govt. of Maharashtra shall be submitted along with specific recommendations.
- c) The NOC for Nallah/ Tributary diversion from the Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra shall be submitted.
 - d) The DDGF, Regional office, Nagpur shall submit his specific recommendation on the proposal.
 - e) The state shall ensure the validity of the lease in view of the provisions of the Section 10A(2)(c) of the amended MMDR Act,2015.
- xxi. The NTCA vide their O.M dt. 20.05.2025 has submitted their comments wherein it has been reported that as per report of the PCCF and HoFF, Maharashtra, the proposed area lies in a tiger corridor area based on telemetry studies and partly in the Eastern Vidarbha landscape identified by the Wildlife Institute of India. The State has clearly remarked in its letter that final approval shall be granted after wildlife clearance as per provisions of Section 38 O (1)(g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The said proposal was further analyzed vis-a-vis corridors identified as part of the statutory Tiger Conservation Plan of the Pench Tiger Reserve, mandated under Section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, provided by the State, wherein the said project area is part of the tiger corridor. Hence, the instant proposal shall require wildlife clearance as per Section 5C, clause (2), proviso (c) r/w section 38 (1)(g) of the Wildlife Protection) Act, 1972.
- xxii. The State Govt. submitted its comments with specific recommendation regarding Ramdongri forest diversion proposal which is as under:
- a. As per para 3 of the Government of India, MoEF&CC (Wildlife Division), New Delhi vide letter no. F. No. WL-6/14/2023 WL dated 18.03.2024, the proposal requiring recommendation / approvals of the SCNBWL and forest clearance under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 shall be placed for consideration on the SCNBWL, only after receipt of forest clearance. In view of this, the proposal can be approved for forest clearance for grant of 'in-principle' approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
 - b. The final approval will be granted after wildlife clearance by SCNBWL as per section 38-O (1) (g) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- xxiii. The Industry, Energy, Labour and Mining Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya Mumbai vide their letter No. MMN-1004/C.R.653/Ind-9 (A) dated 23.08.2024 informed that the M/s. Balaji Electro Smelters Pvt. Ltd, filed petition in the Hon'ble High Court Bombay,

Bench Nagpur, against the Government of Maharashtra's letter dated 13/08/2004 sent to the Central Government under Section 5(1) of the MMDR Act for obtaining prior permission for allotment of the subject mining area to M/s. Jaiswal Neco Industries Ltd.

- xxiv. In the said W.P.No.5078/2007 filed in the Hon'ble High Court, Nagpur Bench, the Hon'ble High Court Bombay, Bench Nagpur in its order dated 02/11/2007 directed "All other process, may proceed, however, execution of the mining lease shall not be done until further orders.". Similarly, in the order dated 06/01/2017, directed "However, our attention is drawn to the interim orders passed by this Court on 02/11/2007. By that order, this Court has permitted all other steps to be taken except execution of mining lease and directed that lease shall not be executed until further orders. In view of these specific directions, it is apparent that the amendments which have come into force subsequently cannot operate to the prejudice of respondent no.3".
- xxv. In this matter Hon'ble High Court on dated 17/11/2022 passed the following order. "We may only refer to the order dated 02/11/2007 by which this Court had directed that execution of mining lease in favour of respondent No.3 shall not be executed until further orders while granting liberty to complete statutory process. In view of withdrawal of the writ petition, the respondent Nos. 1 and 2 are free to proceed further in the matter. It may also be noted that on 06/01/2017 after hearing the learned counsel for the parties this Court had clarified that the amendment to the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act. 1957 which came into effect in the year 2015 would not operate to the prejudice of respondent No.3" and the petition disposed by Hon'ble High Court. In this context it is to mention that, out of the permissions to be obtained by the Company, which were mentioned in the Letter of Intent, only NOC from the Forest Department of the Central Government is yet to be obtained.
- xxvi. In view of the above context, as per the order passed in Writ Petition No.5078/2007 dated 06/01/2017 and dated 17/11/2022, the Mining Department, Govt. of Maharashtra has obtained the opinion of Law and Judiciary Department on the matter whether the Letter of Intent is still valid or not. After examining the case in detail, it is to convey you that the Letter of Intent issued by the State Govt. is still valid. Therefore, you are requested to submit the required clearances i.e. Forest Clearance to the State Govt. so that further process the matter for issuance of Mining Lease for Manganese Ore block.
- xxvii. The State Government has affirmed the validity of the Letter of Intent (LoI). Further, the Rule 11(7) provides that the State has to ensure the

compliance of all other Acts and Rules before issuing the order for diversion. Moreover, the process of prior approval for diversion of forestland is an independent process and it is incumbent upon the State to ensure the compliance of all other Acts/Rules including the MMDR Act as applicable. The non-compliance if any is to be appropriately dealt as per the provisions of concerned Acts/Rules.

xxviii. Thereafter, the proposal was again considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 26.5.2025 wherein the Committee '*deferred*' the proposal for want of following information:-

- a) The component wise breakup as per the KML file submitted with the proposal, the mining plan and the proposal submitted by the user agency is at variance, which needs justification.
- b) A part of the proposed for CA, namely Village Jambhulni 79 (Part) is falling in the Reserved forest compartment no 413 as per DSS analysis, with regard to which it has been informed that the land is actually private land adjoining to the forest boundary. In this regard, the Nodal Officer shall examine the matter and certify that the area proposed for CA is outside the boundary of the forest.
- c) A nallah is passing through the proposed area for which the state had initially informed that various conservation and protection measures will be taken by the user agency for rejuvenation of this nallah, whereas now it has been informed that the Nallah will be diverted. The state needs to clearly state whether the Nallah is being retained or it is required to be diverted

xxix. In compliance of the Advisory Committee's observations, the State Govt. furnished the KML files and also informed that the Water Resource Department, Nagpur already given their No Objection Certificate for Nallah passing through the proposed lease area vide their letter dated 01.01.2025.

xxx. The proposal was again considered in the AC meeting held on 30.07.2025 and the Committee observed that in another proposal pertaining to the state of Maharashtra, the matter regarding the validity of the Letter of Intent (LoI) issued before 2015 was examined by the Ministry of Mines wherein it has been mentioned that the LoI has become void and infructuous in view of the provisions of Section 10A(2)(c) of the amended MMDR Act, 2015. Keeping the same in view, it would be prudent to seek the opinion of the Ministry of Mines in this case as well. Accordingly, the committee deferred the proposal for the want of the following:

- a) In view of the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 the validity of the Letter of Intent (LoI) requires detailed examination. Accordingly, the State

Govt. shall furnish all relevant details, including the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, to the Ministry of Mines and seek their comments/opinion on the validity of the Lol.

- xxxii. Accordingly, this Ministry vide letter dated 14.08.2025 has requested the Ministry of Mines to furnish the comments/opinion on the validity of the Lol in view of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, to the Ministry of Mines and seek their comments/opinion on the validity of the Lol.
- xxxiii. The Ministry of Mines vide its letter dated 24.04.2026 has reiterated the following information to the Ministry:

“The matter has been examined in the Ministry and it is observed that the instant case fall under section 10 A 2 (c) and lease was required to have been executed and registered before 11.01.2017. However, much before the amendment in MMDR Act in 2015, the Hon'ble Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench in W.P. No. 5078 of 2007 on 02.11.2007 ordered that “ *All other process, may proceed, however, execution of the mining lease shall not be done until further orders.*” Further, vide order dated 06.01.2017 and 17.11.2022 in W.P. No. 5078 of 2007 the Hon'ble Court has directed that the amendment to the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 which came into effect in the year 2015 would not operate to the prejudice of respondent No.3 (M/s Jayaswal Neco Industries Ltd.)”

- xxxiii. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:
This area was earlier excavated by Manganese Ore India Ltd. and later surrendered. The same was declared open for mining purposes by Govt. of Maharashtra vide notification dated 1410612001 & 0610612001.
The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over non-forest land measuring 6l .45 ha. The Government of Maharashtra vide letter No. MMN-1004/C.R. 653/Ind-9(A) dated 3111012023 has sought forest clearances referring to the High Court's Order dated 17/II/2022.
- xxxiv. The Committee observed that the NTCA vide their letter No F.No.1-4/99-PT dated 20.05.2025 informed that as per report of the PCCF and HoFF, Maharashtra, the proposed area lies in a tiger corridor area based on telemetry studies and partly in the Eastern Vidarbha landscape identified based on a scientific study. The State has clearly remarked in its letter that final approval shall be granted after wildlife clearance as per provisions of Section 38 O (1)(g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The said proposal was further analyzed vis-a-vis corridors identified as part of the statutory Tiger Conservation Plan of the Pench Tiger Reserve, mandated under

Section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, provided by the State, wherein too the said project area is part of the tiger corridor. Hence, the instant proposal shall require wildlife clearance as per Section 5C, clause (2), proviso (c) r/w section 38 O (1)(g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- xxxv. The Committee further observed that MoEF&CC has notified the ESZ proposal of Pench National Park and Mansinghdeo Wildlife Sanctuary vide notification dated 13.09.2017. According to the above notification proposed mining area is falling outside the ESZ.
- xxxvi. The Committee further observed that the Industry, Energy, Labour and Mining Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai vide their letter No. MMN-1004/C.R.653/Ind-9 (A) dated 23.08.2024 informed that the Lol for the instant proposal is still valid.
- xxxvii. The Committee further observed that there is small seasonal nallah passing through the middle of the forest land proposed for diversion. The Water Recourse Department, Nagpur vide their letter No. 02/Chisha/Na-Harkat /2024 dated 01.01.2025 has furnished the NOC in the matter.
- xxxviii. The Committee also observed that the State Govt. submitted that the Mining Plan has been approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines vide letter dated 26.04.2007 and the same is valid as on date, as the lease has not been executed. The modification of mining plan, if needed, it will be made with technological advancement and shall be submitted to IBM for approval and mining operation will be carried out as per approved mining plan.
- xxxix. The Committee observed that, as per the land use plan uploaded on the PARIVESH portal and duly authenticated by the Conservator of Forests, a total of 59.14 ha has been proposed for mining-related activities, comprising 55.60 ha for mining, 3.24 ha for ore storage, and 0.30 ha for road, along with 2.31 ha earmarked as a safety zone. However, the approved Mining Plan for the initial five-year period provides component-wise details for only 19.6125 ha.
- xl. The Committee also observed that the details with respect to the end land use plan of the Mine and mine reclamation plan is not available in the Mining plan approved in the year 2007.
- xli. Committee further observed that the Nodal Officer, Maharashtra, during the meeting, presented a letter dated 08.06.2026 stating that Writ Petition No. 5078 of 2007 before the Hon'ble Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench, had been disposed of vide order dated 17.11.2022. Pursuant to the said order, the Government of Maharashtra, vide letter dated 03.11.2023, directed the User Agency to obtain forest clearance for further processing of the proposal. Subsequently, the Government of Maharashtra, vide letter dated 23.08.2024, informed the User Agency that the Letter of Intent issued by

the State Government continues to remain valid and requested submission of the forest clearance proposal for further processing and issuance of the mining lease for the manganese ore block.

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 proposal for '**Stage-1/In-principle**' approval for the diversion of 61.45 ha forest land for Manganese ore mining project in Survey No. 101, 102, 105 & 106 of Mauza Ramadongari at Village-Ramdongri, Tehsil- Saoner, Nagpur District of Maharashtra State in favour of M/s Jayaswal Neco Industries Ltd. with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The State Government shall ensure that approval of SCNBWL is taken before final approval in matter, if applicable.
 - ii. This In-Principle Approval shall be subject to the outcome of any pending court cases or legal proceedings, if any, pertaining to the said area. The State Government shall take all necessary measures and ensure compliance in this regard.

Agenda No. 18

Proposal No: FP/MH/MIN/QRY/550969/2025

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 66.6314 ha. (originally proposed for 90.9483 ha) of forest land for Quarry of Vadhavan Port, Road & Railway Project with existing road widening by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority at Village Gargaon, Khaniwade, Sumadi, Hanuman Nagar & Vanai, Tal. Palghar & Dahanu, Dist. Palghar in the State Maharashtra- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at 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 FLD-12A26/C.R.25/F-10 dated 24.02.2026 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 90.9483 ha. (revised to 66.6314 ha) of forest land for Quarry of Vadhavan Port, Road & Railway Project with existing road widening by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority at Village Gargaon, Khaniwade, Sumadi, Hanuman Nagar & Vanai, Tal. Palghar & Dahanu, Dist. Palghar in the State Maharashtra.
 - ii. The Vadhvan Port Project is a proposed major deep-draft port to be developed at Vadhvan, Dahanu Taluka, Palghar District, Maharashtra. The port is being developed under the Sagarmala Programme to address growing maritime trade requirements, decongest existing ports, and enhance India's role in global shipping and logistics. The project has been accorded "National Importance" status, as it is expected to play a pivotal role in India's international connectivity, transshipment hub development, and integration with the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), jointly with the Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB), is developing the greenfield deep-draft Vadhvan Port Project in Dahanu, Palghar District.
 - iii. To construct the port, road and railway line, the User Agency requires a large quantity of stone/boulders of specific quality. To meet this requirement, the User Agency examined the availability of raw materials around the project site. Upon examination, no suitable quarry site was found in the nearby area.
 - iv. The Collector, Palghar vide his letter dated 29.05.2025 granted the preliminary No Objection Certificate for the instant proposal as per the Rule 18 (1) of the chapter 2 of the Maharashtra Minor Mineral Extraction (Development & Regulation) Rules, 2013, subject to the conditions prescribed therein.
 - v. Further, the District Collector Palghar vide letter dated 20.01.2026 issued a provisional letter of intent for the subject proposal under rule 9 (1) (c) of the Maharashtra Minor Mineral (Extraction & Regulation) Rules, 2013.
 - vi. Accordingly, the District Mining Officer Palghar vide its letter dated 20.01.2026 addressed to the User Agency submitted that the proposal for Approval of Mining Plan is under the jurisdiction of Deputy Director, Directorate of Geology & Mines, Kolhapur for consideration of your proposal

based on 'Provisional Letter of Intent (LoI)" issued by Hon. Collector Palghar for leasing of Land wide office letter dated 20.01.2026. It is also mentioned herewith that the Land Lease will be allotted based on the provision of Gazette Notification issued by the Revenue & Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra dated 30th June 2018. Wherein there is provision of allotment without public auction accordingly Government of Maharashtra will allot/ lease the subject land as request by JNPA on nomination basis.

- vii. Initially, the State Government submitted the proposal for diversion of 90.9483 ha of forest land, thereafter, the Regional Office during its SIR observed that the 25 ha of the road alignment under Proposal No. FP/MH/ROAD/522830/2025 overlaps with the forest area proposed for diversion. Accordingly, the State Govt. has revised the proposal to 66.6314 ha of forest land for Quarry of Vadhavan Port, Road & Railway Project with existing road widening by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority at Village Gargaon, Khaniwade, Sumadi, Hanuman Nagar & Vanai, Tal. Palghar & Dahanu, Dist. Palghar in the State Maharashtra. The land proposed for has vegetation density of 0.8 of Eco Class II and 40151 number of trees are proposed to be felled. Against the 66.6314 ha of land proposed for diversion, the State Govt. has proposed the CA land over an area of 76.61 ha of non-forest land in five patches. The State Govt. further, vide its letter dated 02.06.2026 submitted that out of 76.61 ha, the scheme for the CA land is for 70.0 ha.
- viii. As per the information submitted by the State Govt. on the PARIVEH portal, the proposal for diversion of 66.6341 ha (Reserved Forest: 63.9715 ha, Private Forest: 0.1649 ha and Protected forest: 2.495 ha) having the canopy density of the 0.8 of Eco Class II.
- ix. The State Govt. further submitted that the 40151 number of trees are proposed to be felled in the instant proposal.
- x. The DCF, Dahanu has submitted a certificate on the PARIVESH portal that the land proposed for diversion is 36.7306 km away from the boundary of the nearest Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary and 33.496 km from ESZ of Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- xi. Further, the DFO in Part II mentioned that the fauna recorded includes mammals such as leopards, Wild Boar, Bonnet Macaque, Striped Hyena, and Jungle Cat; birds such as Rose-ringed Parakeet, Indian Koel, Spotted Owl, Kingfishers, Common Myna, and Red-vented Bulbul; and reptiles including Indian Chameleon, Indian Monitor Lizard, Indian Rock Python, Russell's Viper, and Rat Snake. The project area form part of the natural

habitat and movement zone of wildlife, increasing the likelihood of disturbance and potential human–wildlife conflict.

- xii. The PCCF (WL) vide its letter dated 13.04.2026 has recommended the Wildlife Conservation Plan for the 90.9483 ha of land (earlier proposed for diversion, now revised to 66.6314 ha) with a financial outlay of ₹113,145,578/-.
- xiii. The proposed area for diversion has undulated/hilly terrain with good canopy density. Accordingly, the concerned DFO and the regional Office of the Ministry has recommended to implement adequate Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) measures in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.
- xiv. The State Govt. reported that the proposed forest area for diversion does not involve displacement.
- xv. The land use for the instant proposal is as under:

Component	Forest (as per proposal)	Forest (as per KML file)	Non forest land (as per proposal)	Non forest land (as per KML)
Existing Road for widening	7.8443	7.827	6.3136	5.748
Quarry patches	57.5115	57.632	0	0
Approach Road	1.2756	1.011	0	0
Total	66.6314	66.47	6.3136	5.748

- xvi. Further, the State Government furnished the KML files for the following component within the quarry patches:

Quarries	Safety Zone within Quarry (Ha)	Infrastructure within the Quarry (Ha)	Actual Quarry Area
Quarry-I	1.45	2.86	12.788
Quarry-II	1.93	2.53	20.425
Quarry-III	0.44	0.20	0.574

Quarry-IV	0.52	2.52	10.132
Total	5.34	8.11	43.919

- xvii. Earlier, the User Agency identified non-forest land measuring 100.19 ha land for the CA purpose. Thereafter, consequent to reduction in the area proposed for diversion, now, the State Government has proposed the CA land over an area of 76.61 ha of non-forest land in five patches (out of the originally proposed 100.19 ha of non-forest land). The State Govt. further, vide its letter dated 02.06.2026 submitted that out of 76.61 ha, the scheme for the CA land is for 70.0 ha. However, the CA scheme for 70 ha is not found uploaded on the portal.
- xviii. The State Government submitted that Patch No. 3 measuring 25 ha has been excluded from the proposal due to its overlap with the road alignment under Proposal No. FP/MH/ROAD/522830/2025. Consequently, the total forest land requirement has been reduced from 90.94 ha to 66.6314 ha.
- xix. The State Govt. has furnished the component wise breakup of the 66.6314 ha of the land proposed for diversion comprising the following components: Existing Road for widening: 7.8443, Quarry Patches: 57.5115 ha and approach road: 1.2756. However, as per the information available on the PARIVESH portal, the State Govt. has furnished the approval copy of the Mining plan for patches comprising the area of 15.39 ha, 1.72 ha, 24.94 ha and 17.08 ha (Total: 59.13 ha).
- xx. With regard to the temporary dumping over the 11 ha area inside the land proposed for diversion, the State Government clarified that no forest land shall be used for permanent external or internal overburden dumping. It was stated that the referenced 11 ha area is intended only for temporary stacking of materials and topsoil, which will be utilized in a phased manner during the mining period and subsequently restored or shifted in accordance with the progressive mine closure plan.
- xxi. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:

Considering the site specificity and importance of the project, and the recommendation of the State Government, the proposal is recommended for approval for diversion of 65.94 ha of forest land, as against 90.94 ha originally proposed, for quarry purposes for the construction of the Vadhavan Port, Road and Railway Project at Village – Gargaon and Khaniwde, along with allied activities as detailed in the subject.

The reduction of 25 ha is based on the submission of the User Agency vide letter No. JNP/PPD/8 Lane Road/2026 dated 07 March 2026 addressed to NHAI in connection with its forest diversion proposal No. FP/MH/ROAD/22830/2025. The same was communicated to the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur vide NHAI letter No. JNP/PPD/8 Lane Road/2026/1403 dated 12 March 2026, and the proposal was approved by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC), Regional Office on 16.03.2026.

The recommendation is subject to following conditions:

- a) The State Forest Department shall submit a revised enumeration list of trees for 65.94 ha in place of 90.94 ha. Tree felling shall be carried out in a phased manner under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- b) The User Agency shall obtain all statutory approvals under the relevant Acts, Rules, and Regulations.
- c) As the area comprises undulating terrain, appropriate Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) measures shall be undertaken in consultation with the State Forest Department.
- d) Plantation shall be carried out, wherever feasible, within the diverted area and along both sides of the road to minimise ecological impacts.
- e) A 7.5 metre safety zone shall be maintained along the mining area within the diverted forest land. The User Agency shall provide funds for plantation and maintenance in degraded forest land covering an area not less than one and a half times the safety zone area. The State Government shall upload relevant KML files, scheme details, and maps on the e-Green Watch Portal.
- f) Site-specific wildlife mitigation measures shall be implemented in consultation with the Forest Department at the project cost.
- g) The excess non-forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) may be adjusted against future proposals of JNPT, if required.
- h) Revised maps, KML files, and related documents for the reduced area of 65.94 ha shall be uploaded on the PARIVESH Portal in consultation with the Forest Department.
- i) Dumping of material shall be restricted to designated locations. Proper gradient and precautionary measures shall be ensured to avoid impacts on nearby habitats, particularly during blasting operations.

- xxii. The Committee observed that the State Govt. has furnished the Mining plan for patches comprising the area of 15.39 ha, 1.72 ha, 24.94 ha and 17.08 ha (Total: 59.13 ha). The Mining plans has been approved by the Director, Directorate, Geology and Mines Department vide letter dated 09.02.2026. Further, as per the component wise breakup furnished by the State Government, the mining area has been mentioned as 57.5115 ha only.
- xxiii. The Committee observed that the State Govt. has not furnished the tree enumeration details of the revised area proposed for diversion.
- xxiv. The Committee further observed that the State Govt. has furnished the approval copy dated 09.02.2026 of the Mining plan for patches comprising the area of 15.39 ha, 1.72 ha, 24.94 ha and 17.08 ha (Total: 59.13 ha). However, as per the component wise breakup furnished by the State Government 57.5115 ha of land shall be used for the mining.
- xxv. The Committee further observed that State Government has proposed the CA land over an area of 76.61 ha of non-forest land in five patches (out of the originally proposed 100.19 ha of non-forest land). The State Govt. further, vide its letter dated 02.06.2026 submitted that out of 76.61 ha, the scheme for the CA land is for 70.0 ha. However, the CA scheme for 70 ha is not found uploaded on the portal.
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 proposal for 'Stage-1/In-principle' approval for diversion of 66.6314 ha. (originally proposed for 90.9483 ha) of forest land for Quarry of Vadhavan Port, Road & Railway Project with existing road widening by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority at Village Gargaon, Khaniwade, Sumadi, Hanuman Nagar & Vanai, Tal. Palghar & Dahanu, Dist. Palghar in the State Maharashtra, subject to the following conditions.
- i. The State Government shall furnish the detailed tree enumeration records corresponding to the revised forest land area of 66.6314 ha proposed for diversion.

Agenda No. 19

Proposal No: FP/OR/MIN/QRY/539291/2025

Subject: Proposal seeking prior approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 96.127 ha of

forest land for Balabhadra Open Cast mining under Angul Forest Division in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfield Limited. (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/539291/2025)-reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained 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 State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0003-2026-1294/FE&CC dated 15.01.2026 submitted above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - ii. Balabhadra Opencast Project (OCP) is situated in the south-central part of the Talcher Coalfield, encompassing five villages-Kumunda, Chitalpur, Maradahariharpur, Parabeda, and Banabaspur-under Talcher Tahasil in Angul district of Odisha. This is a Coal India Limited Block under command area of Mahananda Coalfields Limited.
 - iii. The Ministry of Coal, vide Notification S.O. 2009(E) dated 17.05.2024 issued under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957, has allocated the Balabhadra Coal Block measuring 1679.82 ha to Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). However, the mining area proposed under the instant proposal is 514.48 ha. It has been submitted that, in the first phase, an area of 514.48 ha has been considered, and the mining plan for Balabhadra OCP has been approved accordingly. The project report for the remaining area of the coal block is presently under finalization. The coal excavation will be carried out using a surface miner, while the overburden (OB) overlying the coal seams will be removed through controlled blasting.
 - iv. The State Govt. informed that the coal will be transported from the seams to the Truck Receiving Hoppers (TRHs) by rear dumpers operating along the coal benches. During the initial two years, the extracted coal will be transported to the nearby railway siding at Balram, located approximately 6-7 km from the Balabhadra OCP, through covered trucks using existing public road & dedicated coal corridor. Thereafter, coal transportation will be

carried out from the mine loading point to the railway loading point through a pipe conveyor belt system.

- v. The pipe conveyor belt will be constructed along the adjoining series of coal blocks of MCL in the south-eastern direction, and no additional forest land diversion is required for this component of the project. The alignment/route of the pipe conveyor belt is presently under finalization. However, for this purpose, change in land use of already diverted forest land in favour of MCL may be required at a later stage. Such requirements, if any, shall be addressed separately and are not part of the present proposal.
- vi. The power supply to the project is proposed from the existing 120 MVA, 132/33 kV Central Substation of MCL at Nandira, located at an aerial distance of approximately 10-11 km from the mine boundary. It was further informed that the proposed transmission line for power supply will pass through the adjoining mining areas of MCL, and no additional forest land diversion is required for this purpose.
- vii. The project is proposed is a greenfield opencast mining venture over a total lease area of 514.48 hectares, which includes 96.127 hectares of forest land. As per the approved Mining Plan, the project envisages a targeted coal production capacity of 10 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) from the fifth year onwards. The estimated net geological reserve within the leasehold is 269.393 million tonnes.
- viii. The land proposed for diversion of 96.127 ha (DLC forest- 41.3391 ha and Revenue forest- 54.7879 ha (Sabik Forest: 53.9826 ha and Hal Forest: 0.8053 ha) is having the canopy density of 0.4 of Eco Class I with 26126 number of trees proposed to be felled.
- ix. The State Govt. submitted that the forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Elephant Corridors, Tiger Reserve etc. It was also reported that the proposed forest area does not come under eco-sensitive zone of any protected area.
- x. The State Govt. further submitted that Wild animals such as elephants, sloth bear, leopard, wild boar, barking deer, langur, and jackal are found in and around the land proposed for diversion. Accordingly, the State Government recommended the proposal with preparation and implementation of the Regional Wildlife Management Plan for the entire project area, as well as to meet the cost of the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) at the cost of the User Agency.
- xi. The DFO in Part II submitted that the applied area to be diverted is mainly prone to sheet erosion and at some places gully erosion. Accordingly, the State Govt. recommended the proposal with implementation of the Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan at the cost of the User Agency.

- xii. The proposal involves displacement of 1,256 families spread across five villages. The number of Project Affected Families (PAFs) has been assessed based on the 2011 Census; however, the actual number is likely to be higher. It has been informed that all affected families will be resettled and rehabilitated in a socially, culturally, and economically sustainable manner in accordance with the latest Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Policy of the Government of Odisha.
- xiii. The State Government and the Regional Office reported that no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 has been committed by the User Agency. However, certain revenue forest plots within the proposed area are found to be encroached upon by local inhabitants. Encroachments for residential purposes have been observed at Village Banabaspur (Plot No. 648), Village Chitalpur (Plot No.632/1363), Village Kumunda (Plot No.5397) and Village Maradahariharpur (Plot Nos. 455(P) and 629).
- xiv. Additionally, agricultural encroachments have been identified at Village Chitalpur (Plot No. 1060) and Village Kumunda (Plot No. 5707). It has also been observed that a portion of the Kosala Road has been constructed over the proposed Maradahariharpur (Plot No. 455(P)). revenue forest land in Village Maradahariharpur (Plot No. 455(P)).
- xv. The State Govt. with reference to the presence of the settlements, kachha roads, cultivated land, and water bodies clarified that no project activity has been undertaken within the 514.48 ha mining lease area and that the User Agency has no role in the existence of such features. It was further stated that all affected inhabitants will be rehabilitated in accordance with the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 and the Odisha R&R Policy, 2006. Based on drone survey findings, no work has been carried out within the lease area.
- xvi. The land use for the instant proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Land use proposed in Forest Diversion Proposal (Ha)			Land use in the Approved Mining Plan (Ha)
		Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-Forest Land (ha)	Total (ha)	
1	Excavation Area	79.04	324.05	403.09	403.09
2	Safety Zone	1.923	5.826	7.749	7.75
3	Nala/River	4.345	19.655	24	24

4	Road & infrastructure area	9.497	53.373	62.87	62.87
5	Garland drains	0.194	1.526	1.72	1.72
6	Embankment	0.783	10.278	11.061	11.06
7	Green Belt	0.345	3.645	3.99	3.99
Total Lease area				514.48	514.48

- xvii. The State Government submitted that the Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan of Balabhadra OCP (10 MTPA) were approved by the MCL Board vide letter dated 09.10.2024, in accordance with the Ministry of Coal guidelines dated 29.05.2024.
- xviii. The State Government has identified suitable land for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) in two components. Against diversion of 49.972 hectares of forest land, an equivalent extent of 49.972 hectares of Government non-forest land has been proposed in three patches under Boudh Tahasil of Boudh Forest Division. For the remaining 46.155 hectares of forest land, the State Government has proposed 92.898 hectares of degraded Revenue Forest land, which is double the extent of the forest land proposed for diversion, in accordance with prevailing guidelines.
- xix. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a) The Singada Jhor stream, flowing along the eastern and southern boundary of the coal block, shall remain undisturbed throughout the life of the mine, and its natural course shall not be diverted without the approval of the Competent authority. An adequate safety zone shall be maintained along its banks, with protective plantation to be undertaken at the cost of the User Agency. Further, the proposed 4.345 ha of forest land earlier earmarked for nala diversion at a later stage shall be retained and maintained as a green area within the project boundary.
 - b) In view of the 2,477.855 ha of forest land already diverted to MCL under various mines in the Talcher Coalfield during 1990-2025, MCL shall submit a comprehensive, time-bound layout plan for reclamation and surrender of exhausted forest land to the Forest

- Department prior to issuance of final approval under the present proposal.
- c) Tree felling shall be carried out strictly in a phased manner, only to the minimum extent necessary, under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Suitable species shall be transplanted wherever feasible.
 - d) The Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP), as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, shall be implemented by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency.
 - e) The Compensatory Afforestation site shall be made free from all encroachments prior to commencement of plantation activities and shall be adequately fenced to prevent unauthorised access and future encroachments.
 - f) The User Agency shall submit a plan for concurrent and progressive reclamation, including a restoration schedule and timeline for surrender of forest land, as required under Standard Condition 2(1).
 - g) Crop improvement and assisted natural regeneration measures, wherever applicable in the identified Compensatory Afforestation land, shall be undertaken in accordance with Rule 13 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, at the cost of the User Agency.
 - h) Adequate soil and moisture conservation, drainage management, and slope stabilisation measures shall be implemented to prevent erosion, siltation, and adverse impacts on the local drainage system.
- xx. The State Government submitted that, as per field verification by the DFO, Boudh Forest Division, no plantation activity has been carried out in the proposed CA sites. It was explained that pits observed at the sites were dug under an MGNREGS plantation scheme; however, the plantation work could not be executed and the sites were abandoned during the COVID-19 period. The State Government further clarified that no plantation activities have been undertaken by the Forest Department, nor has the department been involved in the execution of any plantation work at these locations.
- xxi. The State Govt. with reference to the presence of the settlements, kachha roads, cultivated land, and water bodies clarified that no project activity has been undertaken within the 514.48 ha mining lease area and that the User Agency has no role in the existence of such features. It was further stated that all affected inhabitants will be rehabilitated in accordance with the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 and the Odisha R&R Policy, 2006. Based on drone survey findings, no work has been carried out within the lease area.

- xxii. The State Government also reported that the proposed diversion involves 96.127 ha of forest land, comprising Sabik Forest (53.9826 ha), Hal Forest (0.8053 ha), and DLC Forest (41.3391 ha). It was clarified that the kachha roads, cultivated land, and water bodies fall within Sabik and DLC Forest areas that have since been settled as tenant land.
- xxiii. The State Government has now clarified that the Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan of Balabhadra OCP (10 MTPA) were approved by the MCL Board vide letter dated 09.10.2024, in accordance with the Ministry of Coal guidelines dated 29.05.2024. The approved copies of the Mining Plan, Mine Closure Plan, and approval letter have been uploaded on the Parivesh portal.
- xxiv. The State Government further stated that the land use proposed in the forest diversion proposal has been prepared in conformity with the approved Mining Plan and that the comparative analysis confirms that the proposed land use is commensurate with the approved Mining Plan. The same is found in line with the approved mining plan.
- xxv. The State Government further submitted that the total trees enumerated in the lease area is 26444. Out of these 26444, 26,126 number of trees are proposed to be felled and the remaining 318 trees are located within the Green Belt and Safety Zone areas and will not be felled. Further, out of 26444 no. of tree, 5455 no. are in revenue forest land, 4173 no. in Govt. non-forest land and 16816 in Tenancy land.
- xxvi. The State Government further submitted that the DGPS survey of the Balabhadra OCP area has been duly authenticated by ORSAC and that the reported overlap may be due to geo-referencing differences during spatial data processing. It was further stated that both Balabhadra OCP and Subhadra OCP belong to the same user agency, namely Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.
- xxvii. The State Government submitted that the user agency had initially proposed diversion of the Singada Jhor Nala and furnished a diversion plan. However, it acknowledged the Ministry's direction issued in the final approval of the adjacent Subhadra OCP that the stream shall remain undisturbed and shall not be used for mining activities. The State Government further stated that Singada Jhor is the only natural stream within the mining lease area, serving as an important water source for local communities and wildlife, and that both sides of the stream are proposed to be developed under the Animal Passage Plan. Accordingly, it has been requested that a condition be imposed stipulating that the Singada Jhor stream shall not be disturbed or used for mining purposes in the future.

- xxviii. The State Government submitted that the 500 kV HVDC transmission line of PGCIL passes through the mine lease area and will remain undisturbed throughout the life of the mine. It was further stated that certain patches of forest land fall under the transmission corridor and that the present proposal seeks diversion of all forest land within the lease boundary, including areas occupied by infrastructure not belonging to MCL. The State Government also informed that MCL has requested PGCIL vide letter dated 18.04.2026 to furnish details of the approvals obtained for installation of the transmission line. However, the approval details have not yet been submitted.
- xxix. The Committee observed that Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, vide letter dated 27.02.2026, has approved the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the instant proposal.
- xxx. The Committee observed that 2,477.855 ha of forest land has already diverted to MCL under various mines in the Talcher Coalfield during 1990-2025. Accordingly, the committee decided that the MCL shall submit a comprehensive, time-bound layout plan for reclamation and surrender of exhausted forest land to the Forest Department prior to issuance of final approval under the present proposal.
- xxxi. The Committee observed that DGPS survey of the Balabhadra OCP area has been duly authenticated by ORSAC and that the reported overlap is due to geo-referencing differences during spatial data processing. The committee agreed upon it.
- xxxii. The committee observed that the user agency had initially proposed diversion of the Singada Jhor Nala and furnished a diversion plan. However, as per the final approval of the adjacent Subhadra OCP, the stream shall remain undisturbed and shall not be used for mining activities. The Committee further observed that Singada Jhor is the only natural stream within the mining lease area, serving as an important water source for local communities and wildlife.
- xxxiii. The Committee observed that a 500 kV HVDC transmission line of PGCIL passes through the mine lease area and will remain undisturbed throughout the life of the mine. It was further stated that certain patches of forest land fall under the transmission corridor and that the present proposal seeks diversion of all forest land within the lease boundary, including areas occupied by infrastructure not belonging to MCL.
- xxxiv. The Committee further observed that the applied area to be diverted is mainly prone to sheet erosion and at some places gully erosion. Accordingly, the State Govt. recommended the proposal with soil and moisture conservation measures.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the proposal for '**Stage-I/In-principle**' approval for the diversion of 96.127 ha of forest land for Balabhadra Open Cast mining under Angul Forest Division in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfield Limited with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. The State Forest Department shall implement the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP), as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.
- ii. The State Govt. shall implement the soil and moisture conservation measures as per the approved scheme, at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.
- iii. The State Government shall ensure that the Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) of all affected families is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act, 2013) and the Odisha Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2006.
- iv. The Singada Jhor stream, flowing along the eastern and southern boundary of the coal block, shall remain undisturbed throughout the life of the mine, and its natural course shall not be altered or diverted. A safety zone of 50 metres on either side of the stream shall be maintained, and protective plantation shall be undertaken therein at the cost of the User Agency.
- v. In view of the 2,477.855 ha of forest land already diverted in favour of MCL for various mining projects in the Talcher Coalfield during the period 1990–2025, MCL shall submit a comprehensive and time-bound reclamation plan indicating the schedule for restoration and surrender of exhausted and reclaimed forest land to the Forest Department. The said plan shall be furnished prior to grant of final approval under the present proposal.

Agenda No. 20

Proposal No: FP/OR/Pipeline/467100/2024

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 6.420 ha (5.591 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division + 0.829 ha in Bonai Forest Division) of forest land for laying of slurry Pipeline from

village Kalamanga to Palaspanga applied by M/s JSW Utkal Steel Limited in the State of Odisha (Proposal No. FP/OR/Pipeline/467100/2024)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained 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 Odisha vide their letter No No.FE-DIV-FLD-0008-2026-2414/FE&CC, dated 31.01.2026 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.
 - ii. JSW Steel is operating four (4) iron ore mines at Barbil, Joda and Koira in Odisha. The company formed JSW Utkal Steel Limited in the year 2017 for manufacturing precious and non-ferrous metals.
 - iii. JSW Utkal Steel Limited intends to establish a Greenfield Integrated Steel Plant along with a Captive Power Plant (CPP) at Jatadhari near Paradeep in Jagatsinghpur district, Odisha, for production of 13.2 MTPA crude steel along with a 10 MTPA cement plant and a 900 MW power plant through the Blast Furnace (BF) - Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) - Caster route.
 - iv. Now, JSW Utkal Steel Limited proposes to transport iron ore from the mines located at Barbil, Joda and Koira to the Integrated Steel Plant at Paradeep through a slurry pipeline. The proposed pipeline will pass through six districts of Odisha, namely Sundergarh, Keonjhar, Jajpur, Cuttack, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur. The pipeline will originate from Kalamanga and terminate at the ISP at Jatadhari near Paradeep.
 - v. Under the project, two numbers of 32-inch diameter underground slurry pipelines along with a 40 mm HDPE duct for optical fibre cable are proposed to be laid. The project also includes one Pumping Station, eight Pressure Monitoring Stations, one Valve Station and one Receiving Terminal. The total length of the slurry pipeline is proposed to be 302.50 km.
 - vi. Initially, the proposal envisaged setting up of a Beneficiation Plant and Pumping Station at Gobardhanpur under Joda Block of Keonjhar district for transportation of iron ore slurry to the Integrated Steel Plant (ISP) at Paradeep in Jagatsinghpur district. In this regard, the User Agency had

obtained approvals under the General Approval from the State Forest Department for laying a 32-inch slurry pipeline along the Right of Way (RoW) of NHAI, IDCO and PWD roads in two phases involving 4.9026 ha of forest land. Earlier, the slurry pipeline project comprised a total length of 293.833 km.

- vii. Thereafter, upon analysis of the proposed pipeline alignment, the User Agency encountered certain difficulties with regard to mineral evacuation and subsequently proposed to establish the Grinding Unit, Beneficiation Plant and Pumping Station at Kalamanga. Accordingly, a slurry pipeline from Kalamanga to Palaspanga, covering a length of 42.12 km, has now been proposed, which would connect to the existing NHAI and IDCO road corridors towards Paradeep.
- viii. The stretch from Kalamanga to Palaspanga covers a length of about 42.12 km along with associated facilities including two Pressure Monitoring Stations. The total area required for this stretch is 11.312 ha, comprising 6.42 ha of forest land and 4.892 ha of non-forest land.
- ix. The land proposed for diversion i.e. 6.42 ha is having the canopy density of 0.5 to 0.6 of Eco Class I with 1390 number of trees proposed to be felled.
- x. The applied area does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. However, the area constitutes habitat for wildlife species such as Elephant, Leopard, Bear, Barking Deer, Hyena, Porcupine, Peacock, Wild Pig and Jackal etc.
- xi. The State Government submitted that, considering the movement of elephants in the Koira Range of Bonai Forest Division and the potential for increased human-elephant conflict, a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWCP) for Bonai and Keonjhar Divisions has been prepared as per the guidelines of the PCCF (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha. The User Agency has also undertaken to bear the cost of implementation of the approved plan.
- xii. The land proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion. Accordingly, the State Govt. has recommended the proposal with a condition that the User Agency shall implement intensive soil and moisture conservation measures along both sides of proposed pipeline corridor passing through forest area at project cost.
- xiii. The land use for the instant proposal is as under:

Component	Forest land (ha)	Non-Forest land (ha)	Total (ha)

Laying of Slurry pipeline	6.420	4.892	11.312
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- xiv. The State Govt. has proposed the CA land over an area of 6.46 Ha of NFL over a single patch. Further, the State Govt. has identified the Degraded forest land for Additional Compensatory Afforestation over 13.00 ha in Ghatgaon RF under Ghatgaon Range.
- xv. The State Govt. has reported that that the User Agency (M/s JSW Utkal Steel Ltd.) has been broken over 0.616 ha. of forest land for non-forestry use without prior permission from the competent authority, which is a violation under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), Adhiniyam'1980. The said non-forestry work has been taken in the alignment of slurry pipeline coming under Bonai Forest Division.
- xvi. The Regional Office has also confirmed the same that the User Agency has broken up 0.616 ha Revenue Forest land (DLC Forest 0.231 ha & Revenue Forest 0.385 ha) in violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 under Bonai Forest Division. During the site inspection, it was observed that the slurry pipeline had already been laid within the proposed forest land in this portion.
- xvii. Further, the DFO, Bonai Forest Division, vide Letter No. 10575 dated 22.10.2025, requested the Collector, Sundargarh to initiate legal action under the relevant Revenue Laws. Subsequently, the ADM, Sundargarh, vide Letter No. 4128/Rev dated 31.03.2026, directed the Tahasildar, Koira to enquire into the matter and submit a factual report.
- xviii. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a) The State Government shall execute the crop improvement programme over 6.42 ha of identified non-forest land, at the cost of the User Agency, at locations wherever such intervention is required, and undertake the remaining prescribed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) activities in accordance with the provisions of Para 13 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, at the cost of the User Agency.
 - b) 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.
 - c) Penal Compensatory Afforestation shall be imposed by the Ministry for the violation involving 0.616 ha of forest land, in accordance with

- the guidelines issued vide Ministry Letter No. FC-11/126/2024-FC dated 21.01.2026.
- d) The State Government shall take necessary action regarding the violations under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3A and 3B of the Act and Para 1.16(ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines, as applicable.
- xix. The State Government submitted that the proposed slurry pipeline alignment follows the existing road corridor, thereby minimizing disturbance to the surrounding area. The User Agency has undertaken to restore the excavated area to its original condition after pipeline laying and to implement soil conservation and erosion control measures, including turfing, check dams, silt traps, geo-textiles, contour trenches, garland drains, mulching, phased construction, and regular monitoring. Further, the Superintending Engineer RW Division, Rourkela has allowed the User Agency to execute the work vide letter dated 16.05.2023.
- xx. The State Government further informed that, considering the movement of elephants in the Koira Range of Bonai Forest Division and the potential for increased human-elephant conflict, a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWCP) for Bonai and Keonjhar Divisions has been prepared as per the guidelines of the PCCF (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha.
- xxi. The State Government reported that 0.616 ha of Revenue Forest Land (DLC Forest: 0.231 ha and Revenue Forest: 0.385 ha) had been broken up and utilized for non-forestry purposes without prior approval from the competent authority. The DFO, Bonai Forest Division, vide Letter No. 10575 dated 22.10.2025, requested the Collector, Sundargarh to initiate legal action under the relevant Revenue Laws. Subsequently, the ADM, Sundargarh, vide Letter No. 4128/Rev dated 31.03.2026, directed the Tahasildar, Koira to enquire into the matter and submit a factual report.
- xxii. The State Government that the User Agency had obtained approvals under the General Approval from the State Forest Department for laying a 32-inch slurry pipeline along the Right of Way (RoW) of NHAI, IDCO and PWD roads in two phases involving 4.9026 ha of forest land. Earlier, the slurry pipeline project comprised a total length of 293.833 km.
- xxiii. Thereafter, upon analysis of the proposed pipeline alignment, the User Agency encountered certain difficulties with regard to mineral evacuation and subsequently proposed to establish the Grinding Unit, Beneficiation Plant and Pumping Station at Kalamanga. Accordingly, a slurry pipeline from Kalamanga to Palaspanga, covering a length of 42.12 km, has now been proposed, which would connect to the existing NHAI and IDCO road

corridors towards Paradeep. The stretch from Kalamanga to Palaspanga covers a length of about 42.12 km along with associated facilities including two Pressure Monitoring Stations. The total area required for this stretch is 11.312 ha, comprising 6.42 ha of forest land and 4.892 ha of non-forest land. Accordingly, JSW Utkal Steel Limited has applied for diversion of 6.42 ha of forest land for laying the slurry pipeline from Kalamanga to Palaspanga under the instant proposal

- xxiv. The State Government reported that the permission for laying the underground slurry pipeline from Kalmang to Palaspanga, including stretches along and across various water bodies such as the Baitarani River, had been granted by the Department of Water Resources, Government of Odisha, vide Letter No. 33951/WR dated 05.12.2025. The User Agency further stated that suitable engineering measures would be adopted to ensure no obstruction to the natural flow of water, no alteration of river morphology, and minimal disturbance to the riverine ecosystem.
- xxv. The State Government reported that the observed features i.e. roads, cultivated land, and permanent structures represent pre-existing land use and are unrelated to the present proposal. The User Agency has proposed to lay the slurry pipeline entirely below ground level and no permanent structures are proposed within the forest land.
- xxvi. The Committee observed that the User Agency has proposed a Right of Way (RoW) width of 5 metres within forest land as against 2 metres in non-forest land, citing operational requirements, use of machinery, and maintenance of the pipeline. The Committee agreed to the same, subject to the condition that, after completion of pipeline laying and restoration of the area, no non-forestry activity, including operation or maintenance activities on the surface of the forest land, shall be undertaken.
- xxvii. The Committee further observed that the CRZ clearance for the proposed slurry pipeline project had been obtained from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, vide Letter No. F. No. 11-6/2021-IA.III dated 19.05.2021.
- xxviii. The Committee observed that that the User Agency (M/s JSW Utkal Steel Ltd.) has been broken over 0.616 ha. of forest land for non-forestry use without prior permission from the competent authority, which is a violation under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), Adhinyam, 1980.
- xxix. The Committee also observed that the DFO, Bonai Forest Division, vide Letter No. 10575 dated 22.10.2025, requested the Collector, Sundargarh to initiate legal action under the relevant Revenue Laws. Subsequently, the ADM, Sundargarh, vide Letter No. 4128/Rev dated 31.03.2026, directed the Tahasildar, Koira to enquire into the matter and submit a factual report.

- xxx. The Committee further observed that the land proposed for diversion is vulnerable to erosion. Accordingly, the State Government has recommended the proposal with the implementation of the Site Specific Soil and Moisture Conservation measures at the cost of the User Agency.
- xxxi. The Committee also observed that considering the movement of elephants in the Koira Range of Bonai Forest Division and the potential for increased human-elephant conflict, a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWCP) for Bonai and Keonjhar Divisions has been prepared as per the guidelines of the PCCF (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the proposal for '**Stage-1/In-principle**' approval for the diversion of 6.420 ha (5.591 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division + 0.829 ha in Bonai Forest Division) of forest land for laying of slurry Pipeline from village Kalamanga to Palaspanga applied by M/s JSW Utkal Steel Limited in the State of Odisha with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
 - ii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Nagpur, as applicable.
 - iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation, as applicable, in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
 - iv. Penal compensatory afforestation, as applicable by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
 - v. The State Forest Department shall implement the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP), as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden

- (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.
- vi. The State Govt. shall implement the soil and moisture conservation measures as per the approved scheme, at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.
 - vii. The State Govt. shall ensure that after laying of the underground slurry pipeline, the excavated area shall be back filled properly, compacted in layers and restored to the original ground condition.

Agenda No. 21

Proposal No: FP/OR/Pipeline/462465/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for *ex-post facto* approval for diversion of 0.021 ha of forest land for laying of pipeline for drawal of Saline water from Bay of Bengal to existing JBS Aquatics in Puri District under Chilika (WL) Division by M/s. JBS Aquatics (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/Pipeline/462465/2024) -reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained 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 State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0012-2025-10304/FE&CC dated 03.05.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
 - ii. The user agency, M/s Shri Balunkeswar Biswal, established a shrimp hatchery on private land at Village Naba in Puri district after obtaining permission from the Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Government of India.

The hatchery was constructed during 2013-14 and subsequently commenced operations.

- iii. JBS Aqua Hatcheries is engaged in the hatching and rearing of Whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) from egg stage to post-larval stage, after which the post larvae are supplied to aquaculture farmers for further rearing to marketable size. The development cycle from egg (0.5-1 mm) to post larva (0.8-1 cm) takes approximately 18-20 days, followed by a cooling period of 10-12 days before initiation of the next cycle. Accordingly, the hatchery operates on a monthly production cycle, with shrimp eggs procured regularly from Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Andhra Pradesh.
- iv. The hatchery has an installed capacity to process approximately 30 million shrimp eggs per cycle across 80 tanks of varying capacities ranging from 8 m³ to 12 m³. However, the unit is presently non-operational. Whiteleg shrimp being a marine species requires saline water with a salinity of at least 30 ppt. Each production cycle necessitates two complete water replacements to maintain appropriate salinity and hygiene levels for optimal survival. Consequently, the hatchery requires approximately 2,000 m² of saline water per month for production of about 30 million post larvae.
- v. In-house production of saline water or transportation through tankers was found to be economically unviable. Therefore, to ensure operational viability, the user agency had laid a pipeline of approximately 570 metres from the nearby seacoast to draw seawater to the hatchery. However, as a stretch of forest land (Proposed Reserve Forest) exists between the coast and the hatchery, the pipeline was laid in violation of prevailing forest regulations.
- vi. The land proposed for diversion is having the canopy density of 0.5 of Eco Class II with nil number of trees proposed to be felled.
- vii. The State Government 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.
- viii. The following wildlife species are found in and around the land proposed for diversion: Pitisal Proposed Reserved Forest is the dwelling habitat for Barking Deer, Hyena, Porcupine, Wild Pig, Fox, Jackal, Peacock and other avifauna.
- ix. The State Government on the PARIVESH portal reported that the land proposed for diversion is prone to soil erosion.
- x. The project does not involve the resettlement & rehabilitation of people.
- xi. The land use for the instant proposal is as under:

Component	Forest land (ha)	Non-Forest land (ha)	Total (ha)
Pipeline	0.021	0.0012	0.0222

- xii. The State Govt. submitted that the unauthorized laying of a saline water pipeline over 0.021 ha of forest land within Pitisal PRF was detected by the Forest Guard, Nandala Beat, on 03.05.2014.
- xiii. The Regional Office has reported that since its commencement in 2014, the hatchery had been using the illegally laid pipeline within the forest area to procure the required saline water. During 2014-15, the Forest Department took cognisance of the violation, registered OR Case No. 12R of 2014-15, and uprooted and seized the pipeline. Subsequently, the user agency continued to procure seawater clandestinely by using surface-laid foldable rubber pipes within the forest area, primarily during night hours. The Forest Department again intervened and stopped the unauthorised activity. Thereafter, the user agency attempted to generate saline water from freshwater sources; however, the process was found to be economically unviable. Consequently, the hatchery has remained non-operational since 2019.
- xiv. The State Govt. further submitted that an UD Case was registered, which upon enquiry was converted into OR Case No. 12R of 2014-15 against the proprietor of M/s JBS Aquatics for unauthorized use of forest land. Prosecution was launched before the Hon'ble SDJM, Puri, vide Memo dated 12.08.2014, and the matter is presently under trial. The State Government has treated the matter as a violation by the User Agency and submitted that appropriate action may be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Act. However, the State Govt. has not furnished the information regarding action taken against the concerned Forest Department officials for their failure to prevent the unauthorized use of forest land.
- xv. The State Govt. submitted that the proposed project involves laying two parallel PVC pipelines of 90 mm and 75 mm diameter for intake of fresh seawater and discharge of used water, respectively. The pipelines will be laid at a depth of approximately 3 feet below ground level. A linear strip of 570 metres in length and 0.392 metres in width is proposed for the purpose, connecting the hatchery to the seacoast through forest land.
- xvi. The State Government submitted that the area involved in the proposal is less than 1 hectare (0.021 ha) and no tree felling is envisaged, the user agency is required to bear the cost of plantation of 100 trees/saplings.

- xvii. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a) The State Government shall initiate appropriate action against the violations of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in accordance with the penal provisions prescribed under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 and the guidelines issued thereunder.
 - b) The right of way (RoW) shall be properly levelled and restored to ensure uniformity with the adjoining forest area.
 - c) All applicable provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Rules/Act shall be strictly adhered to by the user agency.
 - d) No untreated effluent or used water shall be discharged into the sea.
 - e) Pumping facilities shall be confined within the hatchery premises, and no pumping operations shall be carried out during night hours.
 - f) The user agency shall bear the cost of plantation of 100 trees, in accordance with the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) scheme to be prepared by the State Government.
- xviii. The State Government reported that the proposal was re-examined through GIS analysis and field verification and that the earlier figures were based on preliminary assessments. As per the revised analysis, the selected Route No. 2 (600 m) involves 0.021 ha of forest land and 0.0012 ha of non-forest land, whereas Route No. 1 (880.44 m) and Route No. 3 (832.076 m) involve 0.0316 ha and 0.0310 ha of forest land, respectively. No tree felling or river crossing is involved in any of the alternatives. The State Government further stated that the alternative routes pass through a larger portion of Pitisal PRF, resulting in higher forest land involvement. Accordingly, Route No. 2 was selected as it involves the least forest land and is the most cost-effective and technically feasible option.
- xix. The Committee observed that the State Govt. and the Regional Office in its SIR reported dense forest cover over the land proposed for diversion. However, it has been reported by the State Govt. that no tree felling shall be done in the instant proposal.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the proposal for '**Stage-1/In-principle**' approval for the diversion of 0.021 ha of forest land for laying of pipeline for drawal of Saline water from Bay of Bengal to existing JBS Aquatics in Puri District under Chilika (WL) Division by M/s. JBS Aquatics with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- ii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Nagpur, as applicable.
- iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation, as applicable, in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- iv. Penal compensatory afforestation, as applicable by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- v. All applicable provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notifications shall be strictly adhered to by the user agency.
- vi. No untreated effluent or used water shall be discharged into the sea nor should not be discharged so as to affect the ground water in the area..
- vii. Pumping facilities shall be confined within the hatchery premises.
- viii. The user agency shall bear the cost of plantation of 100 trees, in accordance with the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) scheme to be prepared by the State Government.
- ix. No tree felling shall be done for the laying as well as operationalization of the mine.

Agenda No. 22

Proposal No: FP/OR/IND/543441/2025

Subject: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 17.1552 ha of Sabik Kissam Forest land for Integrated Steel Plant of M/s Sree Metaliks Limited at village Loidapada under Barbil Tahasil in Keonjhar District (Proposal No: FP/OR/IND/543441/2025)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained 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 Odisha vide their letter No No.FE-DIV-FLD-0006-2026-1957/FE&CC, dated 22.01.26 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 17.1552 ha of Sabik Kissam Forest land for Integrated Steel Plant of M/s Sree Metaliks Limited at village Loidapada under Barbil Tahasil in Keonjhar District.
 - ii. The State Government submitted that M/s Sree Metaliks Ltd. is a Private Limited company established in 1995 as a multi-product unit for manufacturing sponge Iron and steel. The existing project has been operational since 12.01.1999, and phase-wise construction of various plant configurations has been carried out within the acquired area of 30.5087 ha up to the year 2023.
 - iii. M/s Sree Metaliks Ltd. signed a MoU with the Government of Odisha on 27.11.2004 for establishment of a 0.25 MTPA Steel Plant along with other manufacturing facilities in the same complex by expanding into adjacent Government land situated in villages Loidapada and Rugudidihi. Pursuant to the said MoU, the User Agency applied to Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Limited (IPICOL) for allotment/alienation of adjoining Government land for development of various facilities for the proposed Steel Plant. Accordingly, in-principle approval for allotment of 124.94 acres of land at villages Loidapada and Rugudidihi was accorded by IPICOL vide letter dated 03.06.2006.
 - iv. In the initial years, the company purchased 32.010 acres of private land through its own efforts, and certain primary units of the Integrated Steel Plant were established in different phases. Subsequently, the company became a sick unit and was registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 with effect from 24.11.2014, following which

the plant was shut down due to non-availability of working capital. After introduction of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, the company was referred to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) before the National Company Law Tribunal with effect from 30.01.2017. Thereafter, the Resolution Plan was modified and a fresh order was passed on 13.12.2018, following which the company was finally handed over to the management.

- v. It has been informed that, as per HAL records, no forest land was involved within the plant area of 30.5087 ha. However, in view of the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letter No. 8-78/1996-FC(pt) dated 10.03.2015 and subsequent circular dated 30.03.2015 issued by the Government of Odisha, an area of 17.1552 ha out of the total 30.5087 ha has been identified as forest land, being recorded as Jungle/Sal Jungle in the Sabik records.
- vi. Thereafter, M/s Sree Metaliks Ltd. applied to Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) vide letter dated 19.04.2023 for acquisition of Government/private land, including the aforesaid 17.1552 ha of Sabik forest land. Subsequently, IDCO vide letter dated 19.10.2023 requested the User Agency to submit a forest diversion proposal for diversion of the said 17.1552 ha of Sabik forest land. Accordingly, the present proposal was submitted by the User Agency on the PARIVESH portal.
- vii. The legal status of the 17.1552 ha of land proposed for diversion is revenue forest. The proposal also involves the 13.3535 ha of non forest land. Out of the 17.1552 ha of revenue forest land, 13.0192 ha is under possession of the User Agency.
- viii. The State Govt. reported that the land proposed for diversion is having the canopy density of the 0.5 of Eco Class I. However, the Regional Office in its SIR stated that the density of the forest area proposed for diversion is much lower, with only some scattered trees existing at the site.
- ix. The forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Elephant Corridors, Tiger Reserve etc. It was also reported that the proposed forest area does not come under eco-sensitive zone of any protected area.
- x. The Karo-Karampada Elephant Corridor is at 5.9 Km distance from the proposed land for diversion. The Sidhamath RF is located at a distance of about 280 m from the plant boundary on the eastern side. It was informed that Sidhamath RF provides habitat for leopard, bear, barking deer, porcupine, etc.

- xi. Further, it was informed that occasional movement of wild elephants has also been observed in the area. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to bear the cost of the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the project area, project-affected area, and Regional Wildlife Management Plan. The State Government recommended for implementation of a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha.
- xii. The State Government submitted that there is a presence of the human settlements over 2.350 ha of land proposed for diversion. The said land has been reported as encroached land. However, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking to prepare a Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan, if required.
- xiii. The proposal pertains to the establishment of a steel plant along with other manufacturing facilities, is a non-site-specific activity. However, as per the Site Inspection Report of the Regional Office, out of 17.1552 ha of land proposed for diversion, only 4.1360 ha of land is unutilized forest land. Out of 4.136 ha, 2.35 ha is presently being used by the local tribal population and is located outside the plant boundary. The remaining 1.786 ha of forest land is lying vacant outside the plant boundary. The User Agency submitted that the said vacant area will be utilized for development of green belt to achieve the targeted green cover as stipulated under the Environmental Clearance.
- xiv. The Integrated Steel Plant is already constructed over the land proposed for diversion. It was informed that the project was established on 12.01.1999 and has undergone phase-wise construction within the proposed forest land. It has been submitted by the State Govt. that before the Sabik Forest concept w.e.f 10.03.2015, the said land was non-forest land. Out of this 17.1552 ha Sabik Forest land, it was informed that new/modified construction etc. was done over 2.7241 ha after 2020.
- xv. Further, out of 17.1552 ha proposed area, there is human settlement of local tribal people over 2.35 ha, which is not liable to the User Agency and not under occupation of the User Agency. Also, there is 1.786 ha un-used forest area which is not under occupation of the User Agency. Therefore, approximately 13.0192 ha Sabik Forest land is under occupation of the User Agency at present.
- xvi. The State Government reported that, the Collector, Keonjhar was requested vide letter dated 10.11.2025 to initiate necessary action under the OPLE Act for unauthorized use of forest land without prior approval of MoEF&CC. The Action Taken Report from the Collector's office is still awaited. With regard to the human settlements over 2.350 ha, the User Agency has

submitted an undertaking to prepare a Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan, if required. Accordingly, the State Govt. has not furnished the detailed Action Taken Report on the violation of the Adhinyam, 1980.

xvii. The land use for the instant proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Area (Ha)	Non-Forest Area (Ha)	Remarks
1	Plant Area	7.2050	4.2300	Infrastructure already exists. Area is under occupation of the User Agency.
2	Raw Material Yard	1.2320	1.1440	
3	Solid waste Yard	1.3000	0.0000	
4	Administrative building	0.2060	2.000	
5	Finished Product Stack Yard	1.0000	0.5000	
6	Storm Water Drain	0.4210	0.5300	
7	Rain Water Harvesting pond	0.1500	0.0003	
8	Parking Area	0.0000	0.4300	
9	Green Belt/Plantation	1.5052	3.8392	
10	Un-used Area	4.1360	0.6800	
	Total	17.1552	13.3535	

xviii. Against the diversion of the 17.1552 hectares of forest land, the State Government has identified 17.17 ha of non-forest Government land at Kundapitha village under Ghatagaon Range of Keonjhar Forest Division for raising Compensatory Afforestation (CA) in two patches.

xix. Further, the State Govt. also proposed the additional 17.17 ha of degraded forest land in Atei RF under Ghatagaon Range has been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation to accommodate the balance 8,585 seedlings. However, the State Govt. vide its letter dated 20.05.2026 submitted that in view of the consolidated guidelines issued under the Van

(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the clarification issued by MoEF&CC on 13.01.2026, Additional Compensatory Afforestation is not required for the instant proposal.

- xx. The recommendations of the Regional Office in its SIR are as follows: Of the proposed 17.1552 ha, the Integrated Steel Plant is already existing over 13.0192 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land. The proposal also includes 1.786 ha for development of a green belt and 2.35 ha shown as unused area. The proposal has been examined in light of the State Government's recommendation and allied rule provisions. Considering that the plant has been operating on the forest land since 1999, diversion of 13.0192 ha already under occupation of the User Agency and 1.786 ha required for development of a green belt may be considered favourably in view of the environmental mitigation requirements of the existing industrial unit.

However, diversion of the remaining 2.35 ha is not recommended as it has been proposed as unused area without any specific project component or immediate requirement. Since the project falls under the non-site specific category under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Rules framed thereunder, diversion of forest land for unspecified future use is not in conformity with the extant provisions and guidelines.

Accordingly, diversion of 14.8052 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land, comprising ex-post-facto approval over 13.0192 ha and diversion of 1.786 ha for development of a green belt, in place of the proposed 17.1552 ha, is recommended subject to the following conditions:

- a) An adequate green belt shall be developed along the plant boundary, particularly adjoining Sidhamath Reserved Forest, to minimize and contain dust emissions.
- b) The State Government shall initiate action under the OPLE Act against M/s Sree Metaliks Limited for unauthorized use of forest land for ash dumping without prior approval. Action shall also be taken for removal of encroachment from the 2.35 ha forest land occupied by local people, which is included in the proposal but not recommended for diversion.
- c) The State Forest Department shall implement the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP), as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.

- d) Penal Compensatory Afforestation shall be imposed for violation over 13.0192 ha of forest land as per Ministry's Letter No. FC-11/126/2024-FC dated 21.01.2026.
 - e) The State Government shall take action against the violations under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in accordance with Sections 3A and 3B of the Act and Para 1.16(ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines.
 - f) The balance requirement of 8,585 seedlings shall be accommodated over degraded forest land within Keonjhar Forest Division as per the approved Working Plan.
 - g) The proposed CA site at Plot No. 461(p) measuring 1.19 ha is unsuitable for Compensatory Afforestation. The CA site at Plot No. 36(p) measuring 1.01 ha may not be required considering the recommended forest area of 14.8052 ha. The remaining CA land measuring 14.97 ha, comprising Plot No. 84(p) (10.52 ha) and Plot No. 460(p) (4.45 ha), shall be made encroachment-free and adequately fenced before commencement of plantation activities.
- xxi. The State Government submitted that the State Government submitted that M/s Sree Metaliks Ltd. is an existing steel plant established over Government land recorded as non-forest land in the prevailing Hal records and has been operational with requisite statutory approvals. It was further stated that out of the total land holding of 30.5087 ha, an area of 17.1552 ha was identified as deemed forest (Sabik Kissam forest) pursuant to the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC in 2015 based on pre-1980 records. The State Government clarified that the proposal does not pertain to establishment of a new steel plant but relates to an already operational unit, and the requirement for forest clearance has arisen due to the subsequent classification of a portion of the land as deemed forest.
- xxii. The State Govt. submitted that after being advised in 2023 to submit a forest diversion proposal, the User Agency initiated the process and undertook various statutory prerequisites, including identification of Compensatory Afforestation land, DGPS surveys, tree enumeration, preparation of maps and supporting documents, and obtaining necessary approvals. Upon completion of these formalities, the proposal was submitted on the PARIVESH portal on 02.07.2025.
- xxiii. The Committee observed that as per the Site Inspection Report of the Regional Office the Integrated Steel Plant is already established over 13.0192 ha of Sabik forest land under the occupation of the User Agency.

Further, the 2.35 ha of unused forest land proposed in the diversion proposal is presently under the occupation of local inhabitants.

- xxiv. The Committee further observed that during the SIR of the RO, a fly ash dumping area of approximately 20 m height exists outside the plant boundary on the eastern side comprising an area of 13 hectares of revenue forest land, utilized for the unauthorized dumping of fly ash.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee deferred the proposal for the want of the following:

- i. It has been observed that a fly ash dumping area of approximately 20 metres in height exists outside the plant boundary on the eastern side, wherein about 13 ha of revenue forest land has reportedly been utilized for unauthorized dumping of fly ash, in violation of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit a consolidated forest diversion proposal in this regard.

Agenda No. 23

Proposal No. FP/RJ/ROAD/488121/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 1.97 ha Protected Forest land in favour of Public Works Department, Govt. of Rajasthan for construction of road from Baharai to amrora Dhuwa under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) of Govt. of India. (Online Proposal No. FP/RJ/ROAD/488121/2024).

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Gandhinagar and the Nodal Officer (FCA), Government 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 by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The

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

3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:

- (i) The State Government of Rajasthan vide its letter Number 1(52) Forest/2025 dated 06.03.2025 submitted the proposal for diversion of 1.97 ha Protected Forest land in favour of Public Works Department, Govt. of Rajasthan for construction of road from Baharai to amrora Dhuwa under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) **under Baran District of Rajasthan State.**
- (ii) The canopy density reported as 0.1 with Eco-class III vegetation cover. No trees are proposed to be felled under the proposal.
- (iii) The Component wise breakup of the area submitted along with the proposal is as follows: -

Component wise breakup			
S.no.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non-Forest Land (Ha)
1.	ROAD	1.97	0
Total		1.97	0

- (iv) The CA has been proposed over 1.97 Ha of Non-Forest Land in Compartment No./Block/Survey No./Khasra No. 369, Village-Bharai, Tehsil-Shahbad, Division - Baran Territorial Division, District-Baran of Rajasthan. Total financial outlay for CA is 0.1675 Crores. The CA scheme and site suitability certificate submitted alongwith the proposal.
- (v) The proposed forest land for diversion is not vulnerable to Soil Erosion.
- (vi) The proposed forest land is not located within 10 km distance from any Wildlife sanctuary, corridor, Biosphere Reserve etc.
- (vii) No rare /endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. Neelgai, Jackal, Wild boar, Langoor, Peacock, etc is present in the project area.
- (viii) There is no Protected Archaeological/Heritage site/Defense establishment in the proposed area for diversion as per part II filled by the DCF, Baran.
- (ix) The DCF, Baran in Part-II of the proposal mentioned that the proposed forest diversion area is part of Soil and Moisture Conservation working circle.
- (x) There is no Protected Archaeological/Heritage site/Defense establishment in the proposed area for diversion as per part II filled by the DCF.

- (xi) DCF, Baran has mentioned that the requirement of forest land is unavoidable and barest minimum.
- (xii) The Govt. of Rajasthan on dated 06.03.2025 submitted the instant proposal to the Regional office, Gandhinagar of the Ministry. On examination of the proposal by Regional office, Gandhinagar, RO observed that the proposals involving violation of Van Sanrakshan evam samvardhan Adhiniyam 1980. Therefore, State Govt of Rajasthan is requested to submit the proposal directly to the Ministry. Accordingly, the State Government has submitted the proposal to the Ministry.
- (xiii) Gram Panchayat Ganeshpura, District Baran, on 20.12.2017 had undertaken construction activities for the bridge by breaking/disturbing forest land falling within the notified Protected Forest area. The work was completed within one month from the date of commencement.
- (xiv) The Divisional Forest Officer/Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Baran, vide letters dated 16.12.2025, 20.01.2026 and 23.01.2026, issued notices to Gram Panchayat Ganeshpura. The Gram Panchayat constructed a small drainage channel on both sides of the road and a small culvert/bridge over an area of 0.08 hectare to facilitate movement of villagers, as the residents were facing difficulties in commuting between villages during the rainy season.
- (xv) In response, the Gram Panchayat vide letter dated 15.01.2026 stated that the construction of the road/bridge was carried out in public interest/public domain. It was further submitted that, in the absence of boundary demarcation, the Gram Panchayat was not aware whether the proposed bridge site fell within forest land. The Gram Panchayat also stated that it had no knowledge of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- (xvi) No FIR/POR has been lodged and no penalty has been imposed till date.
- (xvii) Gram Panchayat Ganeshpura, District Baran, on 20.12.2017 had undertaken construction activities for the bridge by breaking/disturbing forest land falling within the notified Protected Forest area. The length of the violated portion of the road is 160 metres, with a width of 5 metres, involving a total forest area of 0.08 hectare.
- (xviii) As per justification by the State Government, this Project is for improving the living standards, Health & Education of Sahariya (PVTG).
- (xix) DDGF, RO, Gandhinagar has recommended the proposal for consideration as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Rajasthan recommended the proposal for grant of

'in-principle' approval for diversion of 1.97 ha Protected Forest land in favour of Public Works Department, Govt. of Rajasthan for construction of road from Baharai to amrora Dhuwa under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) of Govt. of India under Baran District of Rajasthan State subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- ii. Penal compensatory afforestation, if proposed by the State Government, shall be verified by Regional Office, Gandhinagar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- iii. The User Agency shall pay five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- iv. The State Government shall initiate action /penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. The State Govt. shall submit action taken report with respect to 3A/3B violation alongwith Stage-I compliance.
- v. The State Government shall submit action taken report against the user agency alongwith Stage-I compliance.

Agenda No.24

Proposal No. FP/RJ/RAIL/552879/2025

Subject: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 2.01 ha. of protected forest land in favour of Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation Limited for execution of the Jaipur Metro Phase-1C Project from Badi Chaupar to Transport Nagar at Jaipur, Rajasthan. (Online Proposal No. FP/RJ/RAIL/552879/2025).

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in . The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Gandhinagar and the Nodal Officer (FCA), 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 by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:

(i) The State Government of Rajasthan 1(70)Forest/2026 dated 09.04.2026 submitted the proposal **for diversion of 2.01 ha. of protected forest land in favour of Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation Limited for execution of the Jaipur Metro Phase-1C Project from Badi Chaupar to Transport Nagar at Jaipur, Rajasthan.**

(ii) The Vegetation density of 0.5 has been reported, with Eco-Class III

(iii) 105 trees are proposed to be felled under this proposal.

(iv) The Component wise breakup of the area submitted along with the proposal is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)
(i)	Metro Railway Track	1.169
(ii)	Railway Metro Station	0.696
(iii)	Railway Metro Footpath	0.145
	Total	2.01

(vi) The CA has been proposed on 2.0100 ha. of Non-Forest land of Village- Daulatpura Tehsil-Amber District- Jaipur. The CA scheme, including cost structure and implementation schedule, has been uploaded on the PARIVESH portal. The total financial outlay for CA has been indicated as 0.3306 Crore.

(vii) As per Site Inspection by Regional Office of CA land, it was observed that the area is covered with natural vegetation, predominantly by Prosopis juliflora (Vilayati Babul), Acacia tortilis, Ziziphus spp (Ber), Neem etc. The area identified is having blank spaces

wherein, gap plantation with suitable local species can be taken up. The ACF Jaipur, informed that during the implementation of the afforestation plan, the existing *P.juliflora* vegetation would be removed, and indigenous tree species would be planted in its place. The proposed species include Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), *Acacia nilotica*, *Acacia tortilis* and *Prosopis cineraria* and other local species. suitable for the ecological and soil conditions of the area. The inspection team also noted the presence of wildlife in and around the proposed forest land. The species commonly found in this region include leopard, sloth bear, jackal, Hanuman langur and Indian peafowl etc. The area supports local wildlife and is well connected and hence feasible to raise and manage a successful plantation. The site is found to be suitable from the point of management and protection also. Based on the field observations and interactions with local forest officials, it is concluded that the proposed site is suitable for undertaking Compensatory Afforestation activities. The removal of invasive *P. juliflora* and the plantation of native species will improve the ecological condition and enhance biodiversity.

(viii) Fox and blue bull are present in the project area. The proposed project is 5.1 km from the boundary of Nahargarh wildlife sanctuary. The State Government has reported that there are no negative impacts on wildlife due to this project.

(ix) Without obtaining approval from the concerned agency, the User Agency has constructed the concrete structures over a total area of 403 square meters (0.0403 ha) by the User Agency. The concerned DCF has issued a warning notice to the User Agency. The concerned DCF had not lodge any FIR/PoR against the User Agency.

(x) The User Agency informed that they were not aware, whether the land belonged to the forest or the Jaipur Development Authority and Jaipur Nagar Nigam. Based on the NoC issued by the JDA and Jaipur Nagar Nigam, they commenced work to foundation the metro tower. Further, User Agency informed that they were not aware of the forest boundary as there is no clear-cut forest boundary demarcation.

(xi) A total of 105 trees have been identified within the area required for execution of the project falling under the forest land. The User Agency has stated that every possible effort shall be made during execution of the project to minimize tree felling, ensuring that only the unavoidable number of trees are cut prioritizing conservation and Environment safeguards.

(xii) The State Govt. has informed that the User agency has replied that Metro projects are highly technically intensive projects entailing the engineering practices of high magnitude and precise expertise. The designing of the corridor alignment involves meticulous examination of various technical parameters pertaining to curve negotiation of rolling stock keeping the safety and security of the commuters and the installation of

paramount importance as per the laid down procedures and standards. The selection of the corridor from Galta Ji to Transport Nagar has been done considering all such technical parameters, right of way available at grade, minimum land acquisition, while ensuring techno-economic justification of the project. The only possible route alignment as finalized in such situation partially passes through the reserved forest area of Amargarh 92. Alternate routes have also been examined between Galta Gate and Transport Nagar. The proposed alignment is the best suitable alignment, for the Metro rail track which runs parallel to the road, comprising both underground and overhead elevated sections partially passes through the reserved forest area of Amargarh 92 and accordingly this alignment has been proposed.

(xiii) The State Govt. has informed that the proposed land falls outside the ESZ of Nahargarh Sanctuary.

(xiv) The User Agency has submitted an undertaking that it will use the generated waste and dispose the remaining waste material outside the forest land and Sanctuary boundary.

(xv) **DDGF, RO, Gandhinagar in SIR stated that** the proposed work for the erection of Metro pillars by Jaipur Metro is intended to provide metro facilities as a public utility, the proposal is recommended subject to the imposition of penal provisions and/or action as per the extant rules and guidelines under 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, Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Rajasthan recommended the proposal for grant of **'in-principle'** approval for diversion of 2.01 ha. of protected forest land in favour of Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation Limited for execution of the Jaipur Metro Phase-1C Project from Badi Chaupar to Transport Nagar at Jaipur, Rajasthan subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-
 - i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.

- ii. Penal compensatory afforestation, if proposed by the State Government, shall be verified by Regional Office, Gandhinagar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- iii. The User Agency shall pay five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- iv. The State Government shall initiate action /penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. The State Govt. shall submit action taken report with respect to 3A/3B violation alongwith Stage-I compliance.
- v. The State Government shall submit action taken report against the user agency alongwith Stage-I compliance.

Agenda No. 25

Proposal No. FP/TR/MINOIL/441472/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in f/o M/s ONGC for non-forestry use of 2.89 ha of Reserved Forest for exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling, Waste-pit, DSA and Approach Road of Exploratory location AA-ONO202-RJA-A in Village- Siddhinagar, District- South Tripura in the State of Tripura (Online Proposal No. FP/TR/MINOIL/441472/2023)-regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Shillong and Representative of 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, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 2.89 ha of Reserved Forest for exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling, Waste-pit, DSA and Approach

Road of Exploratory location AA-ONO202-RJA-A in Village- Siddhinagar, District- South Tripura in the State of Tripura.

- ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.064 ha is required for road, 1.419 ha for drill site, 0.688 ha for drill site accommodation, 0.192 ha for waste pit & 0.54 ha for safety zone.
- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.3 of Eco class I with 159 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
- iv. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area does not fall under High Conservation value Zone. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 2 ha is moderately dense forest and rest of the area as combination of open forest and non-forest.
- v. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 5.78 ha in two patches (2.81 ha and 2.97 ha) degraded forest land in site name- Jaggannath Dighi R.F, Compt. No. Khatian No 1/75, Survey No. R.S Plot No 1531, Village - Paschim Anandapur, Range- Rajnagar WL, Tehsil- Belonia, District- South Tripura. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO. The Regional Office has confirmed the suitability of CA land for afforestation.
- vi. DFO, South Tripura has mentioned that the proposed diversion site is habitat of Indian Bison, Capped langur, Procupine and Wild boar and presence of these species is evident in the area. The implementation of the project will have minimum effect on the wildlife present in the area, since the diversion site is located in the boundary of the Bhairabnagar Conservation Reserve.

The Regional Office in inspection report mentioned that the area is important for wildlife like Elephant, Indian Bison, Wild Boar, Porcupine, Barking Deer, Python, Avi fauna and other reptiles.

- vii. Proposed area is located at an aerial distance of 5.58 Km from the boundary of Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary. The area proposed for diversion does not fall in the eco-sensitive zone of the Protected Area. However, the proposed diversion site is a part of Bhairabnagar Conservation Reserve notified under Section 36 A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and is located in the boundary of the Conservation Reserve.

The Conservation Reserve Management Committee had considered the proposal in its meeting held on 07.05.2025 and accorded it's "No Objection" subject to certain conditions for wildlife conservation and habitat

improvement etc. Accordingly, DFO has submitted an estimate of ₹1.56 crore for the conservation of the Wildlife.

The CWLW of the State has recommended the proposal subject to the realization of lump sum amount of 2% and 0.5% of the project cost for the mitigation measures towards the Wildlife Management Plan and Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, respectively.

- viii. 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.
- ix. No violation of the Adhinyam were reported reported by the State. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- x. The life of Mineral oil reservoir is 10 years, the mining lease was granted for 4 years w.e.f. 10.08.2022 to 09.09.2026. One borehole of 26"-36"(26 inches – 36 inches) diameter will be drilled at the proposed site.
- xi. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. comments on presence of kacha road and signs of tree felling, re-visit the suitability of CA sites and if needed, alternate suitable sites may be identified for raising CA, comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden; status of applicability of wildlife clearance, details of safety zone area and number of bore holes to be drilled along with their dimensions etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 20.11.2025.
- xii. The State Government submitted its reply online on 06.05.2026 inter-alia informing the following:
 - d) As regards observations of signs of clear felling, the State Government has informed that area has been re-inspected by the field officers and no signs of tree cutting or illicit felling activities were noticed anywhere within the inspected area.
 - e) In accordance with the Guidelines issued by the WL Division of MoEF&CC on 13.12.2023, the projects / activities proposed to be located within Conservation Reserves or Community Reserves notified under WLPA do not require consideration by the SCNBWL.
 - f) KML file of safety zone has been submitted.
 - g) Number of bore holes to be drilled is one (01) and its dimension is 26"-36" (26 inch-36 inch).

- xiii. The Regional Office submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhiniyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with certain conditions.
 - xiv. The authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal
 - xv. 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.
 - xvi. The Committee also observed that recommendation made by the CWLW regarding charging of 2% and 0.5% of project cost towards the Wildlife Management Plan and Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, respectively, is not in consonance with the provisions of the Guidelines issued by the Ministry on 26.12.2024. The said guidelines have clarified that cost of such plans is to be assessed on the basis on actual intervention required to be implemented at the site. The 2% and 0.5% is an optional arrangement to be exercised only in case the preparation of the Pan is delayed due to reasons which are beyond the control of the State Government and the user agency.
 - xvii. The proven reserve of 600 million tonnes of hydrocarbon/natural have been reported in the area. Adding up the probable reserve to proves reserve the quantity has been estimated to the tune of 1002.32 million tonnes. Out of this approximately 2.83 million tonnes of reserves have been reported in the forest area. The production capacity of 12.775 million tonnes per annum has been reported for the extraction of natural gas from the proposed location.
 - xviii. The State Government has mentioned that the project will add to energy security of the country
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 2.89 ha Reserved Forest land in favour of M/s ONGC exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling, Waste-pit, DSA and Approach Road of Exploratory location AA-ONO202-RJA-A in Village- Siddhinagar, District- South Tripura in the State of Tripura subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. To avoid avert disasters, the hazardous zone around the bore well, oil pads or pipelines or other ancillary infrastructure including Blow Out Preventer (BOP) should be maintained by the user agency engaged in the mining or

transportation of mineral oil as per the norms stipulated in the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, and rules framed thereunder.

- ii. 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.
- 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.
- iv. Silent transformers to be used during exploration activity to avoid noise pollution on surrounding wildlife.
- v. The user agency shall undertake adequate measures for the collection, management, and scientific disposal of waste generated from earth-cutting activities, and shall prevent its spillage into nearby areas, including water bodies, during the exploration period. A detailed waste management plan in this regard shall be submitted along with the compliance report for the Stage-I approval conditions.
- vi. A Wildlife Management Plan and Human Animal Conflict mitigation plan shall be prepared at the cost of user agency and a copy of the said plan, approved by the PCCF & CWLW of the State shall be submitted along with the compliance of Stage-I approval. Cost of the aforesaid plan shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA. The cost of said Plan shall be assessed on the basis on actual intervention required to be implemented at the site in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines issued by the Ministry on 26.12.2024.

Agenda No. 26

Proposal No: FP/CG/REDIV/554519/2025

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 220.261 ha (Change in Land Use over an area of 212.229 ha+ fresh diversion of 8.032 ha for road) of Forest Land for Open Cast coal mining at Anjan Hill Opencast Coal Mine, Chirimiri Area by M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited

(SECL) under Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB) District of Chhattisgarh State - reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 10.06.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained 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 Chhattisgarh vide their letter No. F 5-34/2025/10-2 dated 11.12.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 diversion of 220.261 ha (Change in Land Use over an area of 212.229 ha+ fresh diversion of 8.032 ha for road) of Forest Land for Open Cast coal mining at Anjan Hill Opencast Coal Mine, Chirimiri Area under South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Chhattisgarh.
 - ii. The Anjan Hill Mine is a part of Erstwhile Chirimiri colliery, which started in 1928. It was the first mining venture in this coalfield, Chirimiri colliery was bifurcated into two mines namely Chirimiri opencast mine and Chirimiri underground mine. Since, 1976, Workings of Chirimiri underground mine is being done under two hills namely Bartunga Hill and Anjan Hill. Chirimiri underground mine was further subdivided into two mines on 01-09-2002 and were named, after the hills under which workings being done namely Bartunga Hill Mine and Anjan Hill Mine. The Stage II forest clearance for diversion of 989.400 Ha of Forest land for Chirimiri colliery (247.290 Ha for OC and 742.110 Ha for UG) was accorded by the Ministry on 15.07.2011.
 - iii. Out of the above diverted 989.400 Ha. forest land, 211.540 Ha (210.969 Ha for underground rights and surface rights for 1.260 Ha (0.571 for Infrastructure within Mining Lease and 0.689 Ha for approach Road outside the Mining Lease Area) falls within Anjan Hill Mine.
 - iv. Now SECL has proposes to change the mining methodology of Anjan Hill Mine from earlier underground to Opencast. Further in order to handle the enhanced capacity, transportation road from Anjan Hill Mine to Chirimiri Railway Siding needs enhancement which involves both dedicated approach road of Anjan Hill Mine and public road.

- v. Accordingly, the State Govt. has submitted the proposal for diversion of 220.261 ha (Change in Land Use over an area of 212.229 ha+ fresh diversion of 8.032 ha for road) of Forest Land for Open Cast coal mining at Anjan Hill Opencast Coal Mine, Chirimiri Area by M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) under Manendragarh-Chirimiri-Bharatpur (MCB) District of Chhattisgarh State.
- vi. The land proposed for diversion i.e. 220.261 ha of reserved forest is having the canopy density of the 0.5 of Eco Class III. The number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is 55478.
- vii. The proposal does not involve displacement of any families, and no rehabilitation plan is required.
- viii. The State Govt. submitted that the land proposed for diversion does not form part of a national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor etc.
- ix. As per the information available on the PARIVESH portal, the following wildlife species are found in and around the land proposed for diversion:

Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Stripped hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*), Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*), Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Indian monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*), Python (*Python molurus*), Cobra (*Naja Naja*), Russell's viper (*Vipera russelii*), Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*).

- x. Accordingly, the Chief Wildlife Warden vide its letter dated 24.03.2026, approved a Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan amounting ₹550.91/- lakh. The said Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan also include the Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan amounting to ₹100.17/- lakhs.
- xi. The land use for the instant proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Area approved (earlier)			Area proposed for Re-diversion / LUC		
	Component	Forest Land (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)	Component	Forest Land (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
1.	Surface Infrastructure	0.571	0	Excavation Area and Safety Zone	0.571	0

Sl. No.	Area approved (earlier)			Area proposed for Re-diversion / LUC		
	Component	Forest Land (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)	Component	Forest Land (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
2.	Underground Mining	210.969	0	Excavation Area and Safety Zone	210.969	0
3.	Approach Road	0.689	0	Approach Road	8.721	0
	Total	212.229	0		220.261	0

- xii. The Mining plan for the subject proposal has been approved by the Ministry of Coal vide its letter dated 29.05.2024.
- xiii. The State Govt. submitted that, out of the total proposed forest land of 220.261 ha, an area of 1.26 ha had already been granted surface rights and the corresponding Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has already been undertaken. Accordingly, in terms of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, Additional Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed only against the balance forest land of 219.001 ha (220.261 ha – 1.26 ha). For this purpose the State Govt. proposed 439.37 ha of Degraded Forest Land for the CA in 12 patches.
- xiv. However, as per the DSS Analysis, 52 ha of the proposed land falls under Moderately Dense Forest. Accordingly, the State Govt. vide letter dated 04.06.2026 informed that an additional 52 ha CA area under Mahendragarh Forest Division has been identified for CA in 2 patches.
- xv. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a) The State Government shall ensure that plantation is carried out at the rate of 1,000 plants per hectare on the diverted forest land. If it is not possible to accommodate the required number of trees, the balance shall be planted in nearby degraded forest areas, as per the Working Plan prescription.
 - b) The User Agency shall maintain a safety zone along the boundary within the mining lease area. Furthermore, the User Agency shall provide funds to carry out plantation in degraded forest areas over

- an extent of one and a half times the safety zone area (i.e.. 4.434 ha × 1.5 = 6.651 ha).
- c) Since the User Agency proposes to change the land use from underground to open-cast mining, the differential Net Present Value (NPV) applicable to open-cast mining shall be realized for an area of 212.229 ha. If no NPV was realized under the previous approval, the total applicable NPV shall be realized. Additionally, the full NPV shall be realized for the 8.721 ha area proposed for the approach road.
 - d) The Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan shall be implemented by the State Government/User Agency in accordance with the provisions of the relevant rules and regulations.
 - e) Overburden shall be dumped properly, and the required gradient shall be maintained to ensure stability and prevent any spillover.
 - f) Reclamation activities shall be carried out as per the approved Mining Plan.
 - g) Considering the significant wildlife presence, including tiger movement in the region, a site-specific Wildlife Mitigation Plan shall be prepared by the State Government. This plan must be approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden and implemented at the cost of the project.
 - h) The State Forest Department shall ensure the removal of encroachments in degraded forest areas identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) prior to the commencement of the plantation activities.
 - i) Tree felling shall be carried out in a phased manner under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Before felling commences, the Department shall explore the possibility of translocating suitable trees. This exercise shall be conducted through a committee under the Chairmanship of the concerned Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) and executed at the cost of the User Agency.
- xvi. The State Government submitted that the road is an existing forest road constructed earlier for access to forest coupes. It was further stated that the road is presently not being used by SECL. However, following implementation of the Ajan Hill Open Cast Mine, the road is proposed to be utilized for coal transportation, for which diversion of the forest land has been sought by the User Agency.
- xvii. The State Govt. submitted that the overburden generated from the project shall be transported by dumpers through the proposed approach road and disposed of in the nearby Chirimiri Open Cast Mine of SECL. A detailed OB

disposal plan has also been furnished. The State Government further clarified that no additional forest land is required for transportation or disposal of the overburden.

- xviii. The Regional Office Nagpur of the Ministry vide letter dated 08.06.2026 furnished the monitoring report of the Ministry's earlier approval dated 15.07.2011.
- xix. The State Govt. has furnished the component wise KML files and the area as per the component wise KMI files is as under:

Component	Forest Area (ha)	Non Forest Area (ha)
Surface Infrastructure-I (approved earlier)	0.251	0
Surface Infrastructure- 2 (approved earlier)	0.048	0
Internal Road (approved earlier)	0.271	0
Road Outside the Mine (approved earlier)	0.689	0
Road Outside the Mine (fresh diversion)	8.721	0
Safety Zone	4.43	0
Mining Area	206.54	0
Total	220.95	0

- xx. The committee observed that this Ministry, vide letter No. F. No. 8-121/2005-FC dated 15.07.2011, accorded Stage-II (final) approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of a total area of 989.400 ha (247.290 ha for opencast mining and surface rights, and 742.110 ha for underground mining). Accordingly, the User Agency submitted the instant proposal is for diversion of 220.261 ha (Change in Land Use over an area of 212.229 ha+ fresh diversion of 8.032 ha for road) of Forest Land for Open Cast coal mining at Anjan Hill Opencast Coal Mine, Chirimiri Area.
- xxi. The Committee observed that, under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in the coal sector, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021 has enabled captive mine owners (other than those

dealing with atomic minerals) to sell up to 50% of their annual mineral production, including coal, in the open market after meeting the requirements of the linked end-use plant, subject to the prescribed conditions and payment of the applicable additional amount. Further, commercial coal mining on a revenue-sharing basis was introduced in 2020. Under this regime, incentives such as a 50% rebate on the final offer for coal produced ahead of the scheduled production date have been provided. Additionally, a 50% rebate on the final offer has been extended for coal utilized in gasification or liquefaction projects.

- xxii. The Committee further noted that, as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, discontinued and abandoned coal mines are being reopened under a revenue-sharing model to augment domestic coal production. To achieve this objective and reduce dependence on coal imports, Coal Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Coal are engaging Mine Developer-cum-Operators (MDOs) through transparent global competitive bidding processes for development and operation of coal mines.
- xxiii. The Nodal Officer, Govt. of Chhattisgarh informed that the MDO/mine operator for the instant mine has been selected through e-tender on the GeM portal. The User Agency for the instant proposal is still SECL.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following:
- i. The State Government shall furnish the details regarding the ownership status of the instant mine, specifically whether the mine continues to vest with SECL or has been transferred to another private agency or Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) through auction.
 - ii. The State Government shall also provide details of the revenue-sharing arrangement between SECL and the private agency or Mine Developer and Operator (MDO), including their respective rights and responsibilities.
 - iii. The State Government shall clarify whether the User Agency is eligible for special dispensation given to Central PSUs under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 particularly with regard to Compensatory Afforestation, if the mine has been transferred to another private agency or Mine Developer and Operator (MDO).

(Confirmed through email)

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

(Confirmed through email)

Shri Nityanand Srivastava
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed through email)

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

(Confirmed through email)

Shri Manoj Pant
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed on file)

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

(Confirmed through email)

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)