



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



MoM ID FC/MOM/AC/669621/2026
Agenda ID FC/AGENDA/AC/793435/2026
Title of Meeting 6th Meeting of the Advisory Committee for the year 2026
Meeting Venue Krishna Conference Hall, 4th Floor, Jal Wing, IPB
Meeting Mode Hybrid
Meeting Dates & Time Start Date : 06/07/2026
End Date : 06/07/2026

List of AC Members:

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

Proposals considered during Meeting:

1. Project Name Proposal for Forest Diversion for Non-Forest Purpose in respect of Alaknanda Coal Mine of M/s. Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd.
Proposal Number FP/OR/MIN/QRY/556321/2025
User Agency B K Jha
Forest Land Area(Ha) 754.039
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

Project Name Diversion of forest land over an area of 216.875 ha (including Safety Zone of 4.217 ha) under Section-2(1)(iii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 within Gandhal pada Iron Ore Block of Tata Steel Limited under Keonjhar Forest Division for assignment of lease

Proposal Number FP/OR/MIND/543399/2025

User Agency Awnish Kumar

Forest Land Area (Ha) 216.875

Division Keonjhar Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval

3. Project Name Proposed Forest Land to be Diverted for Entry/Exit approach to BPCL Retail Outlet at Village:- Sirsia Patti Husen, Tehsil:- Deoria, District:- Deoria.

Proposal Number FP/UP/PetrolPump/540387/2025

User Agency Rajesh Kumar

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.075

Division Social Forestry Division Deoria

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 Proposed Forest land to be Diverted for Entry/Exit Approach to BPCL Retail Outlet at Village:- Sirsia, Tehsil:- Deoria , District:- Deoria.

Proposal Number FP/UP/PetrolPump/540388/2025

User Agency Rajesh Kumar

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.075

Division Social Forestry Division Deoria

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval

5. Project Name Diversion of 5.1192 ha of forest land for establishment of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Battalion Camping Site

Proposal Number FP/TR/DEF/439166/2023

User Agency Manoj Kumar

Forest Land Area(Ha) 5.1192

Division Dhalai 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

6. Project Name Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling of Exploratory locati

on KHBT

Proposal Number FP/TR/MINOIL/486532/2024

User Agency JAGDEV SINGH NEGI

Forest Land Area(Ha) 2.5

Division North District Forest Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval

7. Project Name Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling and Approach Road of location AA-ONO-184-BOA-A

Proposal Number FP/TR/MINOIL/445521/2023

User Agency JAGDEV SINGH NEGI

Forest Land Area (Ha) 0.9642

Division Gomati 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

8. **Project Name** Tripura Oil and Gas Exploration Block AA-ONN-2002/1 NELP-IV (Jubilant Oil & Gas Pvt. Ltd. and GAIL (INDIA) Ltd.) Proposal for diversion of 1.572 hact. (3.884 Acre) forest land for or construction of Drill Site,Waste Pit, Drill Site Accommodation TSR Camp for location called DEV-37B

Proposal

Number FP/TR/MIN/QRY/403782/2022

User Agency TEJINDAR PAL SINGH

Forest Land Area(Ha) 1.572

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

9. **Project Name** Existing 80 MLD pakani WTP which is used to supply water to solapur city is on forest land and also 66 MLD new WTP is proposed on this land.

Proposal Number FP/MH/WATER/536834/2025

User Agency sanjay bhara dhanshetty

Forest Land Area(Ha) 6
Division Solapur Division
Recommendation Deferred

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

10. Project Name MINING LEASE FOR KOTPAHAR BAUXITE BLOCK
Proposal Number FP/MP/MIN/QRY/462880/2024
User Agency Pawan Kumar Mittal
Forest Land Area(Ha) 22
Division Balaghat South(T) Division
Recommendation Deferred

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

11. Project Name Mining lease for Warjiri Dadar and Bear Hill Bauxite Block
Proposal Number FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464243/2024
User Agency LOVELEEN SHARMA
Forest Land Area(Ha) 62
Division Balaghat South(T) Division
Recommendation Deferred

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

12. Project Name Sher Irrigation Complex Project Dam-4
Proposal Number FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/527616/2025
User Agency SANTKUMAR SIRSAM
Forest Land Area(Ha) 60.276
Division Seoni North(T) Division
Recommendation Deferred

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal

Recommendation Remark:

Additional information sought from State Government

13. Project Name Multi Village Drinking Water Supply Facilitates to 51 Rural Habitations in Byadagi (18 villages/20 habitations), Ranebennur (13 villages/13 habitations), Haveri (17 villages/17 Habitations) and Hirekerur (1 village/1 habitation) Taluk of Haveri District from Tunga Bhadra River near Nagenahalli village through Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) mode under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Proposal Number FP/KA/WATER/458059/2024

User Agency Chandrashekhar Negalur

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.8804

Division Haveri Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval

14. Project Name The Diversion of Forest land for the Construction of Educational Institutions FSY No.71 of Jali Village Bhatkal Taluk Uttara Kannada District Karnataka State in favour of QUWWAT

Proposal Number FP/KA/SCH/452489/2023

User Agency Mohammed Hussain Jukaku

Forest Land Area (Ha) 0.3511

Division Honavar Division

Recommendation Deferred

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Additional information sought from State Government.

15. Project Name Diversion of Forest land falling in PLPA Section - 4 in Surajkund Tourism Complex situated at Village - Lakkarpur, District. - Faridabad

Proposal Number FP/HR/OTHERS/554405/2025

User Agency CHARAN LAL

Forest Land Area (Ha) 37.646

Division Faridabad 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 Pelma Open Cast Project (15.0 MTY)
Proposal Number FP/CG/MIN/QRY/534576/2025
User Agency Manoj Kumar
Forest Land Area(Ha) 362.109
Division RAIGARH 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 Purunga Coal Mine
Proposal Number FP/CG/MIN/QRY/545974/2025
User Agency
Forest Land Area(Ha) 621.331
Division DHARAMJAIGARH DIVISION
Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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

Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval

18. Project Name Diversion of 0.0195 ha of forest land for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of BPCL on Khata No.-415, Plot No.-2641, Thana No.-285, Thana-Muffasil Ara, Mauza-Karari to Ara-Salempur PWD Road in Bhojpur district of Bihar.

Proposal Number FP/BR/PetrolPump/496620/2024

User Agency DEEPAK KUMAR

Forest Land Area (Ha) 0.0195

Division Bhojpur Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

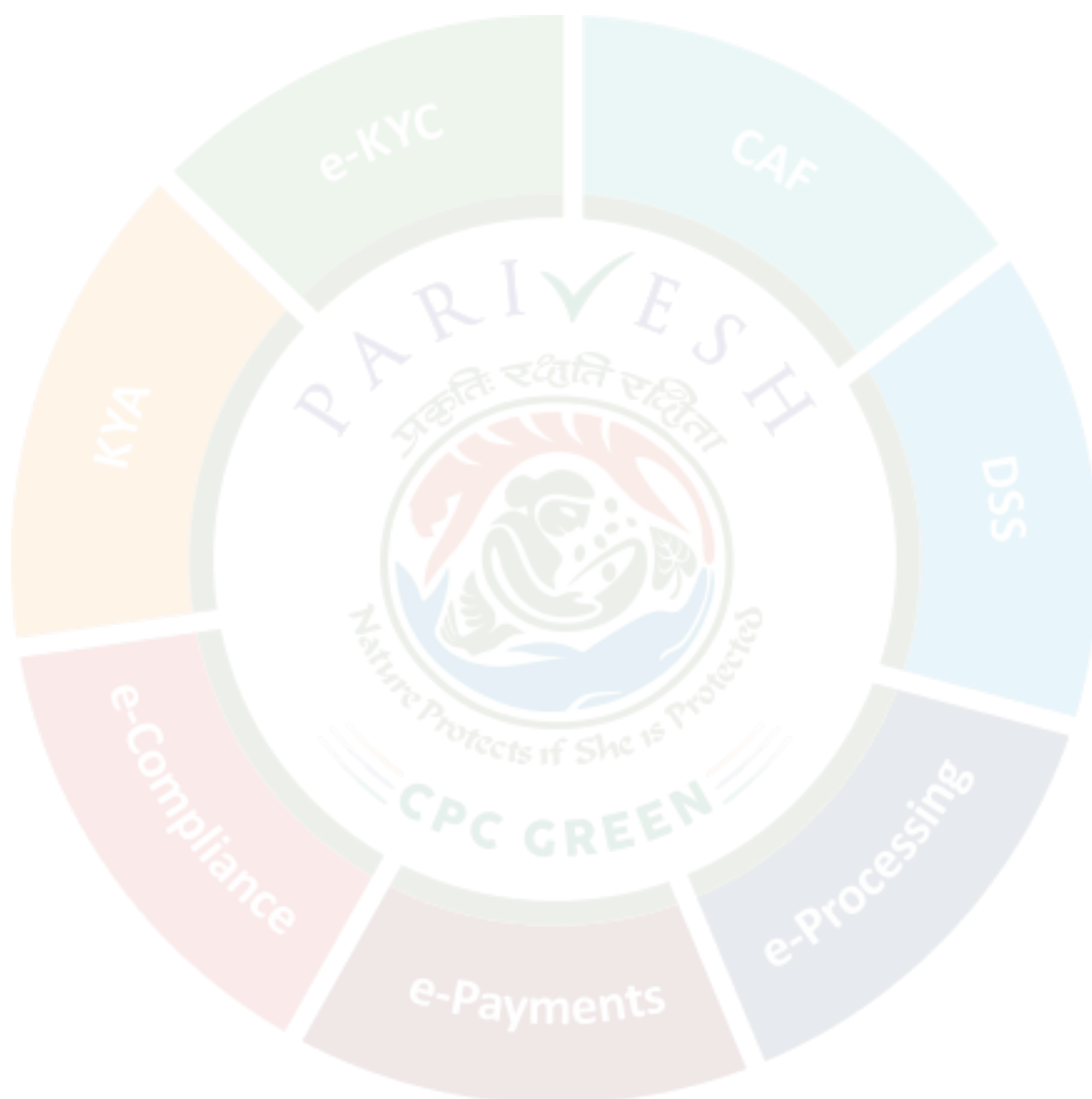
N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 06.07.2026 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.



(PARIVESH 2.0)**(Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) held on 06.07.2026)****Agenda No. 2****Proposal No. FP/BR/PetrolPump/496620/2024**

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 Shri Deepak Kumar for non-forestry use of 0.0195 ha of Protected Forest land for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of BPCL on Khata No. 415, Plot No. 2641, Thana No. 285, Thana- Muffasil Ara, Mauza- Karari to Ara-Salempur PWD Road in Bhojpur District in the State of Bihar (Proposal No. FP/BR/PetrolPump/496620/2024)-regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. 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 0.0195 ha of Protected Forest in favour of Shri Deepak Kumar for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of BPCL on Khata No. 415, Plot No. 2641, Thana No. 285, Thana- Muffasil Ara, Mauza- Karari to Ara-Salempur PWD Road in Bhojpur District in the State of Bihar.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.00975 ha is required for entrance path and 0.00975 ha is required for exit path, totaling to 0.0195 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 plants with iron gabion in Kadari Mouza, Saraybag to Amma Path has been 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. DFO, Bhojpur has mentioned in Part- II that soil filling was done on the part patch of forest proposed for diversion over an area of 0.0097 ha to exercise right of way for providing connectivity to the land of the proponent in the year 2025 by Shri Deepak Kumar. For providing entry and exit access to the outlet, the user agency undertook levelling, soil filling and roadside clearing over the notified Protected Forest land without obtaining prior approval under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The unauthorized use and breaking up of forest land was detected by the Forest Department on 24.04.2025.

During scrutiny of the proposal, it was also noticed that the Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Ara, had issued a No Objection Certificate vide Letter No. 1895 dated 05.07.2025 permitting use of the land as an access road for the retail outlet. The NOC was reportedly issued without obtaining prior forest clearance under the applicable forest conservation laws. No further work has been carried out at the site after intervention by the Forest Department.

Further, it is also mentioned that a case under Section 33 (c) of the Indian Forest (Bihar Amendment, 1990) Act, 1927 Shri Deepak Kumar on 24.04.2025. The matter is presently under consideration before the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhojpur. The Divisional Forest Officer, Bhojpur Forest Division, also registered Preliminary Observation Report CC No. 53/2025 and directed immediate stoppage of all activities at the site. No action under Section 3A and 3B has been initiated by the State Government.

- viii. Regional Office, Ranchi has mentioned in their site inspection report that prior to obtaining statutory approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the user agency carried out levelling, soil filling and roadside clearing on the notified forest land for providing entry and exit access to the retail outlet. Following detection of the violation on 24.04.2025, the Forest Department registered an offence case under Section 33 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 against Shri Deepak Kumar on 24.04.2025. The matter is presently under consideration before the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhojpur.
- ix. Regional Office, Ranchi has further mentioned in their site inspection report that Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Ara, had issued a No Objection Certificate vide Letter No. 1895 dated 05.07.2025 permitting use of the land as an access road for the retail outlet. However, no action under Section 3A and 3B has been initiated by the State Government.

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

- a. The State Government shall impose penal Net Present Value (NPV) and initiate action against the Road Construction Department for issuing a No Objection Certificate permitting non-forest use of roadside Protected Forest land without obtaining prior approval of the competent authority, under Sections 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and paragraph 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under

the Act.

- b. The State Government shall address the encroachment of forest land by the User Agency in accordance with the applicable Acts and Rules. Details of the action taken, including the outcome of the court case registered in the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhojpur, shall be furnished to the Regional Office for record.
- x. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz current status of case registered under Section 33(c) of Indian Forest (Bihar Amendment, 1990) Act, 1927, detailed violation report, KML file of plantation of 100 plants along with gabions and information regarding progress on CA in the division etc. Additional information was requested from the State on 10.03.2026. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 20.05.2026 submitted information stating that currently the matter is under jurisdiction in the court of CJM, Ara. Detailed chronology of events against violation has been submitted, KML file of plantation of 100 plants and regarding progress on CA in the Division, it is mentioned that there is no territorial forest Area in the Division. All the forest area is either notified roadside PF or Canal side PF. Therefore, many CA schemes have been undertaken in other territorial divisions. 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 0.0195 ha of Protected Forest in favour of Shri Deepak Kumar for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of BPCL on Khata No. 415, Plot No. 2641, Thana No. 285, Thana- Muffasil Ara, Mauza- Karari to Ara-Salempur PWD Road in Bhojpur District in the State 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 Adhinyam 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 Adhinyam. 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.

Agenda No. 3

Proposal No: FP/CG/MIN/QRV/545974/2025

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 of 621.331 ha of forest land (Out of lease area of 869.025 Ha) for Purunga Underground Coal block located at village Purunga, Kokdar and Samarsingha, Tehsil-Chhal, District-Raigarh, Chhattisgarh in favour of M/s of Ambuja Cements Limited (Proposal No: FP/CG/MIN/QRV/545974/2025)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. 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. LAND/4402/27/2026-Forest dated 13.04.2026 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 621.331 ha of forest land (Out of lease area of 869.025 Ha) for Purunga Underground Coal block located at village Purunga, Kokdar and Samarsingha, Tehsil-Chhal, District-Raigarh, Chhattisgarh in favour of M/s of Ambuja Cements Limited.
 - ii. The State Govt. submitted that the Purunga Coal Block was allocated by the Ministry of Coal under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015. The block was explored by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mahanadi Basin Coalfields Limited/MTCSL. The project is site-specific in nature and has been proposed to meet the growing national demand for coal while contributing to employment generation through sustainable mining practices. The coal seams extend beneath the forest land proposed for diversion. However, since the project involves underground mining, no significant surface disturbance is envisaged over the forest area, except for limited land required for mine access and essential underground mining infrastructure. The total project area is 869.025 ha, of which 621.331 ha comprises forest land. Out of the total forest area, only 9.982 ha is proposed to be utilized for the establishment of surface infrastructure essential for underground mining operations.
 - iii. The land proposed for diversion i.e. 621.331 ha of land (72.303 ha:

Protected forest, 314.708 ha: Reserved Forest and 234.32 ha: Revenue forest) is having the canopy density of the 0.6 of Eco Class III. The number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is 4368.

- iv. The State Govt. has not reported any violation of the Adhiniyam. Further, the Regional Office in its SIR also not reported the violation of the Adhiniyam. However, some built-up structures, roads, water bodies, and cultivated land observed within the proposed forest area through satellite imagery.
- v. The State Govt. submitted that as per the inspection report of the Range Officer, no encroachment was found within the 9.982 ha of forest land proposed for incline and infrastructure activities. The area of 100.970 ha falling within the mining rights area includes plantation raised during 2021–22, including RDF plantation works in Coupe No. 03 (Gajmar), which is visible in the satellite imagery. The built-up structure observed in the imagery pertains to a temporary hut constructed for plantation protection personnel. The road-like features visible in the satellite imagery are merely footpaths. Further, a forest rights title has been granted by the Government of Chhattisgarh over an area of 0.405 ha located at the eastern corner of the waterlogged area, and the embankment constructed by the title holder is visible in the satellite imagery.
- vi. The State Govt. submitted that the proposed forest area for diversion not involve displacement and hence, Rehabilitation & Resettlement plan is not required for the project.
- vii. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to submit NOC under Forest Right Act, 2006 (FRA) after getting Gram Sabha resolution & obtaining the same from revenue authority during of forest diversion.
- viii. The proposed forest land for diversion does not form part of any Protected Area (PA). The State Forest Department has certified that the project does not fall within 10 km of any Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ). It has also been reported that the proposed diversion area does not fall within any identified Elephant Corridor.
- ix. The State Government further reported the occasional stray movement of wildlife species such as Jungle Cat, Asian Elephant, Indian Pangolin, Sloth Bear, and Indian Fox in and around the land proposed for diversion.
- x. The State Government has submitted that the Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP) has been approved by the CWLW vide approval dated 22.01.2026, with a total budgetary provision of ₹14.81 crore. The approved WLMP incorporates mitigation and conservation measures for Schedule-I and other endangered species of flora and fauna identified in the study area.
- xi. The land use for the instant proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)
1.	External dump	0	1.78
2.	Road and Infra Area	7.982	9.255

3.	Green belt	0	6.945
4.	UG entry	2	0
5.	Undisturbed area	611.349	229.714
Total		621.331	247.694

- xii. The Ministry of Coal, vide its letter dated 27.06.2025, has approved the Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan in favour of CG Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd.
- xiii. The State Government has further informed that the ownership of the coal block was subsequently transferred from M/s CG Natural Resources Private Limited to M/s Ambuja Cements Limited by the Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, New Delhi vide letter dated 10.03.2025.
- xiv. Out of the proposed 621.331 ha of forest land proposed for diversion, an extent of 9.982 ha of forest land is proposed to be utilized for incline openings and other essential surface infrastructure. Accordingly, the State Govt. has proposed an area of 12.748 ha of non-forest land in a single patch in Marwahi Forest Division of Chhattisgarh for undertaking Compensatory Afforestation.
- xv. There is a presence of cultivated land observed in the proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site as per the satellite imagery and to ensure that the land proposed for afforestation is free from all encroachments and encumbrances. In response, the State Government has submitted that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking stating that the land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) shall be free from all encroachments and encumbrances. The User Agency has further undertaken to submit a Non-Encumbrance Certificate, duly issued by the competent authority, prior to the handover of the CA land to the State Forest Department.
- xvi. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
 - Surface infrastructure and associated surface rights shall be restricted to 9.982 ha only. The area shall be properly demarcated on the ground and secured through suitable fencing.
 - Tree felling shall be confined to the minimum extent necessary for establishing the approved surface infrastructure within the aforesaid 9.982 ha of forest land and shall be undertaken in a phased manner in consultation with the State Forest Department.
 - The User Agency and the State Government shall endeavour to translocate trees, wherever technically and ecologically feasible, at the expense of the User Agency. A feasibility report and action plan in this regard shall be submitted by the State Government for record and monitoring purposes.
 - The Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP) and Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) Plan, as proposed by the State Forest Department, shall be implemented by the User Agency to address the cumulative environmental impacts arising from the proposed project and other existing mining activities in the region.

- The User Agency shall furnish self-certified compliance reports periodically to the Regional Office, Nagpur, in accordance with the applicable rules and guidelines in force.
 - The User Agency shall deposit the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land, including the assessed impact of subsidence, wherever applicable, in accordance with the prevailing rules, guidelines, and orders issued by the Government of India from time to time.
 - The User Agency shall ensure that the land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is free from all encroachments and encumbrances prior to its transfer to the State Forest Department. The State Forest Department shall undertake demarcation, fencing, plantation, protection, and maintenance of the Compensatory Afforestation area, with the associated expenditure borne by the User Agency.
 - The User Agency shall undertake regular monitoring of mine subsidence and its ecological impacts within the diverted forest area and shall implement appropriate mitigation and restoration measures, in consultation with the State Forest Department, wherever adverse effects are observed,
 - No forest land beyond the approved extent shall be utilized for mining or any allied activity without obtaining prior approval under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - The User Agency shall adhere to all applicable statutory requirements and any directions, guidelines, or conditions issued by the Central Government, State Government, or other competent authorities from time to time.
- xvii. With regard to the presence of the water bodies on the land proposed for diversion, the State Government has submitted that the proposed project is an underground coal mine and that only 9.982 ha of the total 621.331 ha of forest land involved in the proposal is required for mining and allied activities. It has further been stated that no surface water body shall be impacted or disturbed by the proposed mining operations, and an undertaking to this effect has been furnished by the User Agency. However, the specific comments of the competent Water Resources Department regarding the existence of water bodies/drainages observed in the satellite imagery and the likely impact of the project thereon have not been furnished.
- xviii. The State Government has submitted that the instant proposal is confined to the approved mining lease area of 869.025 ha of the Purunga Coal Mine Project. It has further stated that the feasibility study for the railway connectivity and associated water and power infrastructure requirements is under examination and, therefore, has not been included in the present proposal. The State Government has informed that a separate proposal, if required, shall be submitted after finalization of the study and alignment details in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. In this regard, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking on the PARIVESH portal.
- xix. The State Government has submitted that the land requirement has been restricted to the minimum feasible area of 9.982 ha required for essential surface infrastructure and mine entries necessary for safe and efficient

underground mining operations. The User Agency has justified the proposed location on the grounds that it is situated in the north-eastern part of the block, nearest to the CERL Rail Corridor (Kurumkela–Dharamjaigarh), thereby facilitating mineral evacuation and supporting the First Mile Connectivity initiative with minimal environmental and social impacts. The User Agency has further submitted that the proposed mine entries are located in an area where the coal seams occur at a shallower depth, resulting in shorter inclines, improved coal recovery, reduced coal blockage in safety pillars, and earlier achievement of rated production capacity.

- xx. The Committee further observed that as per the Subsidence Prediction Report prepared by the CSIR–Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research, Dhanbad, the predicted maximum subsidence and tensile strain due to extraction of coal from six seams after fifty-one years are 1187 mm and 2.94 mm/m, respectively, in the non-forest land, and 2652 mm and 4.48 mm/m, respectively, in the forest land.
- xxi. The Committee observed that the Ministry of Coal, vide its letter dated 27.06.2025, has approved the Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan in favour of CG Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd. The State Government has informed that the ownership of the coal block was subsequently transferred from M/s CG Natural Resources Private Limited to M/s Ambuja Cements Limited by the Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, New Delhi vide letter dated 10.03.2025. The committee agreed upon it.
- xxii. The Committee observed that the State Govt. submitted that no surface water body shall be impacted or disturbed by the proposed mining operations, and an undertaking to this effect has been furnished by the User Agency. However, the specific comments of the competent Water Resources Department regarding the existence of water bodies/drainages observed in the satellite imagery and the likely impact of the project thereon have not been furnished by the State Govt.
- xxiii. The Committee observed that the proposed area does not form part of any seriously eroded landscape. However, the Regional Office in its SIR stated that considering that the project involves underground mining with limited surface disturbance confined to essential infrastructure, the likelihood of soil erosion is expected to be minimal, subject to implementation of appropriate environmental management measures.

- **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 recommended the “**Stage-1/In-principle approval**” for diversion of 621.331 ha of forest land (Out of lease area of 869.025 Ha) for Purunga Underground Coal block located at village Purunga, Kokdar and Samarsingha, Tehsil-Chhal, District-Raigarh, Chhattisgarh in favour of M/s of Ambuja Cements Limited with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. The proposed underground mine is likely to cause cumulative maximum tensile strain due to extraction of coal of 4.48 mm/m in forest area. Accordingly, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented by the State Government, at the cost of the User Agency, to reduce tensile strain on the surface.
- ii. In case the subsidence level is more than that is now forecasted, the user agency shall comply and pay the requisite NPV and Compensatory afforestation, as required under the Ministry's guidelines.
- iii. In event of any adverse impact on forest cover due to subsidence, prompt safety measures shall be implemented by the User Agency in coordination with the State Forest Department.
- iv. The State Government/User Agency shall submit the report on the subsidence to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry in every three years.
- v. The Mining shall be done as per the Mining Plan approved by the competent authority.
- vi. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan duly approved by the component authority. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.
- vii. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP), as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.

Agenda No. 4

Proposal No: FP/CG/MIN/QRY/534576/2025

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 362.109 hectares of forest land for the Pelma Open Cast Mine Project in the Raigarh Forest Division of Raigarh District in favour South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), in the State of Chhattisgarh (Proposal No: FP/CG/MIN/QRY/534576/2025)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. 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-5-49/2025/10-2 dated

28.01.2026 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 for Proposal for diversion of 362.109 hectares of forest land for the Pelma Open Cast Mine Project in the Raigarh Forest Division of Raigarh District in favour South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), in the State of Chhattisgarh (Proposal No: FP/CG/MIN/QRY/534576/2025).

- ii. The Ministry of Coal, Government of India, has allocated the Pelma Opencast Project (OCP) to M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL). The coal deposits in the project area are site-specific and have been established through scientific exploration carried out by CMPDIL/MECL. The project is site-specific in nature and is proposed for mining to meet the national demand for coal, as well as to generate employment through sustainable mining practices. The coal seams also extend beneath the forest land proposed for diversion; therefore, in order to extract these valuable coal deposits, the User Agency has submitted the instant proposal seeking approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- iii. The instant proposal seeks prior approval under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 362.109 hectares of forest land for the Pelma Opencast Coal Mining Project. The project is located in the villages of Pelma, Urba, Lalpur, Maduadumar, Jarhidih, Hinjhar, Sakta, Milupara, and Kharra in Tehsil Tamnar, District Raigarh, Chhattisgarh. The total mining lease area is 2,077.935 hectares, of which 362.109 hectares is forest land and 1,715.826 hectares is non-forest land.
- iv. The Pelma coal block is situated in the Mand-Raigarh Coalfield under the administrative control of the Raigarh Area of SECL. The block lies in the eastern part of the coalfield within Tehsil Tamnar of District Raigarh, Chhattisgarh. The block contains substantial power-grade coal resources with opencast quarrying potential. In order to bridge the gap between the production and demand of power-grade coal, CMPDI was entrusted with undertaking exploration in the Pelma block.
- v. The proposed land for diversion of 362.109 ha (233.272 ha - Protected Forest, 68.837 ha - Revenue Forest, 60 ha - Reserved Forest) is having the canopy density of the 0.6 of Eco Class III.
- vi. As per the information submitted by the State Govt., the proposal involves the felling of 52570 number of trees.
- vii. The State Govt. has submitted that the proposal does not involves the violation of the Adhiniyam, 1980.
- viii. The State Govt. submitted that the area proposed for diversion does not form part of any Protected Areas (PAs) or their Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs). During the field visit of the RO Nagpur, officials of the State Forest Department confirmed that the proposed diversion area does not fall within any recognised elephant corridor. However, stray movement of elephants has been observed in the area, though such occurrences are infrequent. The movement of herds is generally attributed to the presence of agricultural fields in the vicinity of the forest area.
- ix. The State Govt. submitted that the Principal Chief Conservator of

Forests (PCCF), Wildlife, has approved the Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP) and the Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) Plan with a financial outlay of ₹954.03 lakhs.

- x. The State Govt. submitted that the land acquisition process for the Pelma Opencast Project (OCP) Coal Block shall be carried out under the provisions of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, and the relevant notifications issued by the Ministry of Coal. Rehabilitation of displaced persons shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan at the project cost.
- xi. The Mining plan for the instant Mine has been approved by the Board of the SECL, MoC vide letter dated 16.04.2025. The State Govt. submitted that as per the approved Mining Plan, an area of 1,739.25 hectares has been proposed for biological reclamation. A total of 43.48 lakh trees (1,739.25 hectares 2,500 trees per hectare) are proposed to be planted over the reclaimed area in a phased manner. In addition, an undisturbed area of 338.69 hectares will be retained. Accordingly, the entire mining lease area of 2,077.935 hectares shall be handed over after closure of the mine.
- xii. The land use for the instant proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)
6.	Quarry Area (MINE PIT AREA)	160.76	700.83
7.	Safety Zone	38.04	138.06
8.	Land for industrial development, dump safety zone, approach road, future expansion ,road diversion, nallah diversion etc.	75.47	398.13
9.	External OB dump area	87.839	478.805
Total		362.109	1715.825

- xiii. Against the land proposed for diversion, the State Government has clarified that the User Agency had initially identified 413.517 ha of non-forest land in the Bishrampur Area for Compensatory Afforestation. Out of the total area, 29.877 ha is under waterlogging, 11.817 ha is under encroachment, and 2.949 ha is presently being utilized for fly ash dumping.
- xiv. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
 - The User Agency shall maintain a safety zone of 7.5 metres width along the mining area, ensuring that it lies within the diverted forest land. Funds shall be provided for plantation and maintenance over degraded forest land equivalent to 1.5 times the safety zone area.

- Against the required 362.109 hectares, 413.517 hectares of non-forest land have been identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA), including 11.817 hectares under encroachment, 29.877 hectares under water bodies, and 2.949 hectares under fly ash dumping (total 44.643 hectares). The net immediately available CA land is 368.874 hectares, which is adequate. However, the User Agency shall ensure that all encroachments are removed prior to handing over the land to the State Forest Department. A comprehensive restoration plan for the 2.949 hectares of fly ash-affected area shall be prepared and implemented at the cost of the User Agency to render it suitable for afforestation. Considering the existing canopy density in the proposed CA site, the State Government shall prepare and implement a crop improvement programme as per the VSS Rules.
- The State Government and the User Agency shall explore the possibility of shifting the proposed dumping from forest land to non-forest land and retaining the proposed dump area as a green zone. In case this is unavoidable as per the approved mining plan, dumping shall be carried out only in designated areas with proper gradients, and the same shall be biologically reclaimed and restored as per the approved plan and subsequently handed over to the State Forest Department.
- The Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP), duly approved by the PCCF (Wildlife), and the Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) Plan shall be implemented by the User Agency and the State Forest Department at the project cost.
- Prior to diversion of the nallah, the User Agency shall obtain expert opinion to assess potential impacts, secure necessary approvals from the concerned authorities, and implement mitigation measures at its own cost.
- As the proposal involves shifting of an existing road and power transmission line within the mining lease boundary, the State Government and the User Agency shall ensure that the Right of Way (RoW) remains within the diverted forest land and that all required approvals are obtained prior to shifting.
- The User Agency and the State Forest Department shall explore the possibility of transplanting trees below 60 cm girth class, based on species suitability and feasibility, at the cost of the User Agency. Tree felling shall be carried out in a phased manner under the supervision of the State Forest Department.
- The User Agency shall ensure that topsoil is properly conserved and utilised for green belt development, including spreading over dump areas prior to plantation and re-grassing.
- Concurrent reclamation and restoration of mined-out areas shall be undertaken as per the approved Mining Plan at the cost of the User Agency.
- Controlled blasting techniques shall be adopted as per site suitability. Adequate precautions shall be taken to prevent adverse impacts on nearby habitats during blasting operations.
- The User Agency shall obtain all statutory approvals under the applicable Acts, Rules, and Regulations.

xv. With regard to the prior approvals under the VSESA, 1980 and NOC for the

road and transmission line falling in the lease area, the State Government has submitted that the transmission line passing through the lease area pertains to the 765 kV Double Circuit Pooling Station and Transmission Line of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, for which prior forest clearance was reportedly granted by the Ministry vide approval dated 15.01.2014. It has further been stated that the User Agency has obtained an in-principle No Objection Certificate (NOC) dated 30.04.2026 from Power Grid Corporation of India Limited. With regard to the road existing within the proposed diversion area, the State Government has informed that no approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 was obtained for the said road. It has also been stated that the User Agency has initiated correspondence with the Public Works Department (PWD) for obtaining the requisite NOC and relevant details.

- xvi. The State Government has submitted that the process for obtaining the NOC from the Water Resources Department is under progress. It has further stated that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking to submit the NOC at the time of submission of compliance to the Stage-I approval and to comply with any conditions that may be imposed by the concerned department for the protection of the Kelo River.
- xvii. With reference to the comments and justification for locating the proposed project within a High Conservation Value (HCV) zone, as identified under DSS Rule-1, wherein the proposed forest land comprises Very Dense Forest patches and is situated adjacent to the Kelo River, the State Government submitted that the proposal pertains to the Pelma Opencast Project allotted under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 and, being a mining project, is site-specific in nature with no feasible alternative location
- xviii. As per the component wise breakup, the State Govt. has proposed the substantial portion of the land proposed for diversion for non site specific activities i.e. 75.47 ha and 87.839 ha area for infrastructure & road and External Dump area respectively. The State Government submitted that the User Agency has justified that the external OB dump and associated infrastructure, including the conveyor system, silo, road diversion, and nallah diversion, are integral and incidental components of the Pelma Open Cast Project. It has further been stated that these components have been planned keeping in view technical feasibility, economic viability, and environmental sustainability to ensure efficient mining operations with minimal environmental impact.
- xix. The State Govt. has forwarded the reply submitted by the User Agency that the overlapping land forms part of the Pelma Coal Block notified under Sections 4(1), 9(1), and 11(1) of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957. It was further stated that, as per the Addendum to the Allotment Order dated 16.11.2022 issued by the Ministry of Coal in respect of the Talaipalli Coal Block, Village Pelma does not fall within the Talaipalli Coal Block. The User Agency has also furnished an undertaking stating that no forest land is involved in the overlap area and that any decision taken by the Ministry of Coal regarding the overlapping area shall be duly intimated to the Ministry. The State Government has reiterated that the Pelma Open Cast Project has been allotted under the CBA (A&D) Act, 1957

and that, as per the allotment order issued to NTPC for the Talaipalli Coal Block, Village Pelma does not form part of the Talaipalli Coal Block. It has also been stated that no overlap exists in respect of forest land.

- xx. The Committee observed that the area proposed for diversion does not form part of any Protected Areas (PAs) or their Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs). However, the movement of the wild elephants is noticed in and around the land proposed for diversion. Accordingly, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Wildlife, has approved the Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP) and the Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) Plan with a financial outlay of Rs. 954.03 lakhs.
- xxi. The Committee observed that the transmission line passing through the lease area pertains to the 765 kV Double Circuit Pooling Station and Transmission Line of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, for which prior forest clearance was reportedly granted by the Ministry vide approval dated 15.01.2014. It has further been stated that the User Agency has obtained an in-principle No Objection Certificate (NOC) dated 30.04.2026 from Power Grid Corporation of India Limited. With regard to the road existing within the proposed diversion area, the State Government has informed that no approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 was obtained for the said road. It has also been stated that the User Agency has initiated correspondence with the Public Works Department (PWD) for obtaining the requisite NOC and relevant details.
- xxii. The Committee observed that the User Agency had initially identified 413.517 ha of non-forest land in the Bishrampur Area for Compensatory Afforestation. It has been submitted that, following completion of mining operations, reclamation and plantation activities have been undertaken over the area since 1998 through MPRVVN Ltd. Out of the total area, 29.877 ha is under waterlogging, 11.817 ha is under encroachment, and 2.949 ha is presently being utilized for fly ash dumping. The remaining 368.874 ha is reported to support established plantations and has been found suitable for Compensatory Afforestation. The User Agency has further submitted that the 110.0 ha area earlier referred to as a dumping site comprises technically reclaimed mined-out land, which is now suitable for biological reclamation and use for Additional/Compensatory Afforestation, and that the CA scheme has been prepared and approved on the basis of the site suitability certificate.
- xxiii. The Committee further observed that the State Government has submitted a comprehensive Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) and Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan at an estimated cost of ₹2,50,01,306/- dully approved by the DFO.
- xxiv. The Committee observed that the feasibility examination of the external dump was carried out by CMPDI, RI-V, Bilaspur. As per the report, the proposed external OB dump, industrial infrastructure, approach road, and future expansion areas are integral and ancillary components of the coal mining project. It has further been stated that the original project area of 2510.820 ha was reduced to 2077.934 ha to minimize the use of forest land and avoid inclusion of dense forest patches.
- xxv. The Committee further observed that the surrounding area is predominantly occupied by coal blocks and dense forests, and therefore the proposed land requirement is considered essential and cannot be shifted to non-forest land.

- xxvi. The Committee also observed that as per the approved Mining Plan, an area of 1,739.25 hectares has been proposed for biological reclamation. A total of 43.48 lakh trees (1,739.25 hectares 2,500 trees per hectare) are proposed to be planted over the reclaimed area in a phased manner. In addition, an undisturbed area of 338.69 hectares will be retained. Accordingly, the entire mining lease area of 2,077.935 hectares shall be handed over after closure of the mine.
- xxvii. The Committee also observed that the land proposed for diversion is adjacent to the Kelo River. The User Agency is in process for obtaining the NOC from the Water Resources Department. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to submit the NOC at the time of submission of compliance to the Stage-I approval and to comply with any conditions that may be imposed by the concerned department for the protection of the Kelo River.
- xxviii. The Committee observed that the overlapping land forms part of the Pelma Coal Block notified under Sections 4(1), 9(1), and 11(1) of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957. It was further stated that, as per the Addendum to the Allotment Order dated 16.11.2022 issued by the Ministry of Coal in respect of the Talaipalli Coal Block, Village Pelma does not fall within the Talaipalli Coal Block. The User Agency has also furnished an undertaking stating that no forest land is involved in the overlap area and that any decision taken by the Ministry of Coal regarding the overlapping area shall be duly intimated to the Ministry. The State Government has reiterated that the Pelma Open Cast Project has been allotted under the CBA (A&D) Act, 1957 and that, as per the allotment order issued to NTPC for the Talaipalli Coal Block, Village Pelma does not form part of the Talaipalli Coal Block. It has also been stated that no overlap exists in respect of forest land.
- xxix. The Committee observed that the land proposed for diversion falls in the High Conservation Value (HCV) zone, as identified under DSS Rule-1, wherein the proposed forest land comprises Very Dense Forest patches and is situated adjacent to the Kelo River. The State Government has submitted that the proposal pertains to the Pelma Opencast Project allotted under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 and, being a mining project, is site-specific in nature with no feasible alternative location. The State Government has further stated that the process for obtaining the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Water Resources Department is under progress and that the User Agency has undertaken to comply with any conditions imposed for protection of the Kelo River.
- xxx. The Committee also observed that the State Govt. has proposed the substantial portion of the land proposed for diversion for non site specific activities i.e. 75.47 ha and 87.839 ha area for infrastructure & road and External Dump area respectively. The State Government submitted that the User Agency has justified that the external OB dump and associated infrastructure, including the conveyor system, silo, road diversion, and nallah diversion, are integral and incidental components of the Pelma Open Cast Project. It has further been stated that these components have been planned keeping in view technical feasibility, economic viability, and environmental sustainability to ensure efficient mining operations with minimal environmental impact.
- xxxi. The Committee also called upon the representative of the User Agency i.e.

SECL for justification on the same. Accordingly, the General Manager, SECL justified the requirement of the 87.839 ha of the area required for the external dump. He further stated that the project is designed for 15.0 MTPA production with an average stripping ratio of 3.52 m³/t. Further, the proposed 87.84 ha of forest land for external OB dumping is the absolute minimum unavoidable requirement, finalized after exhaustive engineering optimization, maximizing internal dumping, increasing dump height from 90 m to 120 m, and evaluating all feasible alternatives. Any further reduction would adversely impact safe mine operations, production continuity and implementation of the approved Mining Plan.

xxxii. The Committee observed that the transmission line passing through the lease area pertains to the 765 kV Double Circuit Pooling Station and Transmission Line of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, for which prior forest clearance was reportedly granted by the Ministry vide approval dated 15.01.2014. It has further been stated that the User Agency has obtained an in-principle No Objection Certificate (NOC) dated 30.04.2026 from Power Grid Corporation of India Limited. With regard to the road existing within the proposed diversion area, the State Government has informed that no approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 was obtained for the said road. It has also been stated that the User Agency has initiated correspondence with the Public Works Department (PWD) for obtaining the requisite NOC and relevant details.

- **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 recommended the “*Stage-1/In-principle approval*” for diversion of 362.109 hectares of forest land for the Pelma Open Cast Mine Project in the Raigarh Forest Division of Raigarh District in favour South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), in the State of Chhattisgarh with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the Soil and Moisture Conservation and Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan duly approved by the component authority by the User Agency.
- ii. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP), as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the R & R shall be done in accordance with the approved Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan prepared as per the R& R Policy of the State Government in consonance with National R& R Policy, at the cost of the User Agency.

- iv. The State Govt. shall furnish the copy of the No Objection Certificate from Public Works Department (PWD) for diversion of the road passing through the lease area.
- v. Against the required 362.109 hectares, 413.517 hectares of non-forest land have been identified in the Bishrampur Area by the User Agency for Compensatory Afforestation (CA), including 11.817 hectares under encroachment, 29.877 hectares under water bodies, and 2.949 hectares under fly ash dumping. The User Agency shall ensure that all encroachments are removed prior to handing over the land to the State Forest Department. Further, a comprehensive restoration plan for the 2.949 hectares of fly ash-affected area shall be prepared and implemented at the cost of the User Agency to render it suitable for afforestation.
- vi. The State Government and the User Agency shall explore the possibility of shifting the proposed dumping from forest land to non-forest land and retaining the proposed dump area as a green zone. In case this is unavoidable as per the approved mining plan, dumping shall be carried out only in designated areas with proper gradients, and the same shall be biologically reclaimed and restored as per the approved plan and subsequently handed over to the State Forest Department.
- vii. The State Government shall furnish the No Objection Certificate (NoC) from the Water Resources Department, considering that the proposed mine is located adjacent to the Kelo River and involves the diversion of various nallahs within the land proposed for diversion. Further, prior to diversion of the nallahs, the User Agency shall obtain expert opinion to assess potential impacts, secure necessary approvals from the concerned authorities, and implement mitigation measures at its own cost.
- viii. The User Agency and the State Forest Department shall explore the possibility of transplanting trees below 60 cm girth class, based on species suitability and feasibility, at the cost of the User Agency.

Agenda No. 5

Subject: - Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 diversion of 37.646 Ha. of Forest land falling in PLPA Section 4 in Surajkund Tourism Complex situated at Village - Lakkarpur, District – Faridabad in favour of Tourism Department, Govt. of Haryana (Online Proposal No. FP/HR/Others/554405/2025)–regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on

06.07.2026. the corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Haryana attended the meeting.

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after through deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The proposal envisages diversion of 37.646 Ha. of Forest land falling in PLPA Section 4 in Surajkund Tourism Complex situated at Village - Lakkarpur, District - Faridabad.
 - ii. The vegetation density of 0.1 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 has been submitted along with the proposal is as follows:-

Sr. No	Particulars	Area (Ha)
1	Parking area 1 for Mela	1.32
2	Parking area 2 for Mela	7.24
3	Jungle fowl and shop area	5.8
4	Open area near helipad	1.48
5	Road	2.17
6	Rajhans parking area	0.88
7	Parking area 1	0.39
8	Parking area 2	0.12
9	Lake view parking and lawn	0.89
10	Hotel Rajhans	2.29
11	Mela Stalls and Huts	11.477
12	Helipads Access Area	1.1
13	Resorts Near lake	0.22
14	Convention Hall and lawn	1.26
15	Natya Shala area	0.98
16	Road access 1 (P.F)	0.0096

17	Road access 2 (P.F)	0.0194
Total Area		37.646

- v. The proposal is expected to generate 900 man-days of employment.
- vi. The total financial outlay for CA has been indicated as 23.5191 Crores.
- vii. The CA is proposed over both Non-Forest Land and degraded forest land notified under section 4 of PLPA, 1900 and owned by the User Agency in double extent. The summary of the CA areas is Non Forest land-9.0813 ha and for remaining 28.565 ha- 57.13 ha (notified under section 4 of PLPA, 1900).

viii. The details of CA patches are as follows:

S. No.	Name	Land type	Proposed Area (ha)
1	Abhaypur patch-1	NFL	2.5065
2	Abhaypur patch-2	NFL	
3	Abhaypur patch-1	DFL	6.475
4	Abhaypur patch-2	DFL	
5	Dumdama	NFL	2.5748
6	Ankhir patch-1	NFL	4.00
7	Ankhir patch-2	NFL	
8	Badkhal patch-1	DFL	27.11
9	Badkhal patch-2	DFL	
10	Lakkarpur patch-1	DFL	23.551
11	Lakkarpur patch-2	DFL	
12	Lakkarpur patch-3	DFL	
Total			66.2173

- ix. As per Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Chandigarh, the CA sites have been visited and all CA areas in both Faridabad and Gurugram were found predominantly covered with Prosopis juliflora. It has been mentioned by the RFO, Faridabad and RFO, Sohana that the plantation will be done after uprooting of Prosopis juliflora and provisions for same were made in the CA Scheme. The areas were found suitable for plantation after removal of Prosopis juliflora.

- x. No wildlife is present in the project area. 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, Faridabad has mentioned that the requirement of forest land is unavoidable and barest minimum.
- xii. The user agency has done construction and utilized the forest land for non-forestry purpose without any prior approval of Central govt. under section 2 of Forest Conservation Act. Notices were issued to the User Agency Haryana Tourism department, Faridabad, after which U.A has applied for ex-post facto approval of Surajkund Tourism Complex operational under Haryana Tourism Department.
- xiii. As per information provided by the Haryana State Forest Department, area of Haryana Tourism Department in village Lakarpur falling under PLPA, 1900 (construction done from 1980-2004) 32.7102 Ha and construction after 2004 is 4.9068 Ha. The total area is as under:-

	Area (sq m)	Area (Hectares)
Construction done from 1980-2004	327102	32.7102
Construction after year 2004	49068	4.9068
Total		37.6170
PF Access area 1+area 2 = (194+96) sq m	290	0.0290
Grand Total project area	376460	37.6460

- xiv. The State Government has informed that the area proposed for diversion by the user agency is closed under section 4 of PLPA. The land under ownership of tourism department in village Lakarpur is being utilized by Haryana tourism department for tourism related activities since 1970s (e.g. the famous Surajkund International Crafts Mela). Most of the land got notified under PLPA in 1970 and 1992. Later in Writ Petition (civil) 4677 of 1985 titled M.C. Mehta vs Union of India & Ors judgment dated 18 March, 2004 Hon'ble Supreme Court of India stated that for the purposes of the FC Act, these areas shall be treated as forest and for use of it for non-forestry purpose, it would be necessary to comply with the provisions of the FC Act. So actually in 18.03.2004 for the first time PLPA lands were directed to be treated as forest for the purpose of the FC act. While the works construction, development and expansion were going on the land notified under Specific Section 4 of PLPA 1900, the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 [earlier Forest (Conservation) Act 1980] were not applicable on the said land. The provisions of the said were made applicable on land notified under specific Section 4 of PLPA 1900 by Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 18.03.2004

- xv. Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Civil Appeal No. 10294 of 2013 titled Narinder Singh & Ors. v. Divesh Bhutani & Ors. pronounced the judgment on 21.07.2022, the operative part of the said judgment issued the directions as under: -

"64. Thus, we hold that the lands covered by the special orders issued under Section 4 of PLPA have all the trappings of forest lands within the meaning of Section 2 of the 1980 Forest Act and, therefore, the State Government or competent authority cannot permit its use for non-forest activities without the prior approval of the Central Government with effect from 25th October 1980. Prior permission of the Central Government is the quintessence to allow any change of user of forest or so to say deemed forest land. We may add here that even during the subsistence of the special orders under Section 4 of PLPA, with the approval of the Central Government, the State 123 or a competent authority can grant permission for non-forest use. If such non-forest use is permitted in accordance with Section 2 of the 1980 Forest Act, to that extent, the restrictions imposed by the special orders under Section 4 of PLPA will not apply in view of the language used in the opening part of Section 2 of the 1980 Forest Act. We also clarify that only because there is a notification issued under Section 3 of PLPA, the land which is subject matter of such notification, will not ipso facto become a forest land within the meaning of the 1980 Forest Act.

65. Therefore, the lands covered by the special orders dated 18th August 1992 issued under Section 4 of PLPA will be governed by the orders passed by this Court in the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) Nos.7220-7221 of 2017. Hence, all the concerned authorities shall take action to remove the remaining illegal structures standing on land covered by the special orders and used for non-forest activities on the said lands erected after 25th October 1980, without prior approval of the Central Government, and further to restore status quo ante including to undertake reforestation/afforestation programmes in right earnest. As far as the lands covered by special orders under Section 5 are concerned, we are not making any adjudication. Therefore, the authorities will have to decide the status of the lands covered by the said orders under Section 5 on case to case basis.

- xvi. The State Government has stated that in compliance with the judgment dated 21.07.2022 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 10294 of 2013, notices were issued by the Forest Department to the Surajkund Tourism Complex regarding violations involving the use of forest land for non-forestry activities. Subsequently, in accordance with the directions of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), the user agency has submitted a proposal seeking ex-post facto approval for regularization of the structures under the ex-post facto provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xvii. Regarding the applicability of 3(A) / 3 (B) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the State Government has informed that Haryana Tourism Department was not aware of the applicability of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 on the land owned by

Tourism Department. As the offence was committed without knowledge and without being aware of applicability of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 on the land owned by Tourism Department. The action against the user agency under Section 3(A) / 3 (B) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 may not be considered.

- xviii. The State Government has requested to consider the project as Site Specific being famous tourism destination of Haryana in NCR.
- xix. The State Government has stated that it is a Government Project owned by Tourism Department of the Haryana Government, therefore, the works have been executed after seeking administrative approvals from the competent authorities. However, No supporting documents of administrative approval/sanction have been received from the State Government with regard to various works from 1980 to 2004 and post 2004.
- xx. As per the comments of CCF, Wildlife, Gurugram, the Eco-sensitive zone of Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in village Lakkarpur, District Faridabad, Haryana is up to 100 m from the boundary of Asola WLS in Haryana. The Surajkund Tourism Complex is located about 700 m from the boundary of Asola WLS and does not fall under ESZ of Asola Bhatti WLS.
- xxi. The State Government has stated that the small solid structures, if any, present at the site will be removed prior to undertaking the compensatory afforestation work. The State Government has also stated that the area occupied by the road segment is negligible.
- xxii. As per SIR by Regional Office, Chandigarh, the instant case involves the violation where the proposal under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 has not been submitted and forest land is diverted without FC. Further, it has been mentioned in the Site Inspection report of the DFO concern that the permission for development of the all facilities have been provided by the competent authority. The detail information on the permission granted was not available with the officials present during the inspection. Prima-facie, it appears that the instant case attracts the provisions under the Para 1.16 (i) (b) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xxiii. As per SIR by Regional Office, Chandigarh, the area falls within the Surajkund, which is an 8th-10th century archaeological site featuring an ancient amphitheater-shaped kund (pond) attributed to King Suraj Pal of the Tomar dynasty. The area has sub-circle office of Archaeological Survey of India, during inspection, the officer in-charge of the sub-circle office of Archaeological Survey of India informed that the surajkund is an Archaeological site and hence is zoned in Prohibited, Protected and Regulated areas. It was further informed that the some of the structures are inside prohibited and protected zone and accordingly notices were issued to the Tourism Department. Presence of the Archaeological site has not been reported in the Site Inspection Report of the DFO, accordingly, detailed note regarding the legal protection vis-a-vis restricted zones around the site as per the prevailing Acts and Rules governed by the Archaeological Survey of India may be asked prior to further decision.
- xxiv. DDGF (C), 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 with following additional considerations:

- (a). A detailed violation report mentioning the time, nature and extent of

violation along with name of officials responsible for violation need to be submitted.

(b). Component-wise breakup of the proposed area and layout plan also need to be submitted.

(c) It was reported by the inspecting officer that proposed area is of archaeological importance and fact has not been included in the Site Inspection Report of the DFO. Report on applicability of any restriction or requirement of any statutory permission need to be reported by the DFO concerned.

xxv. The Ministry vide letter No. 25-536/2023-ROC dated 29.12.2023 has issued guidelines regarding processing of the proposals involving non-forestry use of lands closed under Punjab Lands Preservation Act, 1900 and clarification on the applicability of the provisions of the Van Sanrkshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 on such lands.

xxvi. As per the guidelines, based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and approval of the same by the competent authority in the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government that in light of provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 and directions contained in the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 21.07.2022 passed in the matter of Narinder Singh and Other vs. Union of India and Others, the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam will be applicable in the lands covered under section 4 of the PLP Act, lands covered under court cases, as referred above; and proposal relating to non-forestry activities, already undertaken in such lands, shall be submitted to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi by the States/Union territory concerned for ex-post facto approval which shall be considered by the MoEF&CC in the following manner:-

(i). Cases where non-forestry use has been done prior to 25.10.1980, with the approval of the competent authority, needs not be referred to the Central Government for prior approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. However, Details of all projects falling under this category along with copies of relevant supporting documents be submitted to MoEF&CC within next 120 days.

(ii). Proposals related to lands where the approval/sanction by the competent authority for the project has been granted by the competent authority in conformity with the applicable land and/or housing laws and/or master/development plan of the said area either before or after issuance of special order under Section 4 of the PLPA but prior to Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 18.03.2004 (when for the first time PLPA lands were directed to be treated as forest for the purposes of FC Act) shall be considered for ex-post facto approval subject to payment of normal NPV and compensatory afforestation and other relevant conditions.

(iii). Proposal where the approval/sanction by the competent authority for the project has been granted by the competent authority in conformity with the applicable land and/or housing laws and/or master/development plan of the said land after the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 18.03.2004 (when for the first time PLPA lands were directed to be treated as forest for the purposes of FC Act) shall be considered for ex-post facto approval subject to payment of normal NPV, compensatory afforestation, penal NPV, penal CA and other relevant conditions.

(iv). The MoEF&CC, New Delhi will examine such proposals on case to case basis and ex-post facto approval wherever considered, shall be subject payment of Net Present Value and Compensatory Afforestation or penal compensatory levies, as mentioned under clause (ii) & (iii) above.

(v). In cases, the lands covered under section 4 of the PLP Act but located within the Protected Areas such as National Park, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Tiger Corridor, prior approval of the Standing Committee of the NBWL, as applicable, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and relevant guidelines issued thereunder, shall be obtained before submission of the proposal for ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

(vi). In cases where any part of the project area falls in any notified eco sensitive zone, the proposal under the Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam shall be submitted/considered only after excluding such part and such part of the project land falling in notified ESZ shall be used strictly in accordance with the notification of such eco sensitive zone.

- xxvii. The Advisory Committee noted that as per Site Inspection by Regional Office, Chandigarh, proposed area is of archaeological importance and fact has not been included in the Site Inspection Report of the DFO. It was observed that the State Government has not provided a copy of NOC from Archaeological Department.
- xxviii. The Advisory Committee noted that no supporting documents of administrative approval/sanction have been received from the State Government with regard to various works from 1980 to 2004 and post 2004.
- xxix. The Advisory Committee asked the official from the State Government whether there is change in present land use after the approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The State Government official informed that there will be no change in land use after the approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The Committee noted the same.
- xxx. The Advisory Committee asked the official from the State Government whether the proposed area for diversion comes under the Aravalli landscape. The State Government official informed that proposed area for diversion falls under the Aravalli landscape

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 37.646 Ha. of Forest land falling in PLPA Section 4 in Surajkund Tourism Complex situated at Village - Lakkarpur, District – Faridabad in favour of Tourism Department, Govt. of Haryana subject to general, standard and following specific conditions: -

- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of area wherein approval of competent authority was issued after 18.03.2004 plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- ii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of 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. The User Agency shall pay penal CA for the extent of area wherein approval of component authority was issued after 18.03.2004.
- iii. 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.
- 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 along with Stage-I compliance.
- v. The State Government shall provide a copy of NOC from Archaeological Department along with Stage-I compliance.
- vi. The State Govt. shall provide supporting documents of administrative approval/sanction received from the State Government with regard to various works undertaken from 1980 to 2004 and post 2004 alongwith the Stage-I compliance.
- vii. The State Government shall not undertake any fresh breaking of land or make any land use change. Any fresh breakage of land or land use change will be undertaken only with prior approval of the Central Government.

Agenda No.7

Proposal No. FP/KA/SCH/452489/2023

Sub: Proposal 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 0.3511 ha (revised from 0.2863 ha) ha forest area in Sy.No. 71 of Jali Village, Bhatkal Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Honnavar Forest division) for construction of educational Institution in favour of Quwwatul Educational and Charitable, Trust, Jali, Bhatkal, Karnataka.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 07.07.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDG, Regional Office, Bengaluru, and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. The Government of Karnataka vide its letter No. FEE 27 FLL 2025 dated 18/09/2025 submitted the above proposal seeking *ex-post facto* approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - ii. The legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion is Reserved Forest
 - iii. The canopy density of the forest area proposed for diversion is 0.1 with Eco class-1
 - iv. The forest area proposed for diversion requires felling of 7 number of trees. The species proposed for felling area *Mangifera indica*, *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Ficus racemosa*.
 - v. The forest area proposed for diversion does not forms the part of Protected Area, biosphere reseve, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor etc.
 - vi. There are no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna found in the area proposed for diversion.
 - vii. The State Government has reported violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the User Agency, which constructed classroom and office buildings on 0.10 ha of forest land in 1999.
 - viii. The State Government has reported that the concerned Range Forest Officer, Bhatkal has been booked FIR under Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 Rule 24 (g) & (gg).
 - ix. The Regional Office, in its site inspection report has stated that. structures under violation include classrooms, Office, open-air theatre, playground, green space, madrasa, and mosque. Thus, the area under violation includes Classroom, Office, Open Air Theater, Play Ground, Green Space, Madrasa

and Mosque. Mosque and Madrasa are not part of the instant proposal which need to be included.

- x. The proposal was initially examined in the Ministry and sought the following clarification from the State Government on 16/10/2025;
 - The User Agency has violated the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 by constructing classroom and office buildings over 0.1 hectares of forest land in 1999. Notably, the society was formally registered only in 2021, indicating that the institute operated without legal status for a significant period. The State Government is required to submit a detailed violation report in the matter including action taken against the User Agency and against personnel unable to prevent the violation
- xi. The State Government submitted the reply with regard to violation and has that forest officers/staff have not consciously allowed/failed to prevent the use of forest land for non-forestry purpose as it is already verified and communicated the past that local forest officers were unaware of the alleged forest encroachment owing to lack of clarity on the boundary between forest land in F.Sy.No. 71 and the adjacent non-forest land in F.Sy.No. 70 of Jali village, Bhatkal taluk. The State Government has also reported that upon proper ground scrutiny and survey by the forest department, when it was confirmed that there was an encroachment of forest land by the user agency, an FIR was registered as per the provisions of the Karnataka Forest Act 1963. Therefore, it is clarified that no forest officers/staff have allowed unauthorized use of forest land for non-forestry purposes.
- xii. The Regional Office, in its site inspection report has stated that proposal relates to a public utility project, it is recommended that the proposal be returned to the User Agency for resubmission, ensuring inclusion of all forest land and structures involved in the violation, including the mosque and madrasa
- xiii. The user agency has revised the area proposed for diversion from 0.2863 ha to 0.3511 ha based on the Regional Office site inspection report, wherein user agency has mentioned that Madrasa was not existed in the site. The premises are being utilized exclusively for educational purpose and there are no madaras related activities being conducted. The institution now functions solely as a general school providing formal education to girl children from surrounding area.
- xiv. The Committee noted that forest land is put to use for non-forestry purpose since 1994. However, the State Government has not submitted the updated status of the case filed under the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963. The Committee noted the same.
- xv. The Nodal Officer informed that committee that due to lack of clarity on the forest boundary, the said land has been used for non-forestry purpose, as and when it was determined as forest land, an FIR has been booked against against the violators under the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 and accordingly, the proposal has been submitted seeking post facto approval.

Decision of the Advisory Committee: The Committee held detailed discussions with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Karnataka Forest Department. After examining the facts of the proposal, decided to **defer** the

proposal for want of following clarification:

- i. The State Government has to submit the updated status of the case filed under the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 against the encroachment of forest land.
- ii. The State Government has to clarify whether any authorities in the State Government has given permission for use of forest land for non-forestry purpose in violation to Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and, if so, the full details of violation shall be submitted.
- iii. The forest area proposed for diversion has been revised from 0.2863 ha to 0.3511 ha. However, the revised area has not been modified in the part-II to Part-IV of the proposal. The same may be modified accordingly.
- iv. The State Government shall clearly bring out the broken up area (built-up area) in the proposal and also specify if any further constructions are proposed to be carried out. The details may be submitted.
- v. As per the DSS report, some part of the prayer hall is falling outside the proposed area. Accordingly, comments of the State Government in the matter is sought.
- vi. As per the proposal, extent of the violation is 0.1 Ha whereas the SIR of the Regional Office states that the entire area proposed for diversion is under violation. The comments of the State Government be provided in the matter.

Agenda No.8

Proposal No. FP/KA/WATER/458059/2024

Sub: Proposal seeking Ex-post facto approval the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.8804 ha of forest land for construction of raising main, Gravity main, Balancing Tank and Over Head Tank in Anur and other 14 Villages in Haveri, Byadagi and Ranebennur Taluk of Haveri District, for multi village drinking water supply facilities to 51 rural habitations of Haveri District from Tunga Badra River under Jal Jeevan Mission in favour of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Haver, Karnataka.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 07.07.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDG, Regional Office, Bengaluru, and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. The Government of Karnataka vide its letter No. FEE 236FLL2024 (e) dated

29/05/2026 has submitted the subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- ii. The proposal envisages diversion of 0.8804 ha of forest land for construction of raising main, Gravity main, Balancing Tank and Over Head Tank in Anur and other 14 Villages in Haveri, Byadagi and Ranebennur Taluk of Haveri District, for multi village drinking water supply facilities to 51 rural habitations of Haveri District from Tunga Badra River under Jal Jeevan in favour of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Haver, Karnataka.
- iii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion viz: Reserve Forest-0.1938 ha, District Level Forest:0.4259 ha and Others:0.2607
- iv. The Vegetation density of forest land proposed for diversion is 0.01 ha with Eco class IV.
- v. The forest land proposed for diversion does not involve tree felling
- vi. There are no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna reported in the forest area proposed for diversion
- vii. There are no National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor/ Wildlife Migration Corridor within ten kilometres from the boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion.
- viii. The forest land proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor/ Wildlife Migration Corridor.
- ix. There are no Protected/ Archaeological Heritage Sites/ Defence establishments located in the proposed area.
- x. The forest area proposed for diversion is the bare minimum and unavoidable
- xi. The Proposal has been recommended by the State Government.
- xii. The State Government has reported that that user agency i.e. Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department has issued work order for construction of Overhead Tank in forest land before seeking prior approval under the VSESA, 1980.
- xiii. The area under violation has been reported as 0.0793 ha by constructing Gravity Main and Overhead tank in the forest land.
- xiv. The Regional Office, in its site inspection report has stated that area under violation as 0.2426 acres (0.09817ha).
- xv. It is reported that the Zonal Balancing Tank is proposed in Forest land due to unavailability of required elevation to supply the water to Over Head Tank (OHT) through gravity flow in gravity pipelines. The Gravity main and Raising Main are running all along the road side (Forest Area) and it will not damage the forest land.
- xvi. The Forest Department has filed the First Information Report (FIR) against user agency on forest offence case No. FOC No: 23/2023-24 Dated: 06-02-2024, FOC No: 49/2022-23 Dated: 17-03-2023, FOC No: 50/2022-23 Dated: 17-03-2023 under the Karnataka Forest Act 1963 and Rule 1969.
- xvii. The Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru has recommended the proposal, considering it to be a public utility project, subject to the realization of penal NPV and initiation of disciplinary action against the officials responsible for failing to prevent the use of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of the Government of India.
- xviii. The committee noted that proposal submitted by the State Government is

public utility project providing drinking water facility to more than 51 village habitation in Haveri District of Karnataka, which are facing drought from last 10 years as reported in proposal.

Decision of the Advisory Committee: The Committee held detailed discussions with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Office, Karnataka, Forest Department. After examining the facts of the proposal, the Committee recommended grant of ex-post facto ***in-principle (Stage-I)*** approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1)(ii) of the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980* for diversion of 0.8804 ha of forest land for construction of raising main, Gravity main, Balancing Tank and Over Head Tank in Anur and other 14 Villages in Haveri, Byadagi and Ranebennur Taluk of Haveri District for multi village drinking water supply facilities to 51 rural habitations of Haveri District from Tunga Badra River under Jal Jeevan Mission in favour of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Haveri, Karnataka, subject to the 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, Bengaluru 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 (as determined by the Regional Office, in site inspection report) 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 Regional Office, shall initiate action /penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and submit action taken report along with Stage-I compliance.

Agenda No. 9

Proposal No: FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/527616/2025

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) for diversion of 60.276 hectares of forest land for the construction of Dam-4 under the Sher Irrigation Complex Project in favour of Department of Irrigation in the Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh State

(Proposal No: FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/527616/2025)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. 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. एफ3/54/1000458/0066/14- dated 05.02.2026 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 60.276 hectares of forest land for the construction of Dam-4 under the Sher Irrigation Complex Project in favour of Department of Irrigation in the Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh State.
 - ii. The project site involves the construction of a dam across the Kanera River, which is an upstream tributary of the Sher River flowing within the Narmada basin. Geographically, the structural and submergence footprints are spread across Reserve Forest (RF) compartments, Protected Forest (PF) compartments including PF-1331, PF-1250, PF-1243, and PF-1328, and multiple revenue village Khasras located near Village-Sagar in the Lakhnadon Tehsil. The dam is designed with a catchment area of 116 sq km, characterized partly by hilly terrain with thick vegetation and partly by sloping ground. It will be executed as a composite dam structure, featuring a cement concrete spillway portion fitted with 4 steel gates to release excess flood water, a concrete non-overflow portion, and earthen flanks. The catchment area receives a mean annual rainfall of 1200 mm, translating to an annual water yield of 36.56 MCM. The gross and live storage capacities of the reservoir are engineered at 32.158 MCM and 31.65 MCM, respectively.
 - iii. The Cultivable Command Area (CCA) of the project is optimized at 7,000 hectares to provide modern irrigation facilities to 18 villages within the Seoni district, covering agricultural tracts that are currently entirely unirrigated. Structurally, the dam line is situated near a small hill that will also house the project's pump house.
 - iv. The dam seat partially spans into the forest area near the river, while the reservoir submergence mostly affects the outer boundaries of the designated area, involving the felling of 4,203 trees across the proposed alignment. The Full Reservoir Level (FRL) has been physically demarcated on-site with painted stones, and rigorous tree enumeration has been executed for the FRL, FRL-2 meter, and FRL-4meter levels in consultation with local forest officials.
 - v. A unique and highly efficient environmental feature of this project is its micro-irrigation layout designed to minimize surface water loss and avoid surface flooding. The entire distribution of water across the

command area will be managed through an extensive network of underground pressurized pipes, ensuring zero open-canal flow. Field irrigation will be executed exclusively via sprinkler systems, extending directly down to blocks of 2.5 hectares, from which point individual farmers will connect their own localized sprinkler equipment. While the submergence will impact sparsely populated villages with agricultural lands, requiring appropriate resettlement and rehabilitation measures, the project will overall drive a substantial rise in sub-soil water levels, facilitate the development of fisheries within the reservoir, boost crop production, and elevate the per capita income of the local population.

- vi. The Sher Irrigation Complex Project is an integrated, four-tier water resource development scheme within the Narmada basin that dynamically utilizes four interdependent dam installations to maximize agricultural distribution via pressurized micro-irrigation systems. While Sher Dams 1, 2, and 3 are aligned in a downstream series directly along the main channel of the Sher River to intercept progressive regional drainage, Dam-4 is strategically positioned on its high-yield upstream tributary, the Kanera River. Hydrologically, the structural catchments vary across Seoni and Narsinghpur districts: Dam-1 controls a compact 98 sq km catchment; Dam-2 commands a gross catchment of 400 sq km (net independent area of 302 sq km; Dam-3 intercepts the largest envelope at 535 sq km gross (net independent area of 135 sq km; and Dam-4 regulates a distinct 116 sq km terminal tributary footprint characterized by hilly and sloping terrain.
- vii. These catchments are deeply integrated with pristine reserved and protected forest ecosystems that naturally regulate peak monsoon water velocities and reduce siltation, including the Adegaon and Sahajpuri reserves for Dam-1, the Sanajdongai, Nagandevri, and Parabica expanses for Dam-2, the Lighari, Parasiya, and Sherkumar tracts for Dam-3, and the Marhipatan, Latgaon, and Sagar Forest Range for Dam-4.
- viii. The land proposed for diversion of 60.276 ha (2.2 ha - Reserved Forest, 12.392 ha - Protected Forest and 45.684 ha - Revenue Forest) is having the canopy density of the 0.1 of the Eco Class III. The proposal involves the felling of 4203 number of trees.
- ix. The State Government submitted that the proposed land for diversion does not form part of any protected area. As per the information furnished by the DFO in Part-II of the online application form, the land proposed for diversion and its surrounding areas support a variety of faunal species. The reported mammalian species include Indian Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Blue Bull (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Chital (*Axis axis*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), and Indian Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*). The area also supports a rich avifauna, including Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*), parakeets, eagles, kingfishers, woodpeckers, and migratory birds such as herons and egrets occurring near water bodies. Reptilian fauna reported from the area include Monitor Lizard, Python, Cobra, and Rat Snake. In addition, a variety of butterflies and other pollinating insects are found along the forest edges and moist habitats.

x. As per the information submitted by the DFO in part-II, the land proposed for diversion is not vulnerable to soil erosion.

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

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)
10.	Spillway	3.3216	0.9685
11.	Road	0.1647	2.0859
12.	Building	0.2066	0.7609
13.	Submergence	47.4471	283.5611
14.	Dam sheet	5.534	33.8286
15.	Pipeline	3.602	0
Total		60.276	321.205

xii. The State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO), Bhopal, vide its letter dated 19.08.2025, clarified that it is mandatory for dam owners to fulfil and comply with all statutory obligations prescribed under the Dam Safety Act, 2021 during and after the construction of specified dams. The SDSO further clarified that no specific consent or approval from the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) is required.

xiii. The State Govt. submitted that the gross catchment area at dam 4 is 116 sq km which falls in Madhya Pradesh. There is no interception in the catchment. Therefore, the free catchment area of this project is 116 sq km. The annual expected yield at 75% dependability has been worked out 36.56 Mcum from free catchment area. The gross storage of dam 4 is 32.158 Mcum. Further, the State Govt. submitted that the concerned department in this regard has conducted a detailed study.

xiv. Against the diversion of the 60.276 ha of the forest land proposed for diversion, the State Govt. has proposed the Compensatory Afforestation over an area of the 121.91 ha of the revenue forest land (Bade Jhad ka Jungle) in 5 patches.

xv. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal subject to the following:

- Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan: The Water Resource Department must work with the Seoni North Forest Division to create a comprehensive CAT plan. This plan must make it mandatory to build loose boulder check dams and contour trenches in the hilly parts of the Marhipatan and Latgaon forests. This will help control heavy monsoon water flow and stop soil and mud from filling up the reservoir too early.
- Riparian Buffer Stabilization Scheme: A protective green belt must be created between the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) and FRL+2 meters. The Water Resource Department must pay for planting local, water-resistant trees with

strong roots along the reservoir edges. This will protect the shoreline from eroding and sliding into the water.

- Removal of Encroachments and Fencing: Before the revenue land is officially handed over to the Forest Department, all agricultural encroachments and hutments must be excluded and accordingly the corrected KML map should be submitted.
- Site-Specific Plantation Layout: Tree planting must strictly match the soil and terrain conditions of each site. Strong tap-root trees like Teak, Palash, and Khair should be planted on the slopy and loamy soils chosen to quickly restore the local water table.
- Mandatory Environmental Flows (E-Flows): Dam-4 is being built on the Kanera River, which feeds water into the main Sher River system downstream. Stopping too much water at Dam-4 could dry up river habitats downstream. Therefore, a condition must be added requiring the dam to automatically release a fixed amount of water (E-Flows) through the spillway during the dry summer months. This will keep the downstream river alive and healthy before it joins the Narmada basin.

- xvi. The State Govt. submitted that the Divisional Forest Officer, North Seoni Division, has reported that no other dam proposal on the Kanera River, either upstream or downstream of the proposed dam, is presently under consideration, nor has any proposal received approval under the VSESA, 1980.
- xvii. The State Government has submitted a map indicating the locations of Sher-I, Sher-II, Sher-III, and Sher-IV dams along with the inter-se distances. As per the submitted map, Sher-I is located at a distance of 8.7 km from Sher-II, Sher-II is located at a distance of 13.7 km from Sher-III, Sher-III is located at a distance of 19.5 km from Sher-IV, and Sher-IV is located at a distance of 9.0 km from Sher-I. The State Government has further clarified that all four dams are independent structures and do not share any common infrastructure or facilities. It has also been informed that Sher-I Project (FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/505464/2024) has already received final approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 vide letter dated 21.05.2026.
- xviii. The State Govt. submitted that the gross catchment area at dam 4 is 116 sq km which falls in Madhya Pradesh. There is no interception in the catchment. Therefore, the free catchment area of this project is 116 sq km. The annual expected yield at 75% dependability has been worked out 36.56 Mcum from free catchment area. The gross storage of dam 4 is 32.158 Mcum. Further, the State Govt. submitted that the concerned department in this regard has conducted a detailed study.
- xix. The State Government has submitted that out of the total 60.276 ha of forest land involved in the proposal, 45.684 ha comprises revenue forest land under the administrative control of the Revenue Department. It has been clarified that no valid pattas or forest rights titles have been granted under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 over the said land. However, certain portions of the revenue forest land are under illegal encroachment. The State Government has

further informed that, as per the Naib Tehsildar's letter dated 01.06.2026, proceedings for removal of the encroachments are under progress and that the encroachment-free land shall be handed over to the User Agency prior to grant of final approval.

- xx. The State Government has submitted that the proposed irrigation water shall be conveyed through underground pipelines requiring a total land area of 38.842 ha, out of which 3.602 ha comprises forest land and the remaining area is non-forest land. It has further been clarified that, as per the prevailing policy of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, non-forest land required for laying underground pipelines is not acquired and remains under the ownership and possession of the concerned landowners after completion of the work. Accordingly, only the permanent project components and the forest land involved in the pipeline alignment have been included in the proposal.
- xxi. The Committee observed that the 4 proposals namely Sher-I, Sher-II, Sher-III and Sher-IV are proposed in the same landscape and Sher-I is located at a distance of 8.7 km from Sher-II, Sher-II is located at a distance of 13.7 km from Sher-III, Sher-III is located at a distance of 19.5 km from Sher-IV, and Sher-IV is located at a distance of 9.0 km from Sher-I.
- xxii. The Committee further observed that irrigation water shall be conveyed through underground pipelines requiring a total land area of 38.842 ha, out of which 3.602 ha comprises forest land and the remaining area is non-forest land. However, as per the forest compartment boundaries available on the PARIVESH portal, some patches of the pipelines involved in the proposal has not been included in the proposal.

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

- i. As the four dams are proposed within the same river basin, the State Government should clarify whether granting approval for one dam creates a fait accompli situation for approval of the other dams. The State Government should clearly whether the 4 dams are independent of each other or are interlinked.
- ii. As per the forest compartment boundaries available on the PARIVESH portal, certain stretches of the pipelines involved in the project have not been included in the land proposed for diversion. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure that the entire forest land required for the project, including all pipeline stretches and other underground components, is included in the proposal and the proposal be revised accordingly.
- iii. As per the information furnished by the State Government, Sher-I is located at a distance of 8.7 km from Sher-II, Sher-II is 13.7 km from Sher-III, Sher-III is 19.5 km from Sher-IV, and Sher-IV is 9.0 km from Sher-I. In view of the close proximity of these dams within the same basin, the State Government

shall justify the necessity of constructing four separate dams. The State Government shall also examine the feasibility of constructing a single major dam in place of the four proposed dams, so as to minimize the requirement of forest land and the associated environmental impacts.

- iv. The State Government shall explore the feasibility of submitting a consolidated proposal covering all the proposed dams on the same basin for obtaining prior approval of the Central Government under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- v. As the four dams are proposed within the same river basin, the State Government shall clarify whether any change in the layout or design of one dam, as approved in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) by the competent authority, would necessitate corresponding changes in the layout or design of the other dams. The State Government shall also clarify whether such interdependent changes would require prior approval of the Central Government, wherever applicable.

Agenda No. 11

Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464243/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 62.0 Ha of reserve forest land for mining lease of Warjiri Dadar and Bear Hill Bauxite Block in Village Warjiri Dadar, tehsil Baihar, District Balaghat Madhya Pradesh in favour of M/s Nisarg Ispat Pvt. Ltd. (Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464243/2024)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. 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 F-1/904/2025/FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464243/2024/ dated 24.10.2025 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 62.0 Ha of reserve forest land for mining lease of Warjiri Dadar and Bear Hill Bauxite Block in Village Warjiri Dadar, tehsil Baihar, District Balaghat Madhya Pradesh in favour of M/s Nisarg Ispat Pvt. Ltd.
 - ii. The Warjiri Dadar and Bear Hill Bauxite Block, spread over a total

area of 117.51 ha, are situated in Katejhiriya Village, Baihar Taluka, Balaghat District, Madhya Pradesh. Out of the total block area of 117.51 ha, a total of 62.00 ha of forest land is proposed for diversion under the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- iii. The proposed forest land for diversion i.e. 62.0 Ha is having the canopy density of 0.6 of Eco Class III with 16648 number of trees proposed to be felled.

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

S. No.	Component	Forest area in Ha.
1	Safety Zone	3.69
2	Mining Area	49.50
3	Road	1.81
4	Temporary Dumping Area / overburden	3.85
5	Temp site services / infrastructure	0.25
6	Green belt, garland drain, settling tank etc.	2.90
	Total	62.00

- v. The State Govt. submitted that the proposal does not form part of National park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc.
- vi. The State Government submitted that there is a presence of the Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Spotted deer, Sambar, Barking deer, Bison, Langur, etc. in and around the land proposed for diversion.
- vii. The State Government has submitted that the project site is located at a distance of 21 KM from the Kanha- Pench corridor.
- viii. The State Govt. reported that the Project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation and therefore resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required for this project.
- ix. The CA land has been proposed over an area of 62.7 Ha of Non-Forest Land in four (4) patches of 50.529 Ha, 6.713 Ha, 2.407 Ha and 3.051 Ha. The non-forest land provided for compensatory afforestation over an area of 2.407 Ha and 3.051 Ha is adjoining to forest boundaries (compartment no 1747 and 1753 of Multai range of South Betul division).
- x. In response to the justification for opening of a new mine, the State Govt. stated that bauxite, the principal ore of aluminium, is essential to meet rising domestic demand, currently 4.5–6 million tonnes annually and projected to reach 9–10 million tonnes by 2030. The ore is primarily driven by the power, infrastructure, and automobile sectors. As significant bauxite deposits are largely located in forest areas, the

proposed mine has been stated to be necessary.

- xi. The State Government submitted that bauxite mining will be undertaken through open-cast method, with mineralization confined to a shallow depth of 7–9 metres. The overburden generated will be backfilled into mined-out pits, and as no separate muck will be produced, no muck disposal plan or additional forest land is required.
- xii. The State Government submitted that although the total lease area of the Warjiri Dadar and Bear Hill Bauxite Block is 117.15 ha, only 49.5 ha is mineable. The remaining area is non-mineable and has therefore not been included in the present proposal. In addition to the mineable area, forest land is required for essential mining-related components such as safety zones, approach roads, overburden storage, and supporting infrastructure, bringing the total requirement to 62.00 ha.
- xiii. The State Government has submitted that an area of 1.81 ha has been earmarked for construction of a mineral evacuation road. This proposed road will join nearest existing road in non-forest area.
- xiv. The Regional Office Bhopal in its SIR mentioned that the electricity will be sourced from solar power, and water will be supplied through purchased water tankers.
- xv. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal subject to the following:
 1. The area supports ecologically important wildlife species including Leopard, Tiger, Sloth Bear, Chital, Sambar, Barking Deer, Hanuman Langur, Gaur, and various species of snakes. The presence of such diverse and significant fauna highlights the high conservation value and ecological sensitivity of the region. Night-time mining and transportation should be avoided to minimize disturbance to wildlife.
 2. Designated transportation routes shall be followed to prevent vehicular movement through sensitive forest patches or animal trails.
 3. A site-specific Wildlife Conservation Plan is recommended to mitigate potential adverse impacts of mining operations and to conserve the ecological integrity of the forest landscape.
 4. Garland drains and settling tanks, to intercept surface runoff and collected water is advised to be reused within the mine area for dust suppression and watering of plantations.
- xvi. The State Govt. submitted that Mineral Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide its letter dated 10.06.2026 has extended the validity of the Lol from 24.04.2026 to 23.04.2028. Further, the Indian Bureau of Mines, Jabalpur, approved the Mining Plan for the project and its validity is from 24.03.2025 to 31.03.2029.
- xvii. The proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27.02.2026 and the committee after detailed discussion and deliberation, deferred the proposal for the want of the following:
 5. The State Government has proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over 62.7 ha of non-forest land in four patches measuring 50.529 ha, 6.713 ha, 2.407 ha, and 3.051 ha. The State Government shall consolidate the smaller patches (2.407 ha and 3.051 ha) and provide CA in consolidated and contiguous blocks.
 6. The proposed land for diversion is situated at a distance of 21 KM from the

Kanha- Pench corridor. Further, there is a presence of Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear. Spotted deer. Sambar, Barking deer, Bison, Langur, etc. in and around the land proposed for diversion. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit the comments of PCCF (WL)/CWLW.

7. The State Government shall submit the copy of the NOC from the concerned authority for the transmission line passing through the proposed forest land for diversion.
 - xviii. The State Government has submitted that the smaller CA patches measuring 2.407 ha and 3.051 ha are contiguous to notified forest areas (Compartment Nos. 1747 and 1753 of Multai Range, South Betul Division) and, therefore, are admissible for Compensatory Afforestation in terms of the Consolidated Guidelines dated 29.12.2023, which permit acceptance of land parcels of less than 5 ha if they are contiguous to Reserved Forest/Protected Forest and are suitable for afforestation. The State Government has also stated that a larger CA block of about 50 ha has been provided, making the proposal eligible for rebate under the provisions of Schedule-II of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
 - xix. The State Govt. vide its letter dated 18.02.2026 submitted that the PCCF (Wildlife)/Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh vide letter dated 13.04.2026 has recommended the proposal subject to preparation of a Wildlife Conservation Plan for conservation and management of the flora and fauna occurring within a 10 km radius of the project area, and deposit of the requisite funds by the User Agency for implementation of the said plan.
 - xx. The State Government submitted that the Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company Limited vide its letter dated 25.05.2026 has issued the No objection certificate for the transmission line passing through the proposed forest land for diversion.
 - xxi. The Committee observed that Compensatory Afforestation (CA) patches proposed over the area of 2.407 ha and 3.051 ha are adjacent to the forest compartment boundaries and accordingly, admissible as per the provisions of the VSESA, 1980.
 - xxii. The Committee further observed that the recommendations of the Chief Wildlife Warden in respect to the instant proposal is not clear.
8. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
 - i. The State Government shall furnish the categorical and specific comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), along with clear recommendations on the instant proposal.

Agenda No. 12

Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/462880/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 22.0 Ha of reserve forest land for mining lease of Kotpahar Bauxite Block for Bauxite in village Kotpahar, tehsil Baihar, District Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh in favour of M/s Katni Minerals Private Limited (Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/462880/2024)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. 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 F- F-1/905/2025/ FP/MP/MIN/QRY/462880/2024/ dated 24.10.2025 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 22.0 Ha of reserved forest land for for mining lease of Kotpahar Bauxite Block for Bauxite in village Kotpahar, tehsil Baihar, District Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh in favour of M/s Katni Minerals Private Limited.
 - ii. The State Government submitted that the mining operations are proposed to be undertaken through an open-cast mechanized method, which is considered appropriate for the geological characteristics of the deposit and facilitates systematic, safe, and efficient extraction. Geological investigations reveal that the block is predominantly underlain by Grade-III bauxite, with a few isolated occurrences of Grade-II material. The bauxite mineralization is present in continuous pockets, lensoidal bodies, and well-defined segregations occurring within or immediately below the pisolitic ferruginous laterite horizon.
 - iii. The State submitted that out of the total lease area of 35.9 ha, only 15.405 ha is mineable, and the non-mineable area has not been included in the proposal. Further, in addition to the mineable area, forest land is required for essential mining-related components such as the safety zone, approach roads, overburden storage, and supporting infrastructure; accordingly, the proposal has been submitted for diversion of the minimum required area of 22.00 ha for operation of the mine.
 - iv. The proposed forest land for diversion i.e. 22.0 Ha is having the canopy density of 0.6 of Eco Class III with 4207 number of trees proposed to be felled.
 - v. The State Government submitted that the Project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation and therefore

resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required for this project.

- vi. The State Govt. further stated that the Mineral Resource Department Government of Madhya Pradesh vide its letter dated 05.06.2026 extended the validity of the Lol from 25/04/2026 to 24/04/2028. The mining plan for the proposal is approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines vide letter dated 24.08.2023.

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

S. No.	Component	Forest area in Ha.
1.	Safety zone	1.60 Ha.
2.	Mining area	16.00 Ha.
3.	Road	0.40 Ha.
4.	Temporary dumping area / overburden	2.16 Ha.
5.	Temp site services / infrastructure	0.25 Ha.
6.	Green belt, garland drain, settling tank etc.	1.29 Ha.
	Total	22.00 Ha.

- viii. The proposed area for diversion is neither a part of any protected area nor it falls in any notified Tiger Corridor. Proposed area is situated at a distance of approx. 21.50 km from Kanha- Pench Tiger Corridor boundary.
- ix. The State Govt. also reported that Leopard, Tiger, Sloth Bear, Chital, Sambar, Barking Deer, Hanuman Langur, Gaur, and various species of snakes are found in and around the land proposed for diversion.
- x. The CA land has been proposed over an area of 22.0 Ha of Non-Forest Land in single patch in Reusa Village.
- xi. In response to the justification for opening of a new mine, the State submitted that bauxite is the principal ore of aluminium, with India's annual aluminium demand estimated at 4.5–6 million tonnes and projected to reach 9–10 million tonnes by 2030, driven primarily by the power, infrastructure (45–55%), and automobile (20–35%) sectors. It was further stated that, considering the occurrence of bauxite deposits largely within forest areas, the proposed mine is necessary to meet the growing demand.
- xii. As the proposal falls under the High Conservation Zone, the State Government submitted that the proposal is site specific in nature.
- xiii. The State submitted that out of the total lease area of 35.9 ha, only 15.405 ha is mineable, and the non-mineable area has not been included in the proposal. Further, in addition to the mineable area, forest land is required for essential mining-related components such as the safety zone, approach roads, overburden storage, and supporting infrastructure; accordingly, the proposal has been submitted for

diversion of the minimum required area of 22.00 ha for operation of the mine.

- xiv. The State submitted that bauxite mining will be carried out through open-cast method with shallow mineralization (7–9 m depth), and the overburden generated will be backfilled into exhausted pits as mining progresses. It has been stated that 1.51 ha will be temporarily required for overburden dumping and 0.95 ha for mineral stacking. Further, as no muck will be generated, no muck disposal plan or additional land allocation is required. Further, as per the information submitted by the State Govt. no non forest land is involved in the proposal.
- xv. The State Government submitted that the cost benefit ratio for the proposal is 1:7.97 Ha.
- xvi. The State Govt. submitted that for the evacuation of the mineral, a road involving diversion of 0.40 ha of forest land has been proposed. Further, an adjacent mine has been allotted to M/s Nisarga Ispat Limited, which has also submitted a proposal (No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464243/2024) for diversion of 62.00 ha of forest land. In the said proposal, 1.81 ha has been earmarked for construction of a mineral evacuation road. The evacuation road proposed under the present project (0.40 ha) will connect to the road proposed in Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464243/2024. A No Objection Certificate (NOC) for use of the said road has been obtained from M/s Nisarga Ispat Limited has been submitted by the State Govt.
- xvii. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal subject to the following:
 1. The forest department has reported the wildlife present in the area includes Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Chital (*Axis axis*), Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Hanuman Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*), Gaur (*Bos gaurus*), and various species of snakes. The occurrence of such ecologically significant fauna indicates the high conservation value and ecological sensitivity of the forest area.
 2. The harvested water from Garland drains and settling tank can be reused for dust suppression and watering of plantations. A connecting approach road is proposed within the forest land forming part of the diversion area.
 3. This road further connects to another proposed mining road under a separate forest clearance proposal (FP/MP/MIN/QRY/464243/2024). The extracted ore shall be transported from the mine site to the crusher located on non-forest land. Water required for drinking and dust suppression purposes shall be sourced through purchased water transported by tankers.
 4. Electricity requirements for mining operations and workers shall be met through solar power.
 5. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan be prepared and implemented, detailing mitigation and conservation measures to minimize adverse impacts of mining operations and to safeguard the ecological integrity of the forest landscape.
- xviii. The proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27.02.2026 and the committee after detailed discussion and deliberation '*deferred*' the proposal for the want of the following:

6. The proposed land for diversion is situated at a distance of approx. 21.50 km from Kanha- Pench Tiger Corridor boundary. The wildlife present in the area includes Leopard, Tiger, Sloth Bear, Chital, Sambar, Barking Deer, Hanuman Langur, Gaur, and various species of snakes. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit the comments of PCCF (WL)/CWLW.
 - xix. The State Govt. submitted that the PCCF (Wildlife)/Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh vide its letter dated 17.04.2026 has recommended the proposal subject to preparation and approval of a Wildlife Conservation Plan for protection and conservation of flora and fauna occurring within a 10 km radius of the project area, and deposit of the requisite funds by the User Agency for implementation of the plan.
 - xx. The Committee further observed that recommendations of the Chief Wildlife Warden in respect to the instant proposal is not clear.
7. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
 - i. The State Government shall furnish the categorical and specific comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), along with clear recommendations on the instant proposal.

Agenda No. 13

Proposal No: FP/MH/WATER/536834/2025

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 of 6.0 ha. of forest land for regularization of existing 80 MLD Water Treatment Plant which is used to supply water to Solapur City and 66 MLD Newly proposed Water Treatment Plant for enhance the water supply system of Solapur City in favour of M/s. Solapur Municipal Corporation at Village Pakni, Taluka North Solapur, Dist. Solapur in the State of Maharashtra (Proposal No: FP/MH/WATER/536834/2025)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. 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 NoFLD- 2225/CR-159/F-10 dated 25.08.2025 forwarded a proposal to obtain prior approval of the

Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- ii. The State Govt. submitted that the existing 80 MLD Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at Pakani, which supplies treated water to Solapur city. To meet the growing water demand of the city, a new 66 MLD WTP is proposed to be constructed adjacent to the existing facility, utilizing the same forest land parcel.
- iii. The User Agency has reported that the land proposed for the construction of the 66 MLD Water Treatment Plant at Pakani falls under Gat No. 203, which was originally under the possession of the Revenue Department. As per the Memorandum issued by the Government of Maharashtra, Revenue Department, dated 17th November 1993, an area of 12.65 hectares from Gat No. 203 was officially allotted for the construction of a Water Treatment Plant. However, the augmentation of the water supply to the city from Ujani to Solapur through an 80 MLD capacity pipeline scheme was commissioned during the period from 1996 to 1998. Under this scheme, at Pakani Gut No. 203, a water treatment plant of 80 MLD capacity has been constructed over an area of 2.85 ha.
- iv. Out of Pakani Gut No. 203, having a total area of 23.87 ha, the Collector, Solapur, vide order No. /Masha/Work/4/3B/RR/756/97 dated 26/10/1996, and the Tahsildar's comment letter No. Jama/2/Kavi/Solapur dated 18/01/1997, handed over land at Mauja Pakani (Gairan Government), Gut No. 203, area 12.65 ha, to the Water Treatment Plant, Pakani, to the Executive Engineer, MWSSB (Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Board), i.e. MJP, for Solapur. Accordingly, the 2.85 ha. area has already been diverted and water treatment plant of 80 MLD Capacity has been constructed by the Executive Engineer, MWSSB (Maharashtra Water Supply Sewage Board) without seeking prior approval of the Central Government.
- v. The State Govt. submitted that the said construction was completed between September 1996 and May 1998, as supported by the project records of MWSSB/MJP, Solapur. The remaining area of the total allotted 12.65 ha was neither subjected to any construction activity, nor was any forest vegetation cleared, disturbed, or encroached upon beyond the said 2.85 hectares at any point of time.
- vi. In view of the Government of Maharashtra's letter dated 02/12/2016, the forest department took unilateral one-side possession of the 8.56 ha of the aforesaid 12.65 ha of allotted land. This action effectively resumed 8.56 ha of land back under the administrative control of the Forest Department, thereby limiting the operations of the water treatment plant to 2.85 ha. The remaining 1.24 ha of land is under encroachment ever since it was under the possession of revenue authorities since 1980s. A POR was issued in 1984. The encroachers have filed a regular civil suit no 855 of 2021 against the forest department and at present the case is being heard.
- vii. In addition to the regularization of the above mentioned 2.85 ha, the User Agency proposed fresh forest area for diversion over an extent of 3.15 ha, for a new 66 MLD WTP as per the decision taken by

Government of Maharashtra letter dated 28.02.2022 to ensure the water security of the Solapur city and to bridge the gap between existing and future supply demand of smart city Solapur.

- viii. The proposed land for diversion of 6.0 ha of reserved forest is having the canopy density of the 0.01 of Eco Class III. The State Govt. submitted that no tree felling is involved in the instant proposal.
- ix. The land proposed for the construction of the 66 MLD Water Treatment Plant at Pakani falls under Gat No. 203, which was originally under the possession of the Revenue Department. As per the Memorandum issued by the Government of Maharashtra, Revenue Department, dated 17th November 1993, an area of 12.65 hectares from Gat No. 203 was officially allotted for the construction of a Water Treatment Plant. However, the augmentation of the water supply to the city from Ujani to Solapur through an 80 MLD capacity pipeline scheme was commissioned during the period from 1996 to 1998. Under this scheme, at Pakani Gut No. 203, a water treatment plant of 80 MLD capacity has been constructed.
- x. The State Govt. submitted that as per the violation report submitted by the State Govt., the Executive Engineer, Solapur Municipal Corporation, has stated that the officers involved in the construction of the existing WTP have either retired or are deceased.
- xi. The user agency has submitted an undertaking the complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- xii. The State Govt. submitted that the proposal does not form part of National park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. As per the DSS analysis, the nearest Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary patch is located at a distance of 22.82 Km from the proposed forest land.

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

Village	Item of work/ purpose	Nos	Gat No.	Area (in Ha)
A. Existing WTP Area				
Pakani	Aeration	1	203	0.0113
Pakani	Flash Mixer	2	203	0.0012
Pakani	Clarifla culator	2	203	0.3354
Pakani	Filter bed Unit	1	203	0.1105
Pakani	Sump Pump House	1	203	0.2160
Pakani	ESR	1	203	0.0263
Pakani	Recirculation well	1	203	0.0104
Pakani	Chlorination Unit	1	203	0.0510

	Storage			
Pakani	Office Building	1	203	0.0265
Pakani	Staff Quarter	1	203	0.0256
Pakani	Electrical Yard	1	203	0.0460
Pakani		1	203	0.0158
Pakani	Electric Switch Bldg	1	203	0.0131
Pakani	Road	1	203	0.1281
Pakani	Open Space	--	203	1.8328
Total (A)				2.85
B. Area required for proposed WTP				
Pakani	Flash Mixer	1	203	0.0113
Pakani	Flash Mixer	1	203	0.0012
Pakani	Clarifa Culator	2	203	0.3354
Pakani	Filter bed Unit	2	203	0.1105
Pakani	Sump Pump House	1	203	0.2160
Pakani	ESR	1	203	0.0263
Pakani	Recirculation Well	1	203	0.0104
Pakani	Chlorination Unit	1	203	0.0510
	Storage			
Pakani	Office Building	1	203	0.0265
Pakani	Staff Quarter	1	203	0.0256
Pakani	Electrical yard	1	203	0.0460
Pakani		1	203	0.0158
Pakani	Electric Switch Bldg	1	203	0.0131
Pakani	Road	1	203	0.1281
Pakani	Open Space	1	203	2.1328
Total (B)				3.15
Grand Total (A+B)				6.0 Ha

xiv. Against the 6.0 ha of the land proposed for diversion, State Govt. submitted

that 6.0 ha. Non-Forest Land in Comptt. No. 694, Village Andhalgaon, Taluka - Mangalwedha, District - Solapur has been identified for the Compensatory Afforestation.

- xv. The State Government has submitted that the proposed CA land is non-forest land located at Village Andhalgaon, Mangalwedha, District Solapur, and has a canopy density of 0.4–0.5. It has further informed that, after due verification, a scheme has been prepared comprising afforestation over 3.0 ha and improvement of the existing forest crop over the remaining 3.0 ha. The afforestation component includes gap-filling plantation with 3,333 saplings over 3.0 ha of open patches.
- xvi. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
 - The State Government shall initiate necessary action against any violations of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in accordance with Sections 3A and 3B of the Act and Paragraph 1.16(ii)(a) (b), and (d) of the Consolidated Guidelines.
 - The proposed diversion of 0.0521 ha for the construction of an office building and staff quarters is not permitted. Accordingly, an extent of 0.0521 ha shall be excluded from the total area proposed for diversion.
 - Compensatory Afforestation (CA) shall be carried out on the identified non-forest land. As the subject area is less than 10 ha, the CA scheme must incorporate a provision for protection for a period of 20 years, in compliance with the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, and the guidelines issued thereunder
- xvii. The State Government submitted that the existing 80 MLD Water Treatment Plant was constructed during 1996–98 pursuant to orders issued by the Collector and Tahsildar, Solapur. Although 12.65 ha of forest land was allotted, the actual construction was confined to 2.85 ha only. The State Government has further informed that 8.56 ha of the allotted land was resumed by the Forest Department in 2016, while the remaining 1.24 ha is under encroachment and is presently under litigation. Accordingly, the State Government has contended that the violation under Section 2 of the Adhiniyam, 1980 is limited to 2.85 ha. The detailed violation report has been uploaded on the PARIVESH portal. It has also been assured that no further work shall be undertaken on forest land without prior approval of the Forest Department.
- xviii. The State Government has submitted that, the Solapur Municipal Corporation has completed the augmentation of the 170 MLD Ujani–Solapur parallel pipeline project. It has been stated that the pipeline has already been laid through legally available alignments, including NHAI-acquired land, approved utility corridors, and private land, as applicable. Accordingly, the supply of raw water from the Ujani Reservoir to the proposed WTP location is being ensured through the existing commissioned transmission infrastructure, and no additional conveyance corridor is required.
- xix. The State Government has further submitted that the electricity requirement

of the proposed project shall be met through the existing electrical infrastructure and substation facilities available at the existing WTP. It has also been clarified that no additional forest land is required for water conveyance, power supply arrangements, or any other associated infrastructure beyond the forest land involved in the present proposal.

- xx. The Committee observed that the proposed forest area is neither in Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary nor its Eco sensitive zone. Further, as per the DSS analysis, the Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary is spread in various patches. The nearest Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary patch is located at a distance of 22.82 Km from the proposed forest land.
- xxi. The Committee also observed that, within the 2.85 ha patch, the User Agency has already constructed the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) over a part of the area, while the remaining portion of the patch is lying vacant.
- xxii. The Committee also observed that per the satellite imagery, encroachment and construction work is visible near the reserved forest land proposed for diversion.

- **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 '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following:

- i. The State Government shall furnish a detailed justification for the site specificity of the proposal.
- ii. The State Government shall furnish the details of the legal status of the land adjacent to the land proposed for diversion, along with the existing road, where encroachments and construction activities are visible in the satellite imagery, along with the relevant documentary evidence in support thereof.
- iii. The State Government shall furnish the notification of the Reserved Forest, along with the KML files delineating the Reserved Forest boundaries, and upload the same on the PARIVESH portal.
- iv. The State Government shall furnish the Action Taken Report (ATR) in respect of the violation in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- v. The State Government shall submit a revised proposal after making the necessary corrections on the PARIVESH portal by restricting the land proposed for diversion to the extent of already constructed area (broken up area) of existing Water Treatment Plant (WTP) within the 2.85 ha patch. The remaining vacant area within the 2.85 ha patch along with the fresh forest land of 3.15 ha shall be excluded from the land proposed for diversion.

Agenda No. 14

Proposal No. FP/TR/MIN/QR/403782/2022

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 M/s Jubilant Oil and Gas Pvt Ltd. for non-forestry use of 1.572 ha of Reserved Forest for construction of drill site, waste pit, drill site accommodation, TSR camp for location DEV-37B in Village- Baramura Deotamura RF, District- South Tripura in the State of Tripura (Online Proposal No. FP/TR/MIN/QR/403782/2022)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, MoEFCC, Shillong and Representative from State 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 noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 08.05.2026. However, as the Nodal Officer did not attend the meeting, the Committee deferred the proposal with the observation that Nodal Office of the State to remain present in the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.
4. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 1.572 ha of Reserved Forest for construction of drill site, waste pit, drill site accommodation, TSR camp for location DEV-37B in Village- Baramura Deotamura RF, District- South Tripura in the State of Tripura.
 - ii. Legal status of the land proposed for diversion is Reserved Forests land. Canopy density of 0.5 has been reported with Eco class I and proposal involves felling of 381 tree.
 - iii. As per decision Rule- 1, the area falls under Not-Inviolate or Not-in High Conservation value Zone, however, as per decision Rule- 2, the proposed area falls in High Conservation Value. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 2 ha is moderately dense forest. The State Government has mentioned that joint field inspection of the officers revealed that said area does not fall under High Conservation Zone. Furthermore, the inspection revealed that a total of 381 trees. The plot is covered with woody shrubs, mikania etc. so in some part, the plot may be visible as moderately dense in DSS.
 - iv. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 3.144 ha degraded forest land in Uttar Debipur Village, Kalaganrai PRF Block, Compt. No. 2, Survey No. 1, Range- Bagafa, Tehsil- Santirbazar, Division- South District, 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 of the Ministry has confirmed the suitability of the land identified for raising compensatory afforestation. Further, Certificate for non availability of suitable non-forest land in South Tripura for raising CA issued by Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura has been submitted.

- v. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. Wildlife reported in the area include wild elephants, small birds and reptiles. Comments of PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden has been submitted recommending fencing of the project area with chain-link mesh fencing over 1 Km around the drilling site and destruction-prone area and depositing a lump sum of 2% of the project cost proportional to forest area to be deposited for implementation of the wildlife management plan and 0.5% of project cost is proportional to forest area to be deposited for implementation of the soil and moisture conservation plan.
- 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. The life of mineral oil reservoir is 20 years, the mining lease was granted on 24.09.2020 for 20 years w.e.f. 24.09.2020 to 23.09.2040. One borehole of 17.5" (17.5 inches) diameter will be drilled at the proposed site.
- viii. As regards various components of the proposal an area of 0.4317 ha is proposed for internal road, 0.36 ha for drilling platform, 0.1273 ha for open space in drill site for safety & security and 0.653 ha for other works.
- ix. No violation of the Adhiniyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- x. The Ministry, upon preliminary examination of the proposal, identified several deficiencies relating to compensatory afforestation, wildlife, soil conservation, project mapping, and technical documentation. Accordingly, additional information was sought from the State Government on **01.08.2025**, including revised and complete details of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) scheme, wildlife and High Conservation Value (HCV) zone-related comments, confirmation of the number of trees proposed for felling, and requisite KML files.
- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 27.03.2026 which is found to be satisfactory.
- xii. The Regional Office submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhiniyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with certain conditions ensuring adequate safety measures while implementing the project.
- xiii. The authorities of the State Government have recommended the proposal, emphasizing that the project is of significant public importance as it is intended to augment domestic energy production and thereby contribute to the country's energy security.

5. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '**in-principle**' approval for diversion of 1.572 ha of Reserved Forest in favour of M/s Jubilant Oil and Gas Pvt. Ltd. for construction of drill site, waste pit, drill site accommodation, TSR camp for location DEV-37B in Village- Baramura

Deotamura RF, 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 forest area.
- v. 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 in-principle approval. Cost of the aforesaid plan shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA.

Agenda No. 15

Proposal No. FP/TR/MINOIL/445521/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. for non-forestry use of 0.9642 ha of Reserved Forest land for Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling and Approach Road of location AA-ONO-184-BOA-A in Village- Paschim Magpusk Arini, District- Gomat in the State of Tripura (Online Proposal No. FP/TR/MINOIL/445521/2023)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, MoEFCC, Shillong and Officer from the Nodal Office of the State attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained 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 0.9642 ha of Reserved Forest for Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling and Approach Road of location

AA-ONO-184-BOA-A in Village- Paschim Magpusk Arini, District- Gomat in the State of Tripura.

- ii. Legal status of the land proposed for diversion is Reserved Forests land. Canopy density of 0.1 has been reported with Eco class I and proposal involves felling of 294 trees.
 - iii. As per decision rule 1 and decision rule 2, the area does not falls under High Conservation Value Zone. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 1 ha is classified as moderately dense forest.
 - iv. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 1.9284 ha degraded forest land in Compt. No. 4, Site Name- Chandrapur Block, Survey No. 1, Village- Murapara, Range- Udaipur, Tehsil- Udaipur, Division- Gomati, District- Gomati. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO. Examination of the area using DSS tools and Google Satellite Imagery, the CA land appears to be suitable for raising afforestation.
 - v. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
 - vi. The life of mineral oil reservoir is 10 years, PEL is approved for 4 years i.e. from 14.02.2020. Further, PEL was extended by Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Agartala, Tripura, Government of Tripura and the PEL is valid till 29.05.2026. One borehole of 20" (20 inches) diameter will be drilled at the proposed site. The officer from the Nodal Office has informed that application for extension of validity of PEL has been applied by the user agency.
 - vii. As regards various components of the proposal an area of 0.3692 ha is proposed for approach road and 0.595 ha area for drill area.
 - viii. No violation of the Adhiniyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
 - ix. The Regional Office submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhiniyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with certain conditions ensuring adequate safety measures while implementing the project.
 - x. The authorities of the State Government have recommended the proposal.
4. The proposal was considered earlier by the Committee on 22.01.2026 and on 08.05.2026. After detailed discussion and deliberation with the DIGF (Central), RO, Shillong and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observation:
- i. The area proposed for diversion reveals signs of encroachment as it was earlier reported to be used for rubber plantation in the past. The State Government shall therefore, inform the status of removal of encroachment from the reserved forest and measures proposed to prevent such encroachment in future.
5. The State Government on 25.03.2026 submitted its reply on the observations

of the Advisory Committee informing that removal of encroachment from the proposed area for diversion has been completed and the Forest Department has taken over the possession of the land. It is further informed that the existing rubber trees will be felled once the fund for tree extraction is received from the concerned user agency.

6. The authorities of the State Government have recommended the proposal, emphasizing that the project is of significant public importance as it is intended to augment domestic energy production and thereby contribute to the country's energy security.
7. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '**in-principle**' approval for diversion of 0.9642 ha of Reserved Forest in favour of M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. for Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling and Approach Road of location AA-ONO-184-BOA-A in Village- Paschim Magpusk Arini, District- Gomat 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 forest area.
 - v. 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 in-principle approval. Cost of the aforesaid plan shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA.

Agenda No. 16

Proposal No. FP/TR/MINOIL/486532/2024

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 and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. for non-forestry use of 2.5 ha Reserved Forest for construction of drill site, waste pit and approach road leading to drill site at location KHBT in Juri Reserved Forest, District- North Tripura in the State of Tripura (Online Proposal No. FP/TR/MINOIL/486532/2024)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, MoEFCC, Shillong and Representative from State 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 2.5 ha of Reserved Forest for construction of drill site, waste pit and approach road leading to drill site at location KHBT in Juri Reserved Forest, District- North Tripura in the State of Tripura.
 - ii. Legal status of the land proposed for diversion is Reserved Forest land. Canopy density of 0.25 has been reported with Eco class I and proposal involves felling of 18 trees.
 - iii. As per decision Rule- 1, the area falls under Not-Inviolate or Not-in High Conservation value Zone, however, as per decision Rule- 2, the proposed area falls in High Conservation Value. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 2 ha is moderately dense forest and 1 ha is open forest.
 - iv. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 5.00 ha degraded forest land in Kanchancherra Mouja under Kanchanpur Forest Sub-Division. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO. The Regional Office of the Ministry has confirmed the suitability of the land identified for raising compensatory afforestation.
 - v. Roa WLS is located at an approx. aerial distance of 7.20 km from the proposed forest area. The State Government has mentioned that Rowa Wildlife Sanctuary is located at a distance of 7.26 Km and distance of Rowa Eco-Sensitive Zone is 7.23 Km approximately from the proposed location for diversion of forest land. Thus, wildlife clearance in this regard is not applicable.
 - vi. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
 - vii. The life of mineral oil reservoir is 10 years, Initially PEL was approved till 2037 vide Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas letter No. O-12012/12/2003-ONG-III/IV (P-31819) dated 01.01.2020. Later, Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Agartala with the approval of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas vide letter No. O-12012/12/2003-ONG-III/IV (P-31819) dated 28.02.2020 the approval was revised for 20 years i.e. upto 2040. One borehole of 26" inches to 36" inches (26" to 36") diameter will be drilled at the proposed site.
 - viii. As regards to various components of the proposal an area of 0.7 ha is required for Approach road leading to drill site, 1.5 ha for construction of drill site including safety zone of 0.38 ha and 0.3 ha for construction of waste pit.

- ix. No violation of the Adhiniyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- x. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed certain shortcomings and the same were communicated to the State Government on 24.11.2025. The State Government submitted its reply on 24.02.2026 and 23.06.2026 which is found satisfactory.
- xi. The Regional Office submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhiniyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with certain conditions ensuring adequate safety measures while implementing the project.
- xii. The authorities of the State Government have recommended the proposal, emphasizing that the project is of significant public importance as it is intended to augment domestic energy production and thereby contribute to 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 2.5 ha of Reserved Forest in favour of M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. for construction of drill site, waste pit and approach road leading to drill site at location KHBT in Juri Reserved Forest, District- North 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 forest area.
- v. 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 in-principle approval. Cost of the aforesaid plan shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA.

Agenda No. 17

Proposal No. FP/TR/DEF/439166/2023

Subject: Proposal is for seeking Ex-post facto approval of the Central

the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of Stage-I approval.

- v. The User Agency shall prepare and implement an appropriate Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) Plan, in consultation with the State Forest Department, covering both the area proposed for diversion and the adjoining areas, wherever necessary, to mitigate the environmental impacts of the project. The cost of implementation of the approved SMC Plan shall be deposited in the State CAMPA account. A copy of the approved SMC Plan, shall be submitted by the State Government while furnishing compliance of Stage-I approval.

Agenda No.18

Proposal No. FP/UP/PetrolPump/540387/2025

Sub: Proposal seeking ex-post fact approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion 0.075 hectare of protected forest land and felling of 05 trees/plants affected in the main Tawa traffic from the petrol pump site established at Khata No. 166, Village Sirsia Patti Hussain, Tehsil-Deoria Sadar, District Deoria on the right side of Km No. 19 (Change No. 18.620) of Deoria-Karaya Road (SH-79) in favour of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. in Deoria district, Uttar Pradesh (FP/UP/PetrolPump/540387/2025)

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, Lucknow and the Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Uttar Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
 - ii. The legal Status of the forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest.
 - iii. The proposal involves felling of five trees of *Cassia siamia*.
 - iv. It is reported that forest area proposed for diversion is not vulnerable to soil erosion.
 - v. The forest area proposed for diversion does not forms the part of any Protected Area/ biosphere reserve/tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc.
 - vi. The forest area proposed for diversion does not fall within the 10km

from boundary of the forest land proposed to be utilized for prospecting or diversion.

- vii. The State Government has reported that Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has used 0.075 hectare of protected forest land for non-forestry purpose without approval of competent authority for construction of entry/exit road for access to the main road from the proposed petrol pump site in Khata No. 166, Village Sirsia Patti Hussain, Tehsil-Deoria, District-Deoria (Uttar Pradesh) on the right side of Km. No. 19 (Change No. 18.620) of Deoria-Kasya Road (SH-79).
- viii. The State Government has reported that H-2 Case No. 37/2022-2023 dated 14.12.2022, for which penalty of Rs. 40,000.00 has been recovered user agency user agency/firm through E-3 No. 12943 dated 08.06.2023.
- ix. The State Government has identified 0.15 ha degraded forest land in Bijori Block, Lalitpur Forest Range, Social Forestry Division Lalitpur.
- x. The proposal submitted by the State Government was initially examined in the Ministry and sought certain clarification from the State on 30.03.2026. The State Government submitted the reply. The information sought by the Ministry are as under: -
 - i. The Government of Uttar Pradesh vide its letter 13.02.2026 had submitted the proposal seeking ex-post fact approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion 0.075 hectare protected forest land and felling of 05 trees/plants affected in the main Tawa traffic from the petrol pump site established at Khata No. 166, Village Sirsia Patti Hussain, Tehsil-Deoria Sadar, District Deoria on the right side of Km No. 19 (Change No. 18.620) of Deoria-Karaya Road (SH-79) in favour of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. in Deoria district, Uttar Pradesh.
3. The State Government is requested to clarify whether any case has been registered against the user agency under the relevant Act. It may further indicate whether any action has been taken against the officials responsible for failing to prevent the said violation. The State Government may also clarify whether any permission was granted by any State authority for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of the Central Government. If so, a detailed report on the violation may be furnished to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
4. The State Government is requested to clarify whether the entire 0.075 ha is under violation or otherwise.
5. The State Government is requested to furnish the details of penal CA

proposed in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry on 21.01.2025.

6. The KML file for Degraded Forest Land identified for raising CA to an extent of 0.15 ha is the same as that of the DFL identified for another proposal i.e. proposal No. FP/UP/PetrolPump/540368/2025. Therefore, the State Government is requested to re-visit the said CA land and submit the proper CA land along with its KML file.

- xii. Further, with regard to imposition of penal CA as per Ministry guideline dated 21.01.2026 the State Government has informed that *in lieu* of providing Penal CA (additional non-forest land), BPCL will deposit Penal Net Present Value (NPV) equivalent to two (2) times the NPV for the violation, as per orders dated 21.01.2026 issued by the Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, (Forest Conservation Division).
- xiii. The State Government has also clarified that Degraded Forest Land (DFL) identified for raising CA to an extent of 0.15 ha for the instant proposal is indeed located within the same geographical area/compartments as the land for Proposal No. FP/UP/PetrolPump/540368/2025. However, it is not overlapping on it.
- xiv. The Regional Office Lucknow in its site inspection report has recommended the proposal at present, the work has been stopped after intervention of State Forest Department (SFD). SFD has imposed of Rs.40,000/- under Indian Forest Act, 1927 for the violation. In view of the above, the proposal is recommended for consideration as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakashan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980
- xv. The Committee noted that State Government has booked a case against the user agency under the IFA, 1927. However, no action has been taken against the officials of State Forest Department who failed to stop the violation.
- xi. The State Government submitted the reply on the clarification sought by the Ministry wherein State Government reported that a case was registered against the LOI holder and was closed upon payment of the prescribed penalty. It has further stated that no formal permission was granted for the use of the forest land for non-forestry purposes. The State Government had also clarified that the entire area is under violation.

Decision of the Advisory Committee: The Committee held detailed discussions with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Lucknow and Nodal Office, Uttar Pradesh, Forest Department. After examining the facts of the proposal, the Committee recommended grant of ex-post facto *in-principle* approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1)(ii) of the *Van (Sanrakashan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980* for diversion 0.075 hectare protected forest land and felling of 05

trees/plants affected in the main Tawa traffic from the petrol pump site established at Khata No. 166, Village Sirsia Patti Hussain, Tehsil-Deoria Sadar, District Deoria on the right side of Km No. 19 (Change No. 18.620) of Deoria-Karaya Road (SH-79) in favour of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. in Deoria district, Uttar Pradesh State, subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- v. 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.
- vi. 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.
- vii. 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.
- viii. 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 along with Stage-I compliance.

Agenda No.19

FP/UP/PetrolPump/540388/2025

Proposal seeking ex-post fact approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion 0.075 hectare of protected forest land for Entry/Exit Approach to BPCL Retail Outlet on Deoria-Kasia Road (SH-79) In Km No. 11, (Ch. No. 100, RHS) At Gata No. – 418, Village: -Sirsia,Tehsil:-Deoria,district:-Deoria, Uttar Pradesh.

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, Lucknow and the Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Uttar Pradesh attended the meeting.

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
 - i. The Government of Uttar Pradesh had submitted above mentioned proposal on 11.03.2026 seeking ex-post fact approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion 0.075 hectare of protected forest land for Entry/Exit Approach to BPCL Retail Outlet on Deoria-Kasia Road (SH-79) In Km No. 11, (Ch. No. 100, RHS) At Gata No. – 418, Village: -Sirsia, Tehsil:- Deoria, district:-Deoria, Uttar Pradesh.
 - ii. The legal Status of the forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest.
 - iii. The crown density of the forest land proposed for diversion is 0.4 with Eco class-III vegetation cover.
 - iv. The proposal involves felling of five trees of *Terminalia arjuna*.
 - v. It is reported that forest area proposed for diversion is not vulnerable to soil erosion.
 - vi. The forest area proposed for diversion does not forms the part of any Protected Area/ biosphere reserve/tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc.
 - vii. The forest area proposed for diversion does not fall within the 10km from boundary of the forest land proposed to be utilized for prospecting or diversion.
 - viii. The State Government has identified 0.15 ha degraded forest land in Bijori Block, Lalitpur Forest Range, Social Forestry Division Lalitpur, for raising the Compensatory Afforestation.
 - ix. The State Government has reported violation wherein it is mentioned that Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has used 0.075 hectare of Protected Forest land for non-forestry purposes without approval of competent authority and constructed the entry/exit road for access to the main road from the proposed petrol pump site in Khata No. 418 Village Sirsia, Tehsil-Deoria, District-Deoria (Uttar Pradesh) on the right side of Km. No. 11 (Change No. 100) of Deoria-Kasya Road (SH-79).
 - x. The State Government has reported that H-2 Case No. 09/2021-2022 dated 12.03 2021, for which Rs. 50,000 has been recovered from user agency user agency/firm through E-3 No.12943 dated 01.08.2023.
 - xi. The State Government has identified 0.5 ha. land in Budhaban forest Block, Compartment No.1a (West beat) Shiwalik Forest Division, Saharanpur for raising compensatory afforestation.
 - xii. The proposal submitted by the State Government was initially examined in the Ministry and sought certain clarification from the State on 09.11.2025. The State Government submitted the reply. The information sought by the Ministry are as under: -
 - a. The State Government is requested to clarify whether any case has been registered against the user agency under the relevant Act, it may further indicate whether any action has been taken against the officials responsible for failing to prevent the said violation. The State Government may also clarify whether any permission was granted by any State authority for use of

forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of the Central Government. If so, a detailed report on the violation may be furnished to this Ministry.

- b. State Government is requested to clarify whether the entire 0.075 ha is under violation or otherwise.
 - c. The State Government is requested to furnish the details of penal CA proposed in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry on 21.01.2026 along with KML file and Map etc.
- xiii. The State Government submitted the reply on the clarification sought by the Ministry wherein State Government reported that a case was registered against the LOI holder and was closed upon payment of the prescribed penalty. It has further stated that no formal permission was granted for the use of the forest land for non-forestry purposes. The State Government had also clarified that the entire area is under violation.
 - xiv. Further, with regard to imposition of penal CA as per Ministry guideline dated 21.01.2026 the State Government has informed that *in lieu* of providing Penal CA (additional non-forest land), BPCL will deposit Penal Net Present Value (NPV) equivalent to two (2) times the NPV for the violation, as per orders dated 21.01.2026 issued by the Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, (Forest Conservation Division).
 - xv. The Regional Office Lucknow in its site inspection report has recommended the proposal at present, the work has been stopped after intervention of State Forest Department (SFD). SFD has imposed of Rs.50,000/- under Indian Forest Act, 1927 for the violation. In view of the above, the proposal is recommended for consideration as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakashan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980
 - xvi. The Committee noted that State Government has booked a case against the user agency under the IFA, 1927. However, no action has been taken against the officials of State Forest Department who failed to stop the violation.

Decision of the Advisory Committee: The Committee held detailed discussions with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Lucknow and Nodal Office, Uttar Pradesh, Forest Department. After examining the facts of the proposal, the Committee recommended grant of ex-post facto *in-principle* approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1)(ii) of the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980* for diversion 0.075 hectare of protected forest land for Entry/Exit Approach to BPCL Retail Outlet on Deoria-Kasia Road (SH-79) In Km No. 11, (Ch. No. 100, RHS) At Gata No. – 418, Village: -Sirsia, Tehsil:-Deoria, district:-Deoria, Uttar Pradesh State, subject to the 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 along with Stage-I compliance.

Agenda No. 20

Proposal No. FP/OR/MIND/543399/2025

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for grant of lease over an area of 216.875 Ha (including 4.217 ha safety zone) of Gandhalpada Iron Ore Block allotted to M/s Tata Steel Ltd. in Keonjhar Forest division under Keonjhar District in Odisha (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIND/543399/2025) –reg.

1. The agenda note for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Nodal Officer, Govt. of Odisha and DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained 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 and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Government of Odisha vide letter no. FE-DIV-FLD-0036-2025-6442/FE&CC dated 18.03.2026 submitted the proposal for according permission under Section 2 (1) (iii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for grant of lease over an area of 216.875 Ha.
 - ii. The proposed area for diversion is located in Barapada, Gandhalpada, and Guali village, Rugudi sub-district of Kendujhar, Odisha state. These villages

are part of the Bonai-Kendujhar belt, which is known for its Precambrian geological formations. The region primarily hosts Iron Ore Group (IOG) rocks, including banded iron formations (BIF), basic volcanic rocks, pyroclastics, sandstone, and shale. The geological succession is part of the Koira Group, found in the Jamda- Koria Basin. The area is characterised by syncinorium structures, which influence the distribution and localization of mineral deposits.

- iii. The iron ore resources in this region are part of the larger Gandhalpada-Guali iron ore deposits. The total estimated reserves for this Gandhalpada lease area is 314.37 million tonnes of iron ore as per G2 done by GSI. The average ore grade is approximately 58% Fe, making it suitable for steel production and market demand.
- iv. The proposed area is bordered by Nuagon Iron Ore Mines of M/s JSW Ltd. in north and Kalamang West Iron Ore mines of M/s Tata steel Ltd in east (same user agency of present proposal). As apprised by user agency during the visit, the present mine lease shall be merged with eastern side mine leaving no safety zone in between to ensure optimum utilization of mineral resource.
- v. The proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445444/2023 submitted by the State Govt. under section 2 (1) (ii) was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation 'recommended' the proposal for the grant of the Stage-I approval. Accordingly, after getting the approval of the competent authority, this Ministry vide letter dated 09.06.2026 has accorded the Stage-I approval in the proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445444/2023. The compliance report of the Stage-I approval dated 09.06.2026 is awaited from the State Govt.
- vi. The land proposed for diversion of 216.875 ha (181.223 ha: Revenue Forest, 35.652 ha: Others/ Sabik) is having the canopy density of 0.5 of Eco Class I with 32098 number of trees proposed to be felled.
- vii. The Regional Office in its SIR reported that the revenue forest area involved in this proposal appears like natural forest of fairly vegetation predominated by Sal – trees along with other tree like Jamun, Mango, Asana, Tendu etc. with varying canopy density. Few patches are fairly dense (CD ~0.6-0.7) whereas few patches are having scarce vegetation.
- viii. The State Govt. submitted that the land proposed for diversion does not forms part of any protected area. Further, as per DSS Analysis, no Protected Area/ Tiger Reserve/ Tiger Corridor is located within 10 km radius of proposed project location.
- ix. The DFO in its SIR of the instant proposal submitted that the Gandhalpada Iron Ore Block of M/s Tata Steel Limited under Barbil Tahasil of Barbil Range of Keonjhar Division is dwelling habitat for Bear, Barking Dear, Hyena, Porcupine and etc. The proposed site falls under elephant habitat zone 2 as per the book titled "Remote Sensing Application for characterization of Elephant habitat and corridor in Odisha and parts of Bihar. The project area is 4.40 Km distance from the KaroKarampada Elephant Corridor.
- x. The component wise break-up of the total forest land proposed for diversion at the end of the mine is given below:

S. NO.	Particular	Area put to at end of plan period (ha) as per FDP

		Forest	Non-Forest	Total
1	Area under mining	99.16	0.54	99.7
2	Top soil stacking	1.43	0.06	1.5
3	Overburden/waste dumping	33.02	1.86	34.88
4	Mineral storage	21.05	10.52	31.57
5	Infrastructure (workshop administrative building etc.)	2.67	5.61	8.28
6	Roads	24.48	1.6	20.08
7	Railway	0	0	0
8	Tailing pond	0	0	0
9	Effluent treatment plant	0.05	0	0.05
10	Mineral separation plant	3.58	2.16	5.74
11	Township area	0	0	0
12	Others to specify			
	A) Safety zone	4.148	0.604	4.752
	B) Safety zone proposed to be broken for entry/exit road	0.069	0.019	0.088
	C) Utility corridor	2.9	0.65	3.55
	Sub-Total	7.11	1.28	8.39
		192.56	23.63	216.19
13	Area For Forest Use	24.315	0.595	24.91
	Grand Total	216.875	24.225	241.1

Land Use Pattern at the End of 6th Phase (Year-26 to Year-30) (i.e. at the end of the mine)

S. NO.	Particular	Area put to use 6 th Phase (ha)		
		Forest	Non-Forest	Total
1.	Area under mining	210.478	22.922	233.4
2.	Top soil stacking	0	0	0
3.	Overburden/ waste dumping	0	0	0

4.	Mineral storage	0	0	0
5.	Infrastructure (workshop administrative building etc.)	0	0	0
6.	Roads	0	0	0
7.	Railway	0	0	0
8.	Tailing pond	0	0	0
9.	Effluent treatment plant	0	0	0
10.	Mineral separation plant	0	0	0
11.	Township area	0	0	0
12.	Others to specify			
	A) Safety zone	4.148	0.604	4.752
	B) Safety zone proposed to be broken for entry/exit road	0.069	0.019	0.088
	C) Utility corridor	2.18	0.68	2.86
	Total Area put to Use	216.875	24.225	241.1
13.	Area For Future Use	0	0	0
	Grand Total	216.875	24.225	241.1

- xi. The State Government has justified the submission of a separate proposal under Section 2(1) (iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 on the ground that the earlier proposal under Section 2(1) (ii) (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445444/2023) is still under consideration and that the validity of the Letter of Intent (LoI) for grant of mining lease is expiring on 27.10.2026. It has been submitted that execution of the mining lease deed within the validity period of the LoI is essential to avoid revocation of the LoI and forfeiture of substantial amounts already deposited by the User Agency. Further, it has been stated that approval under Section 2(1) (iii) is being sought only for execution of the mining lease deed within the statutory timeline and that commencement of mining operations shall remain subject to obtaining final approval under Section 2(1) (ii) of the Adhiniyam.
- xii. The Committee observed that this Ministry with the approval of the competent authority, has accorded the Stage-I approval in the proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445444/2023 vide letter dated 09.06.2026 in section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xiii. The Committee further observed that the State Government has submitted the instant proposal under section 2 (1) (iii) of the Adhiniyam, 1980 as the validity of the Letter of Intent (LoI) for grant of mining lease is expiring on 27.10.2026. Accordingly, the approval under Section 2(1) (iii) is being sought

only for execution of the mining lease deed within the statutory timeline.

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 approval under section 2 (1) (iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for grant of lease over an area of 216.875 Ha (including 4.217 ha safety zone) of Gandhalpada Iron Ore Block allotted to M/s Tata Steel Ltd. in Keonjhar Forest division under Keonjhar District in Odisha, subject to the general Standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The approval under section 2 (iii) does not in any manner exempt the user agency from obtaining prior approval under section 2(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in regard to such area of forest land which is to be used for non-forest purpose.
 - ii. Grant of approval under section 2(iii) does not in any manner create any right or equity in favour of the user agency for grant of approval under section 2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and decision on proposal under section 2 (ii) will be taken purely on the merit of the case.
 - iii. The State govt. shall ensure that breaking up of land or mining operations within the lease area is not allowed without prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Agenda No. 21

Proposal No: FP/OR/MIN/QRY/556321/2025

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 of 754.039 ha of forest land for non forestry purpose in respect of Alakananda Coal Mines in Chhendipada Tehsil under Angul Forest Division in Angul District in favour of M/s Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd. (Proposal No: FP/OR/MIN/QRY/556321/2025)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 06.07.2026. 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.FE-DIV-FLD-0027-2026-11039/FE&CC, dated 19.05.2026 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 for diversion of 754.039 ha of forest land for non forestry purpose in respect of Alakananda Coal Mines in Chhendipada Tehsil under Angul Forest Division in Angul District in favour of M/s Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd.
- ii. The Alakananda Coal Mine was delineated by the Ministry of Coal based on geological, mining, and environmental considerations following exploration that established the occurrence of coal in both forest and adjoining non-forest areas. As coal is a site-specific mineral resource, its extraction is confined to its natural occurrence and cannot be shifted to an alternative location.
 - iii. The proposed Alakananda Coal Mine covers an area of 1,102 ha, comprising 754.039 ha of forest land (including Reserved Forest, Revenue Forest, DLC Forest and Sabik Forest), 91.201 ha of Government land, and 256.760 ha of private land, as recorded in the Record of Rights. The Alakananda Coal Mine in the Talcher Coalfield was auctioned by the Ministry of Coal, with M/s Rungta Sons Private Limited (RSPL) emerging as the Successful Bidder.
 - iv. Accordingly, RSPL executed a Coal Block Development and Production Agreement (CBDPA) with the Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, on 17.10.2022 under Rule 8(1) of the Coal Blocks Allocation Rules, 2017, and the coal block was subsequently allotted vide Ministry of Coal Order No. NA-104/36/2022-NA dated 12.12.2022. Subsequently, the Department of Steel & Mines, Government of Odisha granted a Prospecting Licence on 25.08.2023, and the Prospecting Licence Deed was executed on 02.09.2023. Prospecting and exploration activities were undertaken after obtaining Stage-II forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 12.10.2023 (Proposal No. FP/OR/SRY/413517/2023).
 - v. Based on the detailed geological exploration, coal reserves were estimated considering seam thickness and depth, and the Geological Report was approved by the competent authority on 27.01.2025 in accordance with the provisions of the CBDPA. Thereafter, the Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan were approved by the Coal Controller's Organization, Ministry of Coal, on 08.10.2025. The detailed exploration confirmed the occurrence of economically mineable coal seams beneath the proposed forest land. Accordingly, the User Agency has sought prior approval of the Central Government under the provisions of the Van (Samrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 754.039 ha of forest land for development of the Alakananda Coal Mine.
 - vi. The land proposed for diversion of 754.039 ha (436.4624 ha: Reserved forest, 316.2156 ha: Revenue Forest and 1.361 ha : DLC forest) is having the canopy density of the 0.5 of Eco Class I with 3,31,818 number of trees proposed to be felled.
 - vii. The State Govt. and the Regional Office in its SIR reported that no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 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 in terms of residential and cultivation purposes.

Besides, a few metalled roads were also observed passing through the proposed Revenue Forest land.

- viii. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking that necessary certificate for the FRA shall be submitted.
- ix. The State Govt. submitted 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.
- x. The State Government further reported that the wild animals such as Elephant, Sloth Bear, Leopard, etc. are present in and around the land proposed for diversion. Further, the Elephant movement map submitted by DFO Angul depicts movement of Elephant in and around the project site during last few years.
- xi. The State Government has submitted that the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan, prepared by the DFO, Angul Division at an estimated cost of ₹10,30,56,000, is under scrutiny and will be forwarded to the PCCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha for approval.
- xii. The State Government submitted that the area to be diverted is mainly prone to sheet erosion and at some places gully erosion. The State Govt. has recommended the proposal with site specific Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan.
- xiii. The proposal involves rehabilitation of 818 families from 5 villages, with a total of 1,584 project-affected families. Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking for implementation of the R&R Plan in accordance with the Odisha Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, and the R&R Policy, 2006 of the Government of Odisha. The State Govt. further stated that the approved R&R Plan shall be submitted before grant of Stage-II approval
- xiv. The land use for the instant proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)
16.	Excavation	642.877	240.563
17.	Safety Zone (7.5m) & Green Belt	7.412	3.948
18.	Extpit OB Dump	37.868	53.032
19.	Proposed Embankment	7.485	3.225
20.	Proposed Road Diversion	1.37	1.28
21.	Proposed Haul Road	3.097	1.523
22.	Proposed Garland Drain	1.415	0.335
23.	Settling Pond	0.113	3.457
24.	Undisturbed Area	52.402	40.598

	Total	754.039	347.961
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- xv. Against the 754.039 ha of land proposed for diversion, the State Government has identified 760 ha of Government non-forest land in 14 patches under Thuamul Rampur Tahasil, Kalahandi District, within Kalahandi South Forest Division, for Compensatory Afforestation.
- xvi. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- The forest proposed for diversion has been classified as Eco- Class-I with a reported canopy density of 0.5. A total of 3,34,408 trees have been enumerated in the project area, of which 3,31,818 trees are proposed to be felled and 2,590 trees retained as part of the green belt. Tree felling shall be restricted to the minimum extent necessary, and transplantation shall be undertaken wherever technically feasible.
 - The proposed forest land does not form part of any Protected Area or Eco Sensitive Zone. However, the project area lies approximately 4.981 km from the Similipal-Satkoshia Gorge Tiger Corridor. Presence of wildlife including elephants, has been reported in the surrounding area. Accordingly, a Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, shall be implemented. Besides, the User Agency shall contribute proportionately towards the Regional Wildlife Management Plan too.
 - The project involves displacement of 818 families and affects 1,584 families across five villages. The State Government shall ensure that Resettlement and Rehabilitation is carried out in accordance with the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 and the Odisha Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2006, as applicable.
 - The Olhani River, forming the eastern and southern boundary of the mining lease, shall remain undisturbed throughout the life of the mine. A minimum 50 m safety zone shall be maintained along the river, with protective plantation of indigenous species undertaken and maintained by the User Agency in consultation with the State Forest Department.
 - The User Agency shall implement progressive mine reclamation and ecological restoration in accordance with the approved Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan.
- xvii. The Regional Office in its SIR stated that, it was observed that a considerable number of young trees and saplings with girth below 30 cm exist within the proposed Reserved Forest area. Such individuals may be suitable for transplantation, subject to technical feasibility.
- xviii. The RO Bhubaneswar further in its SIR stated that the Alakananda Coal Mine is bounded by the Chhendipada Coal Mine of the same User Agency to the west, Bankhui Coal Mine to the south, and Mandakini-B Coal Mine to the east. The eastern and southern boundaries are flanked by the Olhani River, while the northern boundary adjoins a proposed diverted public road beyond

which lies Revenue Forest land. The User Agency also informed that the Tikra River, a tributary of the Brahmani River, flows approximately 750 metres north of the proposed mining lease area. Further, 7.485 ha of forest land is proposed for construction of an embankment along the Olhani River, which traverses the lease area from the north-eastern corner to the south-western side. Additionally, 1.370 ha of forest land is proposed for diversion of a public road along the north-western boundary of the lease area, and 1.415 ha of forest land is proposed for construction of a garland drain along the lower western boundary.

- xix. The State Government has submitted that the Superintending Engineer, Angul (R&B) Division, vide Letter No. 82 dated 03.01.2026, has granted conditional permission for the proposed road diversion. It has been stated that the User Agency is in the process of preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and has undertaken that the road diversion shall be carried out only after approval of the DPR and obtaining permission from the District Administration, Angul.
- xx. With regard to the status of prior approval under the Adhiniyam, 1980, the State Government has submitted that the Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Angul, vide Letter No. 3589 dated 22.06.2026, reported that no forest diversion proposal for the existing road had been submitted by the department during the period 1995–2018. It has further been stated that the road was originally under the Rural Works Department and was transferred to the Works Department in 2018. Both the Rural Works Department and the Works Department have informed that no records relating to any previous approval under the Adhiniyam, 1980 for the existing road are available with them.
- xxi. The State Government has submitted that 3,34,408 trees have been enumerated within the lease area as per the Standard Sampling Method, whereas 3,31,818 trees are proposed to be felled as per the Tree Enumeration Report. It has further stated that the necessary corrections could not be made on the PARIVESH portal due to portal limitations. The User Agency has undertaken that tree felling shall be carried out in a phased manner in consultation with the State Forest Department and in accordance with the approved Mining Plan, Mine Closure Plan and the guidelines of the Forest Department. It has also been stated that at least 50% of the trees shall be relocated to suitable nearby areas, in addition to undertaking compensatory afforestation.
- xxii. The State Government has submitted that the said 52.402 ha comprises safety barriers adjacent to the Olhani River and public roads, along with the barrier zone proposed between the two mining pits. The User Agency has also furnished an undertaking confirming that these areas shall remain undisturbed.
- xxiii. The State Government has submitted that the proposed 37.868 ha ex-pit OB dump is intended to function as a crown dump and that no suitable non-forest land is available within or around the lease area. It has been stated that the coal block is site-specific, bounded by adjoining coal blocks on three sides and revenue forest on the northern side, making relocation of the dump to non-forest land infeasible.
- xxiv. The State Government has submitted that coal from the proposed mine will

be transported through the existing road network up to the nearest railhead at Jarapada. It has further stated that the proposed Inner Rail Corridor (Phase-II), being implemented by MCRL, has already obtained Stage-I approval on 03.12.2021 and Stage-II approval on 22.02.2023 for diversion of 125.355 ha of forest land. The User Agency has also furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO stating that no additional forest land will be required for transportation of coal from the proposed Alaknanda Coal Mine.

- xxv. The Committee observed that the DFO in part-II submitted the protected archaeological/heritage site i.e. one natural hot spring and the Maa Jharikuandei Shaktipitha Temple are located in non-forest land. The UA has submitted an undertaking that the above Temple and Hot Spring shall be protected and will not be demolished during the mining.
- xxvi. The Committee observed that the project area is located at an aerial distance of approximately 4.981 km from the Similipal-Satkoshia Gorge Tiger Corridor and there is a presence of the schedule-I species in and around the land proposed for diversion. Accordingly, State Government has submitted that the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan, prepared by the DFO, Angul Division at an estimated cost of ₹10,30,56,000, is under scrutiny and will be forwarded to the PCCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha for approval.
- xxvii. The Committee observed that the Alakananda Coal Mine is bounded by the Chhendipada Coal Mine of the same User Agency to the west, Bankhui Coal Mine to the south, and Mandakini-B Coal Mine to the east. The eastern and southern boundaries are flanked by the Olhani River, while the northern boundary adjoins a proposed diverted public road beyond which lies Revenue Forest land. The User Agency also informed that the Tikra River, a tributary of the Brahmani River, flows approximately 750 metres north of the proposed mining lease area. Further, 7.485 ha of forest land is proposed for construction of an embankment along the Olhani River, which traverses the lease area from the north-eastern corner to the south-western side.
- xxviii. The Committee observed that the Superintending Engineer, Angul (R&B) Division, vide Letter No. 82 dated 03.01.2026, has granted conditional permission for the proposed road diversion. It has been stated that the User Agency is in the process of preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and has undertaken that the road diversion shall be carried out only after approval of the DPR and obtaining permission from the District Administration, Angul.
- xxix. The Committee observed that 3,34,408 trees have been enumerated within the lease area as per the Standard Sampling Method, whereas 3,31,818 trees are proposed to be felled as per the Tree Enumeration Report. The User Agency has undertaken that tree felling shall be carried out in a phased manner in consultation with the State Forest Department and in accordance with the approved Mining Plan, Mine Closure Plan and the guidelines of the Forest Department. It has also been stated that at least 50% of the trees shall be relocated to suitable nearby areas, in addition to undertaking compensatory afforestation.
- xxx. The Committee also observed that the land proposed for mine is falling in the region of the Talchar Coalfields.
- xxxi. The Committee observed that the 52.402 ha comprises safety barriers adjacent to the Olhani River and public roads, along with the barrier zone proposed between the two mining pits. The committee decided that the said

area shall remain undisturbed during the mining.

- xxxii. The Committee also observed that the State Government submitted that the proposed 37.868 ha ex-pit OB dump is intended to function as a crown dump and that no suitable non-forest land is available within or around the lease area. It has been stated that the coal block is site-specific, bounded by adjoining coal blocks on three sides and revenue forest on the northern side, making relocation of the dump to non-forest land infeasible. The Committee agreed with the justification submitted by the State Govt.

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 “**Stage-1/In-principle approval**” for diversion of 754.039 ha of forest land for non forestry purpose in respect of Alakananda Coal Mines in Chhendipada Tehsil under Angul Forest Division in Angul District in favour of M/s Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd. with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of a Regional Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP), as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden. The Regional WLMP shall have a component of research and monitoring for assessing the long-term impact of the project on elephant, tiger and significant wildlife in the area along with suggestive mitigation measures. This component of Research and Monitoring shall be implemented by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The requisite share of funds for regional WLMP shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.
- ii. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan duly approved by the component authority by the User Agency.
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the R & R shall be done in accordance with the approved Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan prepared as per the R& R Policy of the State Government in consonance with National R& R Policy, at the cost of the User Agency.
- iv. The State Government shall ensure that the tree felling shall be carried out in a phased manner in consultation with the State Forest Department and in accordance with the approved Mining Plan, Mine Closure Plan and the guidelines of the State Forest Department.
- v. The User Agency and the State Forest Department shall explore the possibility of transplanting trees below 30 cm girth class, based on species suitability and feasibility, at the cost of the User Agency. Further, at least 50% of the trees shall be relocated to suitable nearby areas, in addition to undertaking compensatory afforestation.

- vi. The State Government shall ensure that a safety barrier with minimum width of 10m and 50 m on either side of the public road and the Olhani River, respectively is maintained and protected.
- vii. The State Government and the User Agency shall explore the possibility of shifting the proposed dumping from forest land to non-forest land and retaining the proposed dump area as a green zone. In case this is unavoidable as per the approved mining plan, dumping shall be carried out only in designated areas with proper gradients, and the same shall be biologically reclaimed and restored as per the approved plan and subsequently handed over to the State Forest Department.
- viii. The State Government shall furnish final permission/NOC of competent Authority for the diversion, or realignment of the roads falling within the lease area.

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Dr. KR Sree Harsha
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Shri Nityanand Srivastava
(non-official Member)

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

(Confirmed on file)

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