



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



**MoM ID** FC/MOM/AC/749302/2026  
**Agenda ID** FC/AGENDA/AC/620532/2026  
**Title of Meeting** 2nd Advisory Committee meeting  
**Meeting Venue** Krishna conference Hall, 04th Floor, Jal Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
**Meeting Mode** Hybrid  
**Meeting Dates & Time** Start Date : 27/02/2026  
End Date : 27/02/2026

**List of AC Members:**

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

**Proposals considered during Meeting:**

**1. Project Name** Jagiroad Stone Mining Area No. F (6)  
**Proposal Number** FP/AS/MIN/QRV/562031/2025  
**User Agency** Dipan Deka  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 21  
**Division** Nagaon Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted  
**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

<b>2. Project Name</b>	Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/OR/HYD/IRRIG/500690/2024
<b>User Agency</b>	Jogesh Chandra Sahu
<b>Forest Land Area(Ha)</b>	107.596
<b>Division</b>	Kalahandi South Division
<b>Recommendation</b>	Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

<b>3. Project Name</b>	Katasahi Manganese Mines of M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd.
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/OR/MIN/QRY/512746/2024
<b>User Agency</b>	KARAN KUMAR KEJRIWAL
<b>Forest Land Area(Ha)</b>	8.846
<b>Division</b>	Keonjhar Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

**4. Project Name** CONSTRUCTION OF 220 KV LILO LINE FROM EXISTING 220 KV TTPS-JODA D C LINE TO EXISTING 220/33 KV GIS SUBSTATION AT RANKI, KEONJHAR.

**Proposal Number** FP/OR/PWR\_TRANS/414722/2023

**User Agency** Subash Chandra Singh

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 12.2765

**Division** Keonjhar Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**5. Project Name** Shree Jagannath International Airport at Puri  
**Proposal Number** FP/OR/Airport/426096/2023  
**User Agency** Debadutta Suranjita Jena  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 27.887  
**Division** Puri WL Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

**6. Project Name** DIVERSION PROPOSAL OVER THE TOTAL SAFETY ZONE AREA OF 3.378 HA IN FOREST LAND (OUT OF WHICH 2.645 HA IS FOR SAFETY ZONE DIVERSION AND 0.733 HA FOR MINING ACTIVITIES (CLUSTER MINING) OF TANTRA IRON MINES OF M/S KORP RESOURCES PVT LTD, IN VILLAGE TANTRA AND TENSA OVER THE ML AREA OF 72.560 HA AT-TANTRA, PO-TENSA, DIST-SUNDARGARH, ODISHA.

**Proposal Number** FP/OR/MIN/QRY/454474/2023

**User Agency** PRAHLAD ROY GOENKA

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 3.378

**Division** Bonai Division

**Recommendation** Deferred

**ndati**

**on**

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

**7. Project Name**

Diversion of 135.980 ha. of Forest Land (130.603 ha. Forest Land within Mining lease area + 5.377 ha. for Connecting Road outside M.L. Area ) in respect of Kendudihi North Iron Ore Block of M/s. Rungta Mines Ltd. over lease area 187.862 ha. in Keonjhar District , Odisha.

**Proposal Number**

FP/OR/MIN/QRY/501460/2024

**User Agency**

HIRAK MAZUMDER

**Forest Land Area (Ha)**

135.98

**Division**

Keonjhar Division

**Recommendation**

Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been

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

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**8. Project Name** For obtaining Forest Clearance for setting up Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel and Auto Components Complex at Gajamara under Dhenkanal by Kalyani Steels Limited.

**Proposal Number** FP/OR/IND/526987/2025

**User Agency** Dr GAURAV SHUKLA

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 60.203

**Division** Dhenkanal Division

**Recommendation** Deferred

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

**9. 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:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

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

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

**11. Project Name** PANARI STANDALONE PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT  
**Proposal Number** FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/421339/2023  
**User Agency** Saladi Vijaya Bhaskara Rao  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 520.66  
**Division** Satna(T) Division

**Recommendation**                      Deferred

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

<b>12. Project Name</b>	MARWATOLA-VII COAL MINE
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/MP/MIN/QRY/481237/2024
<b>User Agency</b>	Suresh Wadichar
<b>Forest Land Area(Ha)</b>	1063.1142
<b>Division</b>	Umaria(T) Division
<b>Recommendation</b>	Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

<b>13. Project Name</b>	96.00ha Bajna iron Ore mine
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/MP/MIN/QRY/454396/2023
<b>User Agency</b>	SURENDRA KUMAR GUPTA

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 96.66  
**Division** Chhatarpur(T) Division  
**Recommendation** Deferred

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

**14. Project Name** GONDBAHERA UJHENI EAST COAL MINE  
**Proposal Number** FP/MP/MIN/QRY/532908/2025  
**User Agency**  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 469.612  
**Division** Singrauli Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

**15. Project Name** MINING LEASE FOR TIKAR BAUXITE PHASE-1 (28.379 HA.)

**Proposal Number** FP/MP/MIN/QRY/437171/2023  
**User Agency** Pawan Kumar Mittal  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 31.4161  
**Division** Rewa(T) Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

**16. Project Name** M/S Marshall Small Hydel Power Project  
**Proposal Number** FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/516717/2024  
**User Agency** katta sitaram reddy  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 6.6151  
**Division** Rewa(T) Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

**17. Project Name** Lease Renewal of Kerala Forest Development Corporation,s Forest Plantation  
s  
**Proposal Number** FP/KL/NONMIND/547248/2025  
**User Agency** Kiran Jones V S  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 7748.441  
**Division** Munnar Division  
**Recommendation** Deferred

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

The Committee 'deferred' the proposal and decided to take up subject proposal as separate policy matter in next Advisory Committee.

**18. Project Name** Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project  
**Proposal Number** FP/KA/WATER/456606/2023  
**User Agency** DEVARAMANE VENKATESH  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 111.0277  
**Division** Tumkur Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

**19. Project Name** Jitpur Opencast Coal Project (2.5 MTPA in a total area of 537.93 Ha) located in villages Jitpur, Dahubera, Dumberpalem, Pakeri, Telbhitta, Kairajori, & Jiajore, Tehsil Sunderpahari, District Godda, Jharkhand.

**Proposal Number** FP/JH/MIN/QRY/492393/2024

**User Agency** Deba Samal

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 62.4612

**Division** Godda Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**20. Project Name** ESL Steel Limited (Formerly known as Electrosteel Steels Limited)

**Proposal Number** FP/JH/IND/528045/2025

**User Agency** Ashish Kumar Gupta

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 184.43

**Division** Bokaro Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

**21. Project Name** Noamundi Iron Mine of M/s Tata Steel Ltd  
**Proposal Number** FP/JH/REDIV/431331/2023  
**User Agency** Awnish Kumar  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)**  
**Division** Chaibasa Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

**22. Project Name** Construction of road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad km 0/00 to 12/460  
**Proposal Number** FP/HP/ROAD/514215/2024  
**User Agency** Vireder kumar  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 7.5479  
**Division** WL Spiti Division

**Recommendation**      Deferred

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

<b>23. Project Name</b>	Jagmadwa Minor Tank
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/CG/MinorCanal/461096/2024
<b>User Agency</b>	N K CHOUHAN
<b>Forest Land Area(Ha)</b>	49.85
<b>Division</b>	KAWARDHA DIVISION
<b>Recommendation</b>	Deferred

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

<b>24. Project Name</b>	ONGC, Exploratory Drilling Location CJAA
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/AS/MINOIL/563228/2025
<b>User Agency</b>	LILY P CHAWANG

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 1.77  
**Division** Golaghat Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Committee decided to amendment the condition No. 1.14 and 1.15 of Stage-I approval.

**25. Project Name** ONGC, Exploratory Drilling Location BWNB.  
**Proposal Number** FP/AS/MINOIL/563217/2025  
**User Agency** LILY P CHAWANG  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 1.709  
**Division** Golaghat Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Committee decided to amendment the condition No. 1.14 and 1.15 of Stage-I approval.

**26. Project Name** Forest Clearance for the location BWNA

**Proposal Number** FP/AS/MINOIL/563199/2025  
**User Agency** LILY P CHAWANG  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 2.2864  
**Division** Golaghat Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Committee decided to amend the condition No. 1.14 and 1.15 of Stage-I approval.

**27. Project Name** ONGC, Drilling of Exploratory Location TLAB  
**Proposal Number** FP/AS/MINOIL/562407/2025  
**User Agency** LILY P CHAWANG  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 1.781  
**Division** Golaghat Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of the Stage-II approval.

**28. Project Name** ONGC, Drilling of Exploratory Location SUAD  
**Proposal Number** FP/AS/MINOIL/562870/2025  
**User Agency** LILY P CHAWANG  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 1.8212  
**Division** Golaghat Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of the Stage-II approval.

**29. Project Name** ONGC, Drilling of Exploratory Location TLAA  
**Proposal Number** FP/AS/MINOIL/562682/2025  
**User Agency** LILY P CHAWANG  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 1.7678  
**Division** Golaghat Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been

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

**Recommendation Remark:**

Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of the Stage-II approval.

**30. Project Name** ONGC, Drilling of Exploratory Location ELAJ  
**Proposal Number** FP/AS/MINOIL/563145/2025  
**User Agency** LILY P CHAWANG  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 2.2091  
**Division** Golaghat Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of the Stage-II approval.

**31. Project Name** ONGC, Drilling of Exploratory Location SPAA  
**Proposal Number** FP/AS/MINOIL/563127/2025  
**User Agency** LILY P CHAWANG  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 1.731  
**Division** Golaghat Division  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of the Stage-II approval.

**32. Project Name** EKCHELIA STONE QUARRY  
**Proposal Number** FP/AS/MIN/QRY/488108/2024  
**User Agency** Anil Das  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 7.46  
**Division** Kamrup West Division, Bamunigaon  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

**33. Project Name** Diversion of Forest Land for Non-forestry Use at Dolikoto, Banderdewa, Arunachal Pradesh  
**Proposal Number** FP/AR/IND/415686/2023  
**User Agency** GOLI ANGU  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 29.93  
**Division** Banderdewa Forest Division, Banderdewa  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

<b>34. Project Name</b>	Attunli Hydro Electric Project
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/AR/HYD/IRRIG/462108/2024
<b>User Agency</b>	Ajay Bhushan Dogra
<b>Forest Land Area(Ha)</b>	261.53
<b>Division</b>	Anini Forest Division, Anini
<b>Recommendation</b>	Deferred

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

--

**35. Project Name** Onshore Oil & Gas drilling at Loc. KHAS  
**Proposal Number** FP/AR/MINOIL/528152/2025  
**User Agency** RUPAM JYOTI SUTRADHAR  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 3.94  
**Division** Nampong Forest Division,Jairampur  
**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

**Other Item Details:**

S.No.	Remarks	Do cu me nt
1	Diversions of 12.565 ha of forest land including safety zone of (1.020 ha) within the mining lease area of 18.00 ha in respect of Bhanjapali Iron Ore Mines under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District by Sri JN Patnaik. FP/OR/MIN/27247/2017 (PARIVESH 1.0)	N/A
2	Proposal for seeking Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.069777 ha of reserve forest land in favour of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Agra, Uttar Pradesh for construction of approach road to New IOCL retail outlet at Khasra No. 10, village Mitai, on Ummed-Nagla Road, Tehsil & District Hathras, Uttar Pradesh. 8B/UP/06/68/2022/FC (PARIVESH 1.0)	N/A
3	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 Md. Imdad Ali, Assam for non-forestry use of 5.42 ha. Reserved forest for operation of Lankajuri Stone Mahal in Doboka Reserved Forest under Nagaon Division, Hojai District in the State of Assam	N/A

S.No.	Remarks	Document
	am. 3-ASC/148/2022 /GHY (PARIVESH 1.0)	
4	Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 503.578 ha of forest land comprising of 427.661 ha of notified forest land and 75.917 Ha of Jungle Jhari and for Opencast Coal Mining project of Chakla Coal Block in favour of M/s Hindalco Industries Limited in Latehar Forest Division of Jharkhand State. 8-06/2014-FC (PARIVESH 1.0)	N/A
5	Diversion of 243.74 ha. (Shahapur Division 181.45 ha and West Nasik Division 62.29 Ha) of forest land (reserved forest, protected forest and private forest) for Bhavali Pumped Storage Project (1500 MW) in favour of JSW Energy PSP Two Limited in Thane & Nasik District in the State of Maharashtra. FP/MH/HYD/153240/2022 (PARIVESH 1.0)	N/A
6	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 Bushahr Lughu Udyog, VPO Jhakri, Tehsil Rampur Bushahr for non-forestry use of 2.1532 ha of Protected Forest (1.4612 ha for mining lease and safety zone, 0.3400 ha for approach road and 0.3520 ha for staking of raw material) for already established Stone Crusher at Pashada, P. O. Khaneri within the jurisdiction of Rampur Forest Division, Tehsil- Rampur Bushahr, District- Shimla in the State of Himachal Pradesh. FP/HP/MIN/34194/2018 (PARIVESH 1.0)	N/A
7	Diversion of 0.024 ha of forest land for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of HPCL on Chater Chowk-Santosh Bridge Road in Khagaria district of Bihar. FP/BR/Others/117859/2020 (PARIVESH 1.0)	N/A
8	Diversion of 0.950 ha forest land in Compartment No. P-475 of the Purvati Narangi forest block, Jagargunda Range of the Sukma Forest Division, for the purpose of granting a temporary permit for extraction of minor mineral (ordinary stone) in favour of the Officer Commanding, 83 Road Construction Company (GREF), Care Headquarters, 153 CRPF Battalion, Bijapur, under Sukma District of Chhattisgarh State. 8-01/2026-FC (PARIVESH 1.0)	N/A
9	Transfer of FC clearance from FC lease holder M/s Kanahaiyalal Dudheria in respect to forest land of an extent of 30.09 ha for mining lease No.024 (2563), Rmanadurga Village, Sandur taluk, Ballari District to MSPL Limited, Hospete. F(C)A/16.1/105/KAR/MIN(E-File) (PARIVESH 1.0)	N/A

**Other Item Deliberation:**

**1. Recommendation**

Deferred

**Brief Description:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVESH portal.

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

**2. Recommendation**

Accepted

**Brief Description:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.

**3. Recommendation**

Deferred

**Brief Description:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

**4. Recommendation**

Accepted

**Brief Description:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**5. Recommendation**

Deferred

**Brief Description:**

Committee recommended to accept the Compensatory Afforestation land proposed by the State Government vide its letter dated 31.01.2026

**Current Deliberation Details:**

Committee recommended to accept the Compensatory Afforestation land proposed by the State Government vide its letter dated 31.01.2026

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred for seeking additional information.

**6. Recommendation**

Accepted

**Brief Description:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**7. Recommendation**

Accepted

**Brief Description:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**8. Recommendation**

Accepted

**Brief Description:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

**9. Recommendation**

Accepted

**Brief Description:**

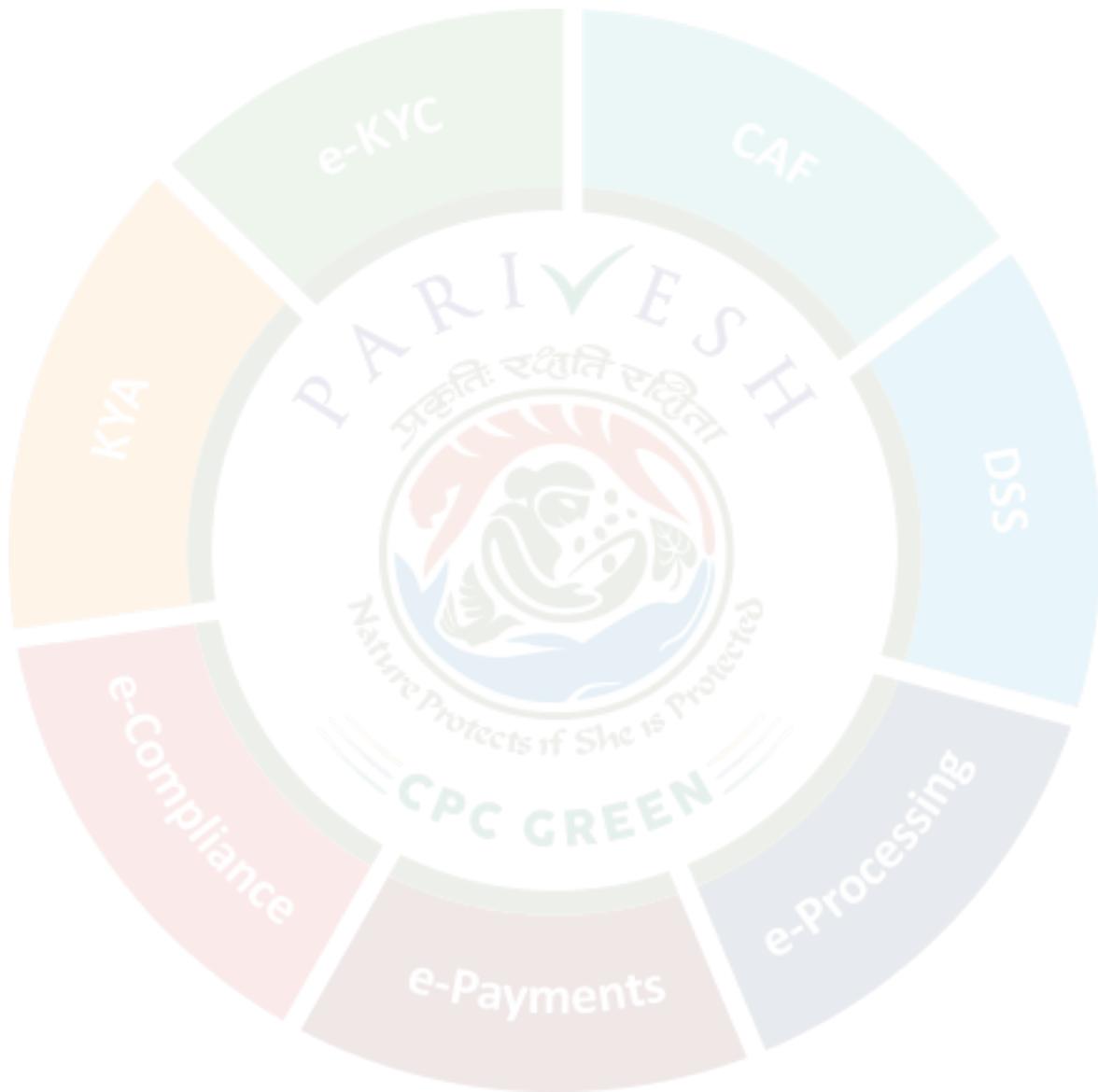
The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026 has already been approved in the E-file and the same is attached herewith for completing the process through PARIVE SH portal.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Committee recommended to accept the Compensatory Afforestation land proposed by the State Government.



**(PARIVESH 2.0)****Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on  
27.02.2026****Agenda No. 1****Proposal No. FP/AR/MINOIL/528152/2025**

**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 India Ltd. for non-forestry use of 3.94 ha of Reserved Forest land for exploratory drilling i.e. Onshore oil and gas drilling for establishing Hydrocarbons at location KHAS in Village- Old Plone, District- Changlang in the State of Arunachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/AR/MINOIL/528152/2025)-regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDG, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - i. Proposal involves diversion of 3.94 ha of Reserved Forest for exploratory drilling i.e. Onshore oil and gas drilling for establishing Hydrocarbons at location KHAS in Village- Old Plone, District- Changlang in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.
  - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.74 ha is required for approach road, 3.13 ha for Plinth, Safety zone & flare and 0.07 ha for passing place.
  - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.2 of Eco class I with 85 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
  - iv. Namdapha Tiger Reserve is located at an approx. aerial distance of 6 km from proposed forest area. State Government has mentioned in his reply dt. 20.01.2026 that proposed area for diversion is located outside the notified ESZ of Namdapha National Park (6 Km from ESZ). So, there is no requirement of approval from the Standing Committee of NBWL.

- v. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificate to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- vi. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area falls under Not-Inviolate or Not In-High Conservation value Zone. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 3 ha is Open Forest and 1 ha is scrub.
- vii. Initially Compensatory Afforestation was proposed over 7.88 ha degraded forest land in Survey No. 1, Village- Khachang, Range- Diyun Forest Range, Tehsil- Miao ADC, Division- Nampong Forest Division, District- Changlang. Subsequently, State Government in its reply dt. 20.01.2026 has proposed Compensatory Afforestation over 7.88 ha degraded forest land in Diyun RF under Nampong Forest Division. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- viii. No violation of the Adhinyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- ix. The life of Mineral oil reservoir is 21 years, the mining lease was re-granted on 29.06.2020 for 20 years w.e.f. 04.05.2018 to 03.05.2038. One borehole of 26" (26 inches) diameter will be drilled at the proposed site.
- x. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. Details of approvals obtained by the State Government in various location in Nigru Petroleum lease, dimensions and number of bore holes proposed to be drilled, comments on small patches of plantation visible along the road will be kept intact or trees will be felled, State to revisit the correctness of the KML file proposed for CA site and submit alternate location which is suitable for plantation and State Government to confirm if the proposal falls within the eco-sensitive zone of Namdapa Tiger Reserve or otherwise and requirement of approval of the Standing Committee of the NBWL etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 26.08.2025. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 20.01.2026 and informed following:
  - a) Government of Arunachal Pradesh has re-granted Ningru Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) to Oil India Limited for carrying out drilling and production activities in the PML vide letter dt. 29.06.2020. Copy of re-grant letter has been submitted along with the reply.
  - b) only one (1) borehole will be drilled at the proposed site and diameter of the borehole will be 26" (26 inches).
  - c) Alternate CA site has been identified at Diyun RF under Nampong Forest Division. Revised CA scheme, suitability certificate, map and KML file has been submitted.

- d) The proposed location i.e. KHAS is located outside the notified ESZ of Namdapha National Park (6 Km from ESZ). So, there is no requirement of approval from the Standing Committee of NBWL. Map showing location i.e. KHAS, Core boundary and ESZ of Namdapha NP & TR is submitted.
- 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 in the State Government have recommended the proposal
- xiv. The Committee, keeping in view the safety concerns related to such activities in the forest areas, opined that the user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department should keep the forest area of optimum width along the boundary of the area proposed for diversion clear of vegetation as a fire control lines.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of ***'in-principle'*** approval for diversion of 3.94 ha of Reserved Forest for exploratory drilling i.e. Onshore oil and gas drilling for establishing Hydrocarbons at location KHAS in Village- Old Plone, District- Changlang in the State of Arunachal Pradesh 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 maintain a fire line of optimum width along the boundary of the area proposed for diversion, in order to prevent fire from spreading into forest areas, in the event of fire accidents.

## Agenda No. 2

**Proposal No. FP/AR/HYD/IRRIG/462108/2024**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in**

**favour of Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVN) for non-forestry use of 261.53 ha. of unclassified forest land for construction of Attunli Hydro Electric Project (680 MW) on Talo (Tangon) river within the jurisdiction of Anini Forest Division, District-Dibang Valley in the State of Arunachal Pradesh (Online proposal No. FP/AR/HYD/IRRIG/462108/2024)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 26.05.2025. After detailed discussion and deliberation with the DIGF (Central), RO, Shillong, PCCF (HoFF), Government of Arunachal Pradesh and Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to **'defer'** the proposal with the following observations:
  - i. A sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee shall visit the area to have holistic assessment of the various issues related to the project as under:
    - a. Impacts of the proposed area on the flora and fauna and efficacy of the mitigation measures suggested in the Wildlife Management Plan prepared by the State Government.
    - b. To assess the land requirement proposed for various project components in light of justification furnished by the State Government.
    - c. Status of requisite statutory approvals obtained by the user agency including approval for quarry area from the concerned Department of the State Government.
  - ii. The State Government shall submit the further detail as mentioned below:
    - a. Status of approval of the mining and reclamation plan of the quarries proposed in the area during the construction phase of the project may be informed by the State.
    - b. Comments on the observation made by the Regional Office in its inspection report regarding non-feasibility of Rock Quarry site- 1 and opinion of the fishery department creating hatcheries and rearing facilities at the project site, proposed conservation measures

on the flora and fauna in the area may be provided by the State Government.

- iii. The State Government on 13.02.2026 submitted reply to queries raised by the Ministry on 10.06.2025 informing the following:
  - a. Rock Quarry site-1 (RQ-1) is situated on the left bank of the Tangon (Talo) River, u/s of the existing steel bridge. The quarry site features a gentle slope with a narrow hill mass, followed by a substantial exposure of fresh and sound quality biotite gneiss. This geological formation is located above the HFL of Tangon (Talo) river. Given these conditions, the site may be considered geotechnically safe for the mining operations associated with the Attunli HEP.
  - b. Regarding opinion of the fishery department creating hatcheries and rearing facilities at the project site, it is reported that establishment of hatcheries and rearing facilities will be provided at project site.
  - c. Regarding conservation measures on the flora and fauna in the area, it is mentioned that Wildlife and Biodiversity Management Plan has been prepared and approved by PCCF (WL), State Forest Department. Further, for the conservation for flora and fauna in the area various Environment Management Plans such as Catchment Area Treatment Plan, Green Belt Development Plan, Reservoir Rim Treatment, Restoration of quarry sites, construction site, road site etc. will also be implemented during construction and operation stage of the project.
  - d. Total area of the proposed quarry sites (6 No.) is 20.88 ha. Since, the preparation and approval of the mining plan is a time sensitive process, it is hereby informed by user agency that the approved Mining Plans will be submitted prior to obtaining Forest Clearance (FC-II).
- iv. As per directions of Advisory Committee, a Sub-Committee was constituted and the Sub-Committee visited the area on 30.10.2025 and submitted its report on 26.12.2025 to the Ministry. The key observations made by the Committee are as under:
  - a. While the project area is ecologically sensitive, efforts have been made to address the impacts of the project on flora and fauna. With strict compliance to the Wildlife Management Plan, CIA & CCS recommendations (including maintenance of e-flows), the ecological impacts can be taken care of. The committee however observed that the instant project is located upstream of the dam of another project name Etalin in Talo (Tangon) river. In case of Etalin Hydro power project the Wildlife Management plan was prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India. Therefore, it would be proper that

the wildlife management plan for this extended area is also prepared/ vetted by the Wildlife Institute of India.

- b. In light of justification furnished by the user agency regarding the requirement of forest land, the Committee found the requirement of forest land has been optimized by the user agency. The Committee also noted that the user agency has committed to restoring temporary construction areas and handing them back to the State Forest Department for reuse and regeneration after commercial operation.
  - c. Proposed quarry sites cannot be treated as ancillary or integral components of the HEP. They must be examined independently under the mining category. Accordingly, the user agency has to submit the approved mining plan and other requisite details with regard to the quarry area, as are applicable to mining projects.
  - d. As the proposed Quarry sites are on steep slopes, the state should get a study conducted through a reputed institute in the field of Geology and ensure that adequate mitigation measures are imposed for minimizing the ecological impact of quarry sites. The state also has to ensure compliance with all statutory approvals and court orders as applicable.
- v. Based on the above observations, the Committee recommended the proposal with the following:
- a. The area proposed for quarry sites shall be examined like a proposal under the mining category. The User Agency shall accordingly submit duly approved Mining Plans and Mine Closure/Reclamation Plans and other requisite documents for each quarry site.
  - b. Considering that the quarry sites are located on steep slopes, the State Government shall get a detailed geological and slope-stability study conducted through a reputed institute in the field of geology and enforce site-specific mitigation measures to minimize risks of slope failure, erosion, sedimentation, and downstream impacts.
  - c. The Wildlife & Biodiversity Management / Conservation Plan shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency. In view of the project's location upstream of the Etalin Hydro Electric Project, the Wildlife Management Plan for the Attunli project shall be got vetted / reviewed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), so as to

ensure landscape-level ecological coherence and consistency with mitigation measures prescribed for downstream projects.

- d. The User Agency shall undertake ecological restoration and reclamation of all temporarily used forest land (120.57 ha) immediately after completion of construction activities, as per an approved restoration plan. All restored areas shall be handed back to the State Forest Department.
  - vi. As regards approval from the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), the officers from the Nodal Office and the representative of the user agency informed the Committee that such approval is not required. The safety norms prescribed by the NDSA have already been incorporated in the DPR of the project. Compliance with these norms during the construction and operational phases will be ensured by the National Dam Safety Authority, and the user agency shall abide by all applicable safety standards prescribed by the NDSA.
  - vii. The Committee was further informed that the DPR of the project, including its design and safety parameters, has been approved by the competent authority, i.e., the Central Electricity Authority. The Committee observed that, considering the construction of a gravity dam of about 85 metres in height, it is essential that the structural design and safety norms are duly approved by the competent authority.
  - viii. The Committee also noted that, given the proximity of Rock Quarry Site-1 (RQ-1) to the Tangon (Talo) River, the height of the dumping site should be carefully planned by the user agency. Efforts should be made to keep the height of the dump to the minimum possible level to ensure stability and safety of the dump.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO, Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to **'defer'** the proposal with the following observations:
- (i) The user agency shall submit a copy of the approval of the DPR granted by the Central Electricity Authority, along with an undertaking to strictly adhere to the design and safety provisions contained in the approved DPR and to comply with the safety norms prescribed by the National Dam Safety Authority for construction of such dams.
  - (ii) The user agency shall explore the possibility of reducing the area proposed for dumping sites and submit a revised plan, if feasible, to the Ministry.

### **Agenda No. 3**

#### **Proposal No. FP/AR/IND/415686/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking ex post facto approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam,**

**1980 in Deputy Director, Department of Industries, Government of Arunachal Pradesh for non-forestry use of 29.93 ha of Reserved Forest for construction of Mega Food Park under comprehensive package of PM Kisan Sampada Yojna at Dolikoto, Banderdewa, District- Papum Pare in the State of Arunachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/AR/IND/415686/2023)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DIGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Officer from the O/o Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - i. Proposal involves diversion of 29.93 ha of Reserved Forest for construction of Mega Food Park under comprehensive package of PM Kisan Sampada Yojna at Dolikoto, Banderdewa, District- Papum Pare in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.
  - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 29.926 ha is required to carryout various activities in the proposed area.
  - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.4 of Eco class IV with no tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
  - iv. Proposed forest land is located at an approx. aerial distance of 1.56 Km from Kaziranga-Karbianlong Tiger corridor. The State Government in its reply dated 17.02.2026 submitted to Regional Office informed that the aerial distance of Kajiranga Karbianglong Tiger Corridor is more than 100 Km (approx.) from the proposed. Further, there is no report regarding the movement of the tiger and elephant in the proposed site.
  - v. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificate to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
  - vi. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area falls under Not-In High Conservation Value Zone. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 12 ha is Moderately dense Forest and 18 ha is open forest.
  - vii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 59.86 ha degraded forest land in Site Name- Old Lido VFR, Village- Ade, Range- Daporijo, Division- Daporijo, Tehsil- Daporijo Hq, District- Upper Subansiri. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.

- viii. DFO, Banderdewa has mentioned that work was started in 2021 and completed in 2023. However, as per time line from Google earth imagery, it was observed that non-forestry activity was taken place between February, 2017 to November, 2020. State Government in its reply dated 17.02.2026 informed that as per the report, the non-forestry activity during Feb, 2017 and Nov, 2020, as mentioned in the EDS were never detected by the department. However, the issue came to light during 2021 during patrolling of the area by the Range Forest Officer of Drupong Forest Range and accordingly action was initiated.
- ix. A show cause notice was issued to the proprietor Shri Likha Maj, for the violations of FCA, 1980 vide No. SUB/ 04/ 2021/ Cons/1810-17 dated 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021. Thereafter the user agency went to Hon'ble High Court, Itanagar Permanent Bench and obtained stay order vide WP(C) No. 432/2021. The Hon'ble Court vide order dt. 17.12.2021 directed DFO office to restrain from interfering with construction of Mega Food Park. Further, in subsequent order dated 30.05.2022, the Hon'ble Court has disposed off the matter with the directions that "*The matter is disposed off as infructuous. Liberty may be granted to the Petitioner to come again if aggrieved as the matter relates to public importance, the Respondent is expected to co-operate in the matter*". Later, the offence report was drawn in this case vide No. DR/02/2022/83 dt. 07.11.2023 and forwarded to the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Yupia for trial vide DFO Banderdewa's letter No SUB/05/2023/Cons/Part-II/4823-25 06.12.2023. The said matter is under trial and not yet disposed off.
- x. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. justification on creation of infrastructure outside the proposed area which was not visible in February 2017, detailed violations report along with justification on continuing violations for so many years, updated status of the case filed in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Yupia, comments from State regarding non-forestry activity observed in adjoining area, etc. location of the project with respect to Kaziranga-Karbianlong Tiger corridor, etc.
- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 17.02.2026 informing the following:
- a) It is mentioned that there is no other infrastructure around the proposed area. However, a few encroachments in the forest area do exist in the said RF, which are located outside the proposed area of the Mega Food Park.
  - b) Individual component wise detail along with the layout map and KML file submitted.
  - c) The patrolling team, after detection of the earth cutting and development of the area during 2021, took cognizance of the offence and action was initiated.

- d) No NoC has been issued by the CCF (Ind). The state has informed that it is found that the NoC found to be forged as per the departmental report.
  - e) There is no case pending at the Hon'ble High Court, Guwahati (Itanagar Permanent Branch) as per the judgement passed on 30.08.2023. However, the offence report forwarded to the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Yupia is under trail and not yet disposed off.
  - f) No other non-forestry activity taking place outside the proposed area except encroachment in few patches by the local inhabitants.
  - g) Revised CA scheme is submitted for an amount of ₹2,75,51,700/-.
  - h) The aerial distance of the proposed location from the Kajiranga Karbianglong Tiger Corridor is more than 100 Km (approx.). further, there is no report received regarding the movement of the tiger and elephant in the proposed site.
- xii. The Regional Office in its inspection report has mentioned that construction activities started in the year 2021 and work was done in the year 2023. Entire area of 29.93 ha has been used in violation of the Adhiniyam.
  - xiii. The DDGF has recommended the proposal citing the justification that the proposal will immensely benefit the State Govt and generate employment opportunity to the locals and support in development. It will improve the infrastructure and provide better facilities, systematic exposure to national market and bring profit to the local farmers thereby increasing the revenue in the region.
  - xiv. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal with following conditions:
    - a) The State Govt shall ensure the transfer of the admissible cost of penalty for the act of violation to N CAMPA by the user agency and necessary actions against erring officials under section 3A and 3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
    - b) The recommendation of this proposal is subject to decisions of the Hon'ble court (the CJM. Yupia) in regards to this proposal.
  - xv. The Committee noted that entire area of 29.93 ha of Reserved Forest land has been used for construction of Mega Food Park at Dolikoto, Banderdewa under comprehensive package of PM Kisan Sampada Yojna.
  - xvi. The State Government and the Regional Office have recommended the proposal, stating that it will significantly benefit the State by generating employment opportunities for local communities and supporting regional development. The project is expected to improve infrastructure, facilitate better market access, and provide greater exposure to national markets, thereby enhancing the income of local farmers and contributing to increased revenue in the region.

- xvii. The State Government and the Regional Office has recommended the proposal citing the justification that proposal will immensely benefit the State Govt and generate employment opportunity to the locals and support in development. It will improve the infrastructure and provide better facilities, systematic exposure to national market and bring profit to the local farmers thereby increasing the revenue in the region.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of ex post facto '**in-principle**' for diversion of 29.93 ha of Reserved Forest for construction of Mega Food Park under comprehensive package of PM Kisan Sampada Yojna at Dolikoto, Banderdewa, District- Papum Pare in the State of Arunachal Pradesh subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 against the erring officials shall be initiated by State Forest Department and a status report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval.
  - ii. The encroachment in the nearby forest areas, as reported by the State Government, shall be evicted by the State Government and a report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval.
  - iii. In accordance with the provisions of para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhiniyam by the user agency violation which shall be five time 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.
  - iv. 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.
  - v. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Shillong 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. 4**

**Proposal No. FP/AS/MIN/QRY/488108/2024**

**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 Anil Das for non-forestry use of 7.46 ha. of Reserved Forest for operation of Ekchelia Stone Quarry located in Milmilia Reserve Forest under Kamrup West Forest Division, Bamunigaon, District- Kamrup in the State of Assam (Online No. FP/AS/MIN/QRY/488108/2024)- regarding.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attend the meeting. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. 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 noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 26.05.2025 and 25.08.2025, wherein the Committee, after deliberation, desired that following additional details may be furnished by the State for its further consideration by the Committee:
  - i. The State Government shall prepare a long term sustainable mining plan for carrying out optimum mining in the districts where such mining is being taken and proposed in future. The said plan shall take into consideration the finding of District Survey Report regarding total reserve available and quantities of reserves which can be excavated in a sustainable manner.
  - ii. To mitigate the impact of the proposed mining activities on the wildlife including the elephants, a comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan for the landscape, in consultation with an institute of repute, should be prepared and submitted to the Ministry.
  - iii. KML files of the all existing mines and proposed mines in the area will be submitted by the State.
4. The State Government submitted its reply online on 30.01.2026 informing the following:
  - (i) With regards preparation of preparation of sustainable mining plan, the State Government has mentioned that District Survey Report of Kamrup District was prepared in accordance the provisions of the sustainable sand mining guidelines of the MoEF&CC which was subsequently examined and approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) on 29.08.2025. The approved DSR comprehensively evaluates minor mineral resources, including stone, detailing category-wise reserves, replenishment potential, environmental sensitivity, and scientifically determined sustainable extraction limits. Ekchelia Stone Mahal, identified as a stone-bearing area within the district, has been assessed in terms of

mineral potential, environmental constraints, and carrying capacity. Sustainable mining at Ekchelia Stone Mahal is proposed to be undertaken strictly in accordance with the approved DSR and the duly approved site-specific Mining Plan, ensuring regulated extraction within ecological limits and compliance with applicable guidelines and statutory provisions.

- (ii) With regards to mitigation measures for the protection and conservation and protection of wildlife, it has been mentioned that Nodal Officer sought scientific and technical support from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to assess wildlife-related aspects of the proposed Ekchelia Stone Mahal project. Accordingly, a WII expert team conducted a site inspection on 06.12.2025 in association with the Kamrup (West) Forest Division. It has been mentioned that the project site, located within Milmilia Reserve Forest, lies far from notified Protected Areas, tiger corridors and elephant corridors, with the nearest elephant corridor approximately 134 km away, and no evidence of regular elephant movement in or near the quarry area. Based on the site assessment, the WII has recommended site-specific mitigation and conservation measures to minimize potential wildlife impacts.
- (iii) With regards to other mines in the area, it has been informed that there are no operating mines in the Milmilia Reserve Forest. The extant mine is the only mine proposed in the area other mines are located beyond the Milmilia reserved forests and are closed at present except one mine (Jagoroad F1) for which approval was granted in 2023.

5. The Nodal Officer, further informed the following:

- i. District Level Committees have been constituted across the State for preparation, monitoring and oversight of the District Survey Reports (DSRs). The Committee, headed by the District Commissioner and comprising officers from the Water Resources Department, Revenue and Land Department, Directorate of Geology and Mining, and Assam Pollution Control Board, prepares the DSRs. The DSRs are recommended by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee and subsequently approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority.
- ii. The approved DSRs provide a comprehensive scientific assessment of minor mineral resources, including stone and sand, covering reserve estimation, annual production capacity, replenishment characteristics, environmentally sensitive areas and No-Go zones. Mining operations in the State are regulated in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the respective approved DSRs to ensure sustainable mining.
- iii. The Nodal Officer has also referred to the order dated 23.07.2024 of the Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 86/2024 (*Pradeep Singh Shekhawat vs. Union of India & Ors.*), wherein it was noted that as per the *Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining*, preparation of a District Survey Report is mandatory prior to auction/e-auction or grant of mining lease/Letter of Intent by the State authorities.

- iv. The project proponent shall comply with all wildlife mitigation measures recommended by WII and any additional conditions that may be prescribed by the Ministry
  - v. An I.A. No. 218391/2024 in W.P. (C) No. 202/1995 has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court alleging illegal mining (stone quarrying) in certain districts of Assam. In this regard, the State Government has constituted a Committee, and a report has been submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. There is no court case or other litigation pending in respect of the extant mine. However, any binding directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its final decision in the aforesaid I.A. shall be duly complied with by the user agency in respect of the extant mining lease.
  - vi. The Nodal Officer further submitted that Committee that many developmental projects area being implemented in the State and more developmental projects have been proposed. To cater to the requirement of construction material for these projects, stone quarries are essential for the State.
6. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 7.46 ha. of Reserved Forest for operation of Ekchelia Stone Quarry located in Milmilia Reserve Forest under Kamrup West Forest Division, Bamunigaon, District- Kamrup in the State of Assam subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- (i) The observations and recommendations made by the Wildlife Institute of India regarding mitigation measures for the protection and conservation of wildlife shall be incorporated in the site specific Wildlife management Plan and a copy of the approved Wildlife Management Plan shall be submitted along with the compliance of the in-principle approval. The cost of preparation and implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan shall be borne by the user agency and deposited into the account of State CAMPA through PARIVESH Portal.
  - (ii) A plan on Soil and Moisture conservation mitigation measures, required in the area will be prepared and submitted along with compliance of In-principle approval. The cost of preparation and implementation of the Soil and Moisture conservation mitigation measures shall be borne by the user agency and deposited into the account of State CAMPA through PARIVESH Portal.
  - (iii) The State Government shall ensure that the extant mine is in conformity with the mining potential assessed in the District Survey Report (DSR) prepared by the State Government.
  - (iv) An I.A. No. 218391/2024 in W.P. (C) No. 202/1995 has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court alleging illegal mining (stone quarrying) in certain districts of Assam. Any binding directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its final decision in the aforesaid I.A. shall be duly complied with by the user agency in respect of the extant mining lease.

## Agenda No. 5

### Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563127/2025

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat for diversion of 1.731 ha of forest land for exploratory location SPAA in Doyang Reserved Forest under Golaghat Division, Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563127/2025)-regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-II approval vide letter 3 ASB/124/2022/GHY dated 25.07.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:
 

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

*Condition No. xx. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.*
  - ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
    - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
    - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.

- (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
  - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
  - iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I and Stage- II approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
  - v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of the Stage-II approval, with the following conditions:
- i. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
  - ii. No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

## Agenda No. 6

### Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563145/2025

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in favour of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat for diversion of 2.2091 ha of**

**forest land for drilling of exploratory location ELAJ in Doyang Reserved Forest under Golaghat Division, Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563145/2025)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-II approval vide letter 3 ASB/126/2022/GHY dated 25.07.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:
 

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

*Condition No. xx. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.*
  - ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
    - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
    - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
    - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
    - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.

- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
  - iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I and Stage- II approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
  - v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. xvii and xx of Stage-II approval, with the following conditions:
- i. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
  - ii. No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

### Agenda No. 7

#### Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562682/2025

**Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in final approval for diversion of 1.7678 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat for exploratory location TLAA in Doyang Reserved Forest under Golaghat Division, Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562682/2025)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.

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

- i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-II approval vide letter 3 ASB/117/2022/GHY dated 25.07.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

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

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

- ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
  - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
  - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
  - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
  - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.

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

### Agenda No. 8

#### Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562870/2025

**Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in final approval for diversion of 1.8212 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat for drilling of exploratory location SUAD in Doyang Reserved Forest under Golaghat Division, Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562870/2025)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:

- i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-II approval vide letter 3 ASB/116/2022/GHY dated 25.07.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

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

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

- ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
- (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
  - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
  - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
  - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
- iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I and Stage- II approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
- v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid

disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.

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

- i. *To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
- ii. *No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

### **Agenda No. 9**

#### **Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562407/2025**

**Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in final approval for diversion of 1.781 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat for exploratory location TLAB in Doyang Reserved Forest under Golaghat Division, Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/562407/2025)-regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-II approval vide letter 3 ASB/122/2022/GHY dated 25.07.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

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

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

- ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
    - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
    - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
    - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
    - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
  - iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
  - iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I and Stage- II approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
  - v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to

amendment the condition No. xvii and xx of Stage-II approval, with the following conditions:

- i. *To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
- ii. *No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

### **Agenda No. 10**

#### **Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563199/2025**

**Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in In-principle approval for diversion of 2.2864 ha of Reserved Forest in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. for exploration drilling of Hydrocarbon at location BWNA in Village- Namram Reserved Forest, District- Golaghat in the State of Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563199/2025)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-I approval vide proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/422315/2023 dated 21.08.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:
 

*Condition No. 1.14. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.*

*Condition No. 1.15. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset.*

- ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
    - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
    - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
    - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
    - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
  - iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
  - iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
  - v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. 1.14 and 1.15 of Stage-I approval, with the following conditions:
- i. *To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*

- ii. *No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

### **Agenda No. 11**

#### **Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563217/2025**

**Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in In-principle approval for diversion of 1.709 ha of Reserved Forest in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. for exploration drilling of Hydrocarbon at location BWNB in Village- Chungajan Block No 3 NC, District- Golaghat in the State of Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563217/2025)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-I approval vide proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/426584/2023 dated 21.08.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:
 

*Condition No. 1.14. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.*

*Condition No. 1.15. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset.*
  - ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
    - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.

- (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
  - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
  - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.
- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
  - iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
  - v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. 1.14 and 1.15 of Stage-I approval, with the following conditions:
- i. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
  - ii. No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

## Agenda No. 12

**Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563228/2025**

**Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in In-principle approval for diversion of 1.77 ha of Reserved Forest in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. for exploration drilling of Hydrocarbon at location CJAA in Village- Namram Reserved Forest, District- Golaghat in the State of Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563228/2025)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:

- i. The Ministry had recently accorded Stage-I approval vide proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/424232/2023 dated 21.08.2025 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

*Condition No. 1.14. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department.*

*Condition No. 1.15. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset.*

- ii. The State Government has submitted a request of the user agency to amend the above conditions stating that carrying out drilling and related activities continuously for 24 hours (both day & night) is essential due to following reasons:
  - (i) Drilled hole stability and safety of man, material, and environment.
  - (ii) Prolong formation exposures during the night may lead to hole complications i.e. well blowout & string stuck.
  - (iii) Optimum resource utilization and cost effectiveness.
  - (iv) it is a global practice for oil and gas industry that drilling and related operations are conducted 24/7 to maintain operational integrity, ensure well control and uphold safety standards. Drilling and exploration of hydrocarbon involves huge financial stake, and halting drilling operation in the night may lead to commercial unviability of these projects.

- iii. The Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that no wildlife were observed in and around the proposed site during the site visit, however use of light viz., tower light, etc. during drilling period should be in vertical direction, shielding the surrounding area specifically during the night in order to reduce the light intensity in the surrounding area. Considering the major technical and operational complexities, economical viability of the project and ground observations, the Regional Office has recommended amendment in the amendment of conditions as requested by the State Government.
  - iv. The above conditions which have been stipulated in the Stage- I approval are part of the general and standard conditions stipulated in the proposals pertaining to hydrocarbons.
  - v. The Committee, after examining the site using DSS tools and Google satellite imagery, observed that the forest areas proposed for diversion are surrounded by habitations and do not appear to be significant from a wildlife conservation perspective. In view of this, the Committee noted that the condition restricting operations after sunset, primarily intended to avoid disturbance to wildlife, may not be relevant in the present case. Accordingly, the Committee recommended amendment of the said condition, as requested by the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation and in view of the justification given by the State Government and recommendations made by the Regional Office, the Committee decided to amend the condition No. 1.14 and 1.15 of Stage-I approval, with the following conditions:
- i. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during the operations, as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.*
  - ii. No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest area. Labour camps, if any involved, will be established within the diverted forest land.*

### **Agenda No. 15**

**Proposal No: FP/CG/MinorCanal/461096/2024**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 49.850 ha of forest land for construction of Jagmadwa Minor Tank project in favour of Water Resources Department in District Kabirdham in the State of Chhattisgarh (Proposal no. FP/CG/MinorCanal/461096/2024).**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. 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 by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 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 Chhattisgarh vide their letter No. F 5-27/2024/10-2 dated 15.10.2024 has submitted the above mentioned proposal on PARIVESH portal under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
  - ii. The Jagmadwa Minor Irrigation Project proposed dam site is located across Sukha Nala near village Jagmadwa and Dumariya, Block Sahaspur Lohara, District-Kabeerdham of Chhattisgarh. The project requires total area of 90.433 ha of land, out of which forest land involved is 49.850 ha.
  - iii. The State Government submitted that proposed land for diversion has forest cover with the canopy density of 0.5 of Eco Class III. The number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is 8574.
  - iv. As submitted by the State Government, the proposal does not involve violation of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
  - v. The DFO in Part-II reported that Bear and Leopard are present in the proposed area. Further, the proposed forest area for diversion is located at an approximate aerial distance of 10.12 km from Boramdev Wildlife Sanctuary and about 6.33 km from Kahna-Indravati tiger corridor.
  - vi. The State Government submitted that Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the Jagmadwa Reservoir project has been prepared and forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) for approval. It has been stated that necessary action will be undertaken in accordance with the plan as approved by the PCCF (Wildlife).
  - vii. The State Government has proposed an extent of 49.85 ha of non-forest area in 3 patches i.e. 21.48 ha in Sy No 1429, 1494 & 1493 of Akola Village, 18.37 ha in Bagdumar Village and 10 ha in Litia Village for undertaking Compensatory Afforestation.
  - viii. The Regional Office, Nagpur in its Site Inspection Report submitted that the part of the CA land has already existing plantation over an extent of 41 ha. The State Government clarified that the existing plantation is not part of compensatory afforestation in lieu of any previous diversion proposal. During the inspection, it was noticed that the area which was already been planted, has not attained 0.4 density. Hence, the RO, has recommended

for revision of CA scheme shall be revised including the provision of to take up enrichment plantation over open space available, besides maintenance of existing plantation.

- ix. Further, the RO in its SIR submitted that, out of 21.48 ha patch identified in Sy No 1429, 1494 & 1493 of Akola Village, an extent of 2.50 ha area covered with water body and hence, there is no scope for taking up of plantation in the said area. As per the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, over an extent of 5 ha of degraded forest area needs to be planted in lieu of 2.50 ha of non-forest land, not found suitable for plantation.
- x. The State Government submitted that CAT Plan has been approved and forwarded by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Durg to PCCF &HoFF for approval.
- xi. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:
  - a) The tree fellings should be restricted to the FRL by the user agency in consultation with the forest department.
  - b) As the proposed forest area is prone to soil erosion, a Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan and a Catchment Area Treatment Plan shall be implemented at the project's cost to prevent soil erosion in nearby or adjoining forest areas.
  - c) Out of the 21.48 ha identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA), 2.50 ha are covered by a water body, making it unsuitable for plantation. Hence, as per the provisions of VSS Rules, 2023, 5 hectares of plantation shall be undertaken in a degraded forest area. Accordingly, the CA scheme should include plantation in 5 hectares of degraded forest land, in addition to the maintenance and enrichment of existing plantations in the proposed CA area, at the project's cost.
  - d) As the existing road will be submerged, the User Agency (UA) shall construct an alternative road along the boundary within the forest area proposed for diversion to ensure connectivity for nearby villagers.
  - e) Considering the presence of wildlife species such as bears and leopards, a site-specific mitigation plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), shall be implemented by the State Forest Department at the project's cost.
- xii. The Committee observed that the Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan was approved by the CCF Durg. However, as per the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, the CAT Plan needs to be approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF).

- xiii. The committee observed that the proposed area for diversion is falling in High Conservation Zone as per DSS. In response, the State Government submitted that the affected compartments (49.850 ha) fall under Site Quality Class IV with mixed forest of moderate age and 0.5 density, predominantly comprising fuelwood species, and that biodiversity is of a general in nature. It has been stated that no alternative site is available for irrigation, and therefore diversion is justified. The committee took note of the submission made by the State Government.
  - xiv. The Committee further observed that the necessary approval of the NDSA and SDSO has not been obtained by the User Agency. In this regard, the Nodal Officer informed that the project is of minor Irrigation category and does not require approval of the NDSA/SDSO.
  - xv. The committee further observed that the land proposed for diversion has the presence of cultivated land and a road within the proposed forest area. In response, the State Government submitted that the private agricultural land lies outside the forest boundary. The road from Lohara to Ganjaidabri is an existing forest road recorded in Appendix No. 40 of the Kawardha Forest Division Working Plan. As this forest road falls within the proposed submergence area, provision for construction of an alternative road has been incorporated in the project plan. However, as per the component wise break up submitted by the State Government, forest area required for shifting the existing road from the submergence area to the non-submergence area has not been included in the proposal.
  - xvi. The committee further sought clarification with regard to the plantation and water body within the CA sites. In response, the State Government submitted that the CA land is revenue land with plantations raised under State schemes and that the water body is for irrigation, with no encroachment.
  - xvii. The committee also observed that the Regional Office in its SIR submitted that out of 21.48 ha patch identified in Sy No 1429, 1494 & 1493 of Akola Village, an extent of 2.50 ha area is covered with water body and hence, there is no scope for taking up of planation in the said area. The committed noted the fact that 5 ha of degraded forest land (DFL) area needs to be planted in lieu of 2.50 ha, not found suitable for plantation. However, the details of DFL area identified for CA has not been submitted by the State Govt.
  - xviii. The Committee further observed that the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the Jagmadwa Reservoir project has been prepared and forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) for approval. It has been stated that necessary action will be undertaken in accordance with the plan as approved by the PCCF (Wildlife).
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Nagpur and Nodal Officer,

Government of Chhattisgarh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal of prior approval under section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 49.850 ha of forest land for construction of Jagmadwa Minor Tank project in favour of Water Resources Department in District Kabirdham in the State of Chhattisgarh, for want of following information:

- i. The Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) shall be submitted by the State Government.
- ii. An existing forest road, Lohara–Ganjaidabri road mentioned in Appendix No. 40 of the Kawardha Forest Division Working Plan and falls within the proposed submergence area, for which an alternative road has been planned. However, the details of the alternate forest road proposed along with its alignment has not been provided. The State Government shall provide the necessary details in this regard.
- iii. The 2.50 ha area out of 21.48 ha in Sy. Nos. 1429, 1494 and 1493 of Akola Village identified for CA purpose is a water body and unsuitable for plantation. Hence, the State Government shall provide the details of additional 5 ha of degraded forest land (KML File, site suitability certificate etc.) for undertaking Compensatory Afforestation along with the detailed CA scheme.
- iv. The State Government shall submit the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the Jagmadwa Reservoir project duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW).

### **Agenda No.17**

#### **Proposal. No. FP/HP/ROAD/514215/2024**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in f/o Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department for non-forestry use of 7.5479 ha of Protected Forest for widening of already constructed road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad km 0/00 to 12/460 in District Lahaul & Spiti in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/514215/2024)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the

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

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

i. The Government of Himachal Pradesh vide online proposal no FP/HP/ROAD/514215/2024 submitted the above mentioned proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 7.5479 Ha of Protected Forest for construction of road from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad km 0/00 to 12/460 in District Lahaul & Spiti in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

ii. The Component wise break up are as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
1	Proposed Road	7.3879	0.8447
2	Dumping site-1	0.04	0
3	Dumping site-2	0.04	0
4	Dumping site-3	0.04	0
5	Dumping site-4	0.04	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>7.5479</b>	<b>0.8447</b>

iii. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 26.09.2025. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:

a) The State Government shall look into the action taken against officers responsible for the violation and submit a comprehensive report on the matter to the Ministry.

b) The State Government shall submit a copy of Wildlife Management Plan approved by Chief Wildlife Warden with specific comments.

c) The State Government shall submit an updated Action Taken Report against the User Agency.

iv. The above decision of the Committee was conveyed to the State Government on 06.10.2025. The Government of Himachal Pradesh uploaded reply on PARIVESH portal 2.0 on 16.01.2026.

v. The State Government has submitted that the Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings have been initiated against the officer/official responsible for the violation. Departmental disciplinary action against the officer/officials i.e. 02 Forest Guards, 01 Deputy Ranger and 02 Forest Rangers have been initiated who are responsible for the violation detailed as under:

S. No.	Name of officer/Officials	Designation	Remarks
(i)	Hardev Singh Negi, HPFS the then DFO WL Spiti	Divisional Forest Officer	Show cause notice issued.
(ii)	Dorje Namgial, FR the then RO WL Tabo	Range Officer	Chargesheet issued, disciplinary proceeding in progress.
(iii)	Ramesh Chand, FR the then RO WL Tabo	Range Officer	Chargesheet issued, disciplinary proceeding in progress.
(iv)	Chhewang Angroop, DR the then BO Sichling	Deputy Ranger	Chargesheet issued, disciplinary proceeding in progress.
(v)	Davender Kumar, Fgd the then I/C Poh Beat	Forest Guard	Chargesheet issued, disciplinary proceeding in progress.
(vi)	Palvinder, Fgd the then I/C Sichiling Beat	Forest Guard	Chargesheet issued, disciplinary proceeding in progress.

- vi. DFO concerned has submitted that the Wildlife Management Plan of proposed road has been approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh. The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Himachal Pradesh vide letter dated 27.11.2025 has approved the Wildlife Management Development & Biodiversity Conservation Plan formulated as a part of execution of the Road Widening Project from Poh Maidan to Dankhar Helipad (District Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh) for the period 2025-26 to 2028-29, with a budgetary allocation of Rs. 9,74,360 Lakhs.
- vii. The State Government has uploaded the detailed action taken report furnished by CF Wildlife (South). As per the report, on 15.12.2022, a request was made by RFO Tabo to the In-Charge Police Station, Kaza, for registration of an FIR against HPPWD for the said illegal act. On 16/09/2025, FIR No. 0026 was registered by the Police Station, Kaza regarding illegal construction of road from Gecha to Dhankar Helipad under Section 329(3) of the BNS and Sections 32 and 33 of the Indian Forest Act and Investigation has initiated. The penalty amounting to 1.49 crore is yet to be deposited by the User Agency. For deposition of penalty, the HPPWD has been requested time to time.
- viii. The State Government has also informed that the Hon'ble NGT during previous hearing held on 15.09.2025 reserved the order in the instant matter which has been pronounced on 11.12.2025. The operative part of the order is as under:-

*However, in view of the fact that respondents have already diverted forest land, cut the trees and **constructed the road without approval for the diversion of forest land under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan***

***Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980, the respondents are directed to provide non-forest 28.7516 ha land for compensatory afforestation and deposit compensatory afforestation amount of Rs. 1,49,10,000/- with the Forest Department within one month and the Forest Department is directed to take up the matter of implementation of remedial measures including afforestation by utilizing the Compensatory Afforestation amount within next two months and file compliance report in this regard at-least one week before the next date of hearing fixed.***

*List on 08.04.2026 for further proceedings/orders.*

- ix. The State Government has stated that as evident from the orders of 11.12.2025 issued by Hon'ble NGT Bench New Delhi, The Hon'ble Court has directed to deposit compensatory afforestation amount of Rs.1,49,10,000/-with the Forest Department within one month and the Forest Department is directed to take up the matter of implementation of remedial measures including afforestation by utilizing the Compensatory Afforestation amount within next two months and file compliance report in this regard at-least one week before the next date of hearing fixed i.e. 08.04.2026. In addition, the Hon'ble Court has directed to provide 28.7516 ha of non-forest land for compensatory afforestation.
  - x. The Advisory Committee noted that the Nodal Officer (FCA), Himachal Pradesh Forest Department vide letter No.HPFD-F05/380/2024-FCA dated 25.02.2026 has informed that as per the direction of Hon'ble NGT OA No.173/2022 dated 11.12.2025, User agency has deposited the penalty amount of Rs.1,49,10,000/- in the State Forest Department treasury account 0406-01-101-08 through e-challan dated 28.01.2026 for illegal construction of road.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:
- i. The matter is presently *sub-judice* before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal( Principal Bench, New Delhi) , and the next date of hearing is 08.04.2026. In view of the matter being sub judice, the State Government shall first comply with the orders of the Hon'ble NGT in the matter and thereafter the State may approach the Ministry for further deliberation and decision on the proposal.

### **Agenda No. 18**

#### **Proposal No. FP/JH/REDIV/431331/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for re-diversion of 0.9113 ha Protected Forest for re-drawing of safety zone along common boundary considering Noamundi Iron Mine & Katamati Iron Mine of M/s**

**Tata Steel Ltd as a cluster for extraction of locked up minerals located under Chaibasa Forest Division, Pashchimi Singhbhum District of Jharkhand State (Online No. FP/JH/REDIV/431331/2023)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Ranchi, and Nodal Officer, Government of Jharkhand 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 re-diversion of 0.9113 ha Protected Forest for re-drawing of safety zone along common boundary considering Noamundi Iron Mine & Katamati Iron Mine of M/s Tata Steel Ltd as a cluster for extraction of locked up minerals located under Chaibasa Forest Division, Pashchimi Singhbhum District of Jharkhand State.
  - ii. As per component-wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.9113 ha is required for change in land use for mining purpose.
  - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.1 of Eco class III forest types with 56 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
  - iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. However, as per site inspection report of Regional Office, Ranchi, proposed forest land is having the presence of schedule-I species such as Elephant, Wild boar, Barking deer, Slot bear etc. Further it has been reported that the proposed area is a part of Singhbhum Elephant Reserve.
  - v. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
  - vi. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area falls under Not-Inviolate or Not In-High Conservation value Zone.
  - vii. Since the proposal is for re-diversion, compensatory afforestation is not applicable, as compensatory levies for diversion has been paid already including safety zone.
  - viii. No violation of the Adhiniyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
  - ix. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. complete compliance report of earlier Stage- II approval,

comments from State Government regarding safety zone between Noamundi Iron Ore and Katamati Iron Ore mine devoid of vegetation and no plantation visible, KML files of 370.92 ha forest land; CA land; KML file of 383.37 ha forest land and KML file of mine boundary of Noamundi Iron Ore mine, comments of the CWLW, Details of area proposed for dumping of overburden, status of notification of 151.67 ha Non-forest land as RF/PF under IFA, 1927, complete mining plan, location map along with the KML file highlighting the area where the safety zone is proposed to be shifted/ re-drawn and status of forest land reclaimed by the user agency in the instant mine etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 05.09.2024.

- x. The State Government submitted its reply online on 15.12.2025 and informed following:
- a) Compliance report of Stage- II approval dated 04.09.2014 was submitted.
  - b) The proposed safety zone area over both Noamundi and Katamati iron mine is part of top horizon which comprises of very hard Canga (mix of bouldery material of laterite & hard iron ore with cemented matrix), laterite and hard iron ore. There is negligible soil in this area. Below this, there is hard iron ore. Porous space of these lithotypes and permeability are negligible. Hence, growth of trees is negligible. As per the Google imagery dated 23.01.2025, pillars like structures are found visible in the safety zone of Noamundi Iron ore mine.
  - c) KML file of approved forest land i.e. 370.92 has been submitted. The KML file of the Non Forest land for CA 150.856 ha (KML area 150.916 ha) has been uploaded on the PARIVESH. Out of which, 5 ha is Moderately Dense Forest, 9 ha is Open Forest and 137 ha is Non-Forest/ Non-wooded in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019. The KML file of the Degraded Forest land 9.19 ha for plantation work (KML file area 9.385 ha) has been uploaded on the PARIVESH. Out of which, 9 ha is Non-Forest/ Non-wooded in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019. KML file of 333.591 ha has been submitted. KML file of mine lease boundary of Noamundi Iron Ore mine with safety zone has also been submitted.
  - d) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand, Ranchi has approved the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for Noamundi Iron Mine by Office Order No. 28 dated 28.08.2020. The said plan has been prepared in compliance with the conditions imposed under the environmental clearance granted by MoEF&CC for the said mining lease. Also, the above plan has been modified in compliance with the condition imposed in the proposal submitted by the user agency for diversion of the remaining forest land measuring 391.51 hectares within their mining lease area, which has

received Stage-I approval by MoEF&CC, Govt. of India vide letter No. F.No. 8-65/2018FC dated 08.12.2022. This plan has been approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand, Ranchi, vide Office Order 33 dated 15.05.2024. In the circumstances described above, it does not appear necessary to formulate a separate wildlife conservation plan for the current forest land diversion proposal, which is within the 370.92 ha mining lease. In this regard, the opinion of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand, Ranchi, has been forwarded to the Principal Secretary, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi, through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-cum-Executive Director, Wasteland Development Board, Jharkhand, Ranchi, vide their letter No. 496 dated 29.05.2024. A total of 5 elephants have died in the last 10 years in the Noamundi region. The Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been in effect for the past four years. Each year, proposed actions are being carried out in a planned manner. It is also monitored at the departmental level.

- e) Item-wise breakup details of the forest land proposed for diversion is submitted.
  - f) User agency has mentioned that draft PF notification of transferred and mutated non-forest land has been finalised by DFO Gumla and is in process for forwarding for necessary action.
  - g) The complete mining plan approved by IBM vide letter No. RAN/WSB/Fe/MP-24/2021-22 dated 15.03.2022 for the period from 2022-23 to 2026-27 is submitted.
  - h) Desired map/ KML file has been uploaded by the user agency on PARIVESH portal 2.0. No new forest land is required for relocation of safety zone.
  - i) Progressive mine closure plan approved by the user agency for the period 2019-20 to 2023-24 has been submitted and reclamation work is being carried out as per the progressive mine closure plan.
- xi. The Regional Office also submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhinyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with following:
- (i) This proposal is part of 370.92 ha of forest land which has been given approval for non-forestry purpose by Govt. of India, MoEF&CC vide letter No.8-279/1985-FC (Pt) dated 04.09.2014.
  - (ii) Total 0.9113 ha Forest land is involved in proposed re-drawing of Safety Zone of Noamundi Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. for mining purpose. It is reported that a total of 16 million tons of high grade iron ore is locked over the proposed area. Hence, it become

imperative to carry out mining operation over mineral locked area in the interest of mineral conservation.

- (iii) The DFO has reported that the proposed area does not come within any National Park, Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve or within 10 Km boundary of any Protected Area. The proposed area is a part of Singhbhum Elephant Reserve.
  - (iv) The State Govt. has reported that Review of Mining Plan has been approved by IBM vide letter No. RAN/WSB/Fe/MP-24/2021-22 dated 15.03.2022 for the period from 2022-23 to 2026-27.
  - (v) The DFO, Chaibasa has reported that no violation has been observed in respect of the forest land proposed for diversion under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. However, during site inspection a road was seen in between the safety zone, which was reported to be of pre-1980 by the user agency.
  - (vi) The instant diversion proposal for redrawing of safety zone and change in land use pattern over 0.9113 ha forest land from Safety zone to mining purpose on Jharkhand side of working pits of Noamundi Iron Mine (Jharkhand) by M/s Tata Steel Ltd.
  - (vii) As reported by the Nodal Officer, Jharkhand user agency has provided 151.67 ha of non-forest land for raising CA in lieu of already diverted 370.92 ha of forest land (229.748 ha broken up prior to 1980 + 141.172 ha fresh area) including safety zone area involved in this mining lease. Hence, CA land to the safety zone proposed for diversion (0.9113 ha) is not required.
  - (viii) As reported by the State Govt., DGMS has granted the permission under Regulation 111 (3) of Metalliferous Mine Regulations, 1961 to extend the opencast working of Katamati Iron Mine within 7.5 m of the common mine boundary with Noamundi Iron Mine of Tata Steel Ltd. vide letter No.330127 dated 17.02.2023.
  - (ix) Mining in the safety zone of both the mining lease will result in no inter-state boundary at that point. The representative of user agency said that the boundary will be virtual and the GPS reading of the boundary will be maintained and after mining below the pit as per the GPS reading boundary pillars will be installed.
- xii. State Government has mentioned that mining plan has been approved by IBM vide letter No. RAN/WSB/Fe/MP-24/2021-22 dated 15.03.2022 for the period from 2022-23 to 2026-27.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for re-diversion of 0.9113 ha Protected Forest for re-drawing of safety zone along common boundary considering Noamundi Iron Mine & Katamati Iron Mine of M/s Tata Steel Ltd as a cluster for extraction of locked up minerals located under

Chaibasa Forest Division, Pashchimi Singhbhum District of Jharkhand State subject to the general, standard condition.

### Agenda Note 20

Online Proposal No: FP/JH/IND/528045/2025

**Subject: Proposal for seeking Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 184.43 ha Forest land in favour of M/s ESL Steel Limited (Formerly known as Electrosteel Steels Limited) for setting up of an Integrated Steel Plant under Bokaro District of Jharkhand State (Online Proposal No: FP/JH/IND/528045/2025)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Ranchi and Nodal Officer, Government of Jharkhand 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) Adhinyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 22.01.2026 and following was discussed:
  - I. The Govt. of Jharkhand vide their letter No Van Bhumi-20/2025-3330 dated 18.09.2025 forwarded a diversion proposal to obtain Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 184.43 ha Forest land in favour of M/s ESL Steel Limited (Formerly known as Electrosteel Steels Limited) for setting up of an Integrated Steel Plant under Bokaro District of Jharkhand State. The instant proposal electronically received in the Ministry on 18.09.2025.
  - II. ESL Steel Limited (formerly Electrosteel Steels Limited) has set up an Integrated Steel Plant located in villages Siyaljori, Bhagabandh, Budhibinor, Alkusha, Dhandabar, Bandhdih and Hutupathar of Bokaro District of Jharkhand. The present plant is spread over 374.81 ha of land (including the approach road to the plant). The project has adopted steel making through Blast Furnace route and primarily consist of a Sinter Plant, Coke Oven, Blast Furnace, Basic Oxygen Furnace, Billet Caster, Wire Rod Mill, Bar Mill, DI Pipe Plant and Power Plant. The plant has been designed to produce TMT bars, wire rods, DI pipes, pig iron and billets.
  - III. This forest diversion proposal, although applied in Industry category, is towards regularization of encroachment on 184.43 ha of forest land over

which steel plant exists. The site is situated about 15 km from Chas town (adjacent to district head quarter of Bokara) and about 5-6 km inside from Chas-Parbatpur Road. A connecting road, constructed by user agency, provides access to the steel plant. The construction of 3 MTPA capacity Steel Plant by M/s Electrosteel Steel Ltd. continued on forest land, despite several litigations during 2008-12, that project proponents claimed to be raiyati.

- IV. Previously, the proposal for diversion of 184.23 ha of Forest land (174.23 ha encroached (ex-post facto approval) and 9.84 ha virgin land) in favour of M/s Electro steel Steels Limited in the State of Jharkhand was granted Stage-I/In-principle approval by this Ministry's letter no. 8-21/2019-FC dated 17.12.2019.
- V. As per details in PARIVESH Portal 1.0, with proposal number FP/JH/ENCRH/37467/2018, the erstwhile proposal by ELECTROSTEEL STEELS LIMITED stands revoked. The proposal was accorded in-principle approval vide Ministry's letter dated 17.12. 2019 for ex-post facto approval of 184.23 ha forest area. Subsequent to in-principle approval, the erstwhile User agency has deposited NPV amount of ₹11.53 Cr for diversion of 184.23 ha of forest land (174.39 ha violation plus 9.84 ha fresh diversion) and five times Penal NPV of ₹54.58 Cr for violation over 174.39 ha on 05.10.2021. Due to non-submission of complete compliance of Stage- I conditions by the User Agency, the Ministry revoked the in-principle approval vide its letter dated 06.07.2023.
- VI. Further, the Committee was informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Ranchi between 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Ranchi. The observations of the Regional Office in SIR are as below:
- a) The Compensatory Afforestation area falls in 75 distinct land patches across six districts, totalling approximately 209.87 ha, with the majority of the land bank concentrated in Simdega and Palamu. A detailed examination of the data reveals a high degree of fragmentation, which poses significant logistical challenges for management and protection.

Size Slab	Count of Patches	Total Area (Ha)
Up to 1 Ha	29	12.67
1 to 2 Ha	11	14.46
2 to 3 Ha	10	25.95
3 to 4 Ha	6	21.20
4 - 5 Ha	6	27.27
5-10 Ha	9	58.16
More than 10 Ha	4	50.16
Total	75	~209.87

Out of the 75 identified sites, 29 patches are one hectare or smaller in size will require high investments in fencing and monitoring relative to the area secured.

From ecological viability angle the analysis of forest connectivity shows that approximately 49.1% of the total land area is contiguous or partially contiguous to existing forest lands, which is favourable for extending the current ecosystem. The remaining CA-NFL lands being isolated from forest lands, vulnerable to encroachment and biotic pressure necessitating fencing and intensive management

Hence state government need to explore the feasibility of management aspects of these patches and ensure its protection.

- b) The proposal is for regularization of encroachment done in the forest land. There are number of cases registered by Bokaro forest division against the violation done in relation with the proposal. The violation has already been examined and established by the ministry during the processing of same proposal applied previously.
- c) The project area is sharing its south-eastern boundary for about 3.5-4 km with Izri river which is a perennial tributary of River Damodar, therefore, area under present proposal forms part of the catchment of Izri. But the area is already under vivid construction and consequently the surface hydrology is completely modified.
- d) The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), RO, Ranchi has recommended the proposal with following observations.
  - i. The User Agency shall not be permitted to apply afresh for ex-post facto diversion.
  - ii. The User Agency shall comply with all conditions stipulated in the Ministry's Stage-I approval dated 17-12-2019. Regarding the mandate for five times Compensatory Afforestation (CA) on Non-Forest Land (NFL) stipulated in stage I approval dated 17-12-2019, the identification and procurement of NFL shall proceed only after obtaining an acceptance certificate from the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). This process must strictly adhere to Rule 13 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, and Para 2.2 of the MoEF&CC Consolidated Guidelines.
  - iii. The State Government shall review the NFL provided for CA to ensure adequate management and protection. The User Agency shall bear the cost of necessary fencing to prevent encroachment and shall raise plantations in accordance with the State's CA scheme.
  - iv. A comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan and Catchment Area Treatment Plan shall be prepared and implemented by the Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency. These plans must aim

to minimize the project's impact on the surrounding wildlife and hydrology.

- v. The User Agency shall rectify errors in the Cost-Benefit Analysis and submit a recalculated Cost-Benefit Ratio for the project.
  - vi. The User Agency shall develop a green belt with a minimum width of 50m along the interface of the Izri River and the plant boundary.
  - vii. Intact forest areas within the plant premises that are not included in the proposed diversion shall be returned to the Forest Department.
  - viii. The User Agency shall be liable for penal action for commencing rail track construction on non-forest land without securing the necessary forest diversion approval, as the alignment includes forest land. This pertains to the related proposal submitted in May 2025, which has been delisted since June 2025.
- VII. The Committee was informed that the extant proposal was considered in its meeting held on 22.01.2026, wherein the Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Ranchi and officials from Government of Jharkhand, '**deferred**' the instant proposal for diversion of 184.43 ha Forest land in favour of M/s ESL Steel Limited (Formerly known as Electrosteel Steels Limited) for setting up of an Integrated Steel Plant under Bokaro District of Jharkhand State with the following directions:
- (i) The State Government has proposed 209.87 ha towards Compensatory Afforestation. There are 75 land parcels in total; of which 62 patches are less than 5 ha. Out of these, 29 patches are less than 1 ha; while 11 patches are between 1-2 ha. The State Government should provide a detailed justification for proposing such small and scattered land parcels. The Regional Office to examine and ascertain whether the proposed CA land parcels are encumbrance free and whether these lands are feasible to be managed and protected by the State Forest Department.
  - (ii) The Regional Office shall examine and report on various actions by the State Government on the violation cases filed in the matter.

- VIII. The above decision of the Committee was communicated to the Regional Office, Ranchi on 15.02.2026. Regional Office, Ranchi submitted report as sought by the Ministry on 15.02.2026. summary of the same are as under:

In compliance with the directions of the Ministry, a meeting was held with the concerned Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) and the Nodal Officer of the State Forest Department on 17.02.2026. In addition, detailed scrutiny of the CA land parcels was undertaken based on the Site Inspection Report (SIR). Accordingly, the following report is submitted:

i. **Examination of CA Land Parcels: Suitability, Encumbrance and Feasibility of Management.**

The CA Non-Forest Land (NFL) identified by the User Agency is distributed across multiple (six) districts in small and scattered patches. A considerable number of patches are below 5 ha, with several less than 2 ha, indicating a high degree of fragmentation which may pose challenges in protection, monitoring, and long-term management. Notwithstanding the fragmentation, the parcels have been examined with reference to field feasibility and management inputs provided by the concerned DFOs.

Based on the SIR and field inputs received during the meeting held on 18.02.2026, the CA patches (up to 2 ha) have been categorised for analytical purposes as under:

Category	Description	Size Class	No of Patches	Total Area (ha)
A	Contiguous/Partially contiguous to forest	Up to 1 ha	17	6.654
B	Contiguous / Partially Contiguous to forest	1-2 ha	4	5.535
C	Not contiguous to fores	Up to 1 ha and 1-2 ha	4	4.175
D	Contiguity details not available	Up to 1 ha and 1-2 ha	15	10.772
Total	All Categories	Up to 1 ha and 1-2 ha	40	27.136

ii. **Patches Contiguous or Partially Contiguous to Forest Land:**

A significant proportion of the CA parcels are contiguous or partially contiguous to existing forest areas. Such spatial alignment is ecologically favourable for extension of the existing ecosystem and enhances the possibility of long-term survival and sustainability of plantations. Most of the DFOs, during the meeting dated 18.02.2026, confirmed that these patches can be made manageable from the protection and maintenance perspective under the approved CA scheme incorporating few additional and special provisions related to fencing, watch & ward, watering, 20 years maintenance etc.

Accordingly, the Regional Office is of the considered view that the patches contiguous or partially contiguous to forest areas can be effectively managed and protected by the State Forest Department through routine protection measures and standard watch and ward arrangements.

iii. **Patches Not Contiguous to Forest Land:**

Certain CA parcels, particularly those located in Jhargarha (Palamu) and Khaiwagadha-2 (Sundega), are isolated and situated away from

forest areas, including river/drainage side lands and agricultural landscapes. These isolated patches are comparatively more vulnerable to biotic pressure and potential encroachment.

The concerned DFOs have indicated that effective protection of such patches during the formative period would require adequate fencing, strengthened watch and ward, and site-specific management interventions.

The Regional Office concurs with these views and is of the opinion that the CA scheme for such patches needs to be suitably revised to incorporate provisions for fencing, protection infrastructure, and intensive monitoring to ensure successful establishment of plantations.

**iv. Patches Where Contiguity Details Are Not Available:**

In respect of certain CA parcels where contiguity details are not provided by state, the concerned DFOs have been requested to furnish verified field information. The same is awaited and shall be submitted to the Ministry upon receipt along with the considered views of the Regional Office.

Overall, the identified CA land, though fragmented, is considered suitable for plantation from a management perspective, subject to strengthening of protection measures, revision of the CA scheme for isolated patches, and strict monitoring by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency.

**v. Status of Encumbrance and Protection Concerns:**

As reported in the Site Inspection Report, most of the CA lands have been procured from private raiyats and are presently under the same land use as earlier, with several parcels surrounded by agricultural fields. While parcel-wise encumbrance or encroachment on CA land has not been specifically recorded in the SIR, the fragmented and isolated nature of certain patches may render them susceptible to biotic interference and local pressures.

In view of the above, the Regional Office is of the considered view that the identified CA sites may be accepted subject to the condition that the User Agency ensures that all CA lands are encumbrance-free prior to handing over to the State Forest Department.

In case any encumbrance is detected during field verification, the same shall be resolved by the User Agency before formal transfer and commencement of CA activities. Adequate fencing and watch and ward arrangements shall be ensured, particularly for small and isolated patches.

**vi. Examination of Violation Cases and Extent of Land under Violation:**

As per the Site Inspection Report, the proposal pertains to regularisation of encroachment over forest land on which the steel plant has already been established and is operational. The SIR indicates that at least 54 violation cases have been registered by the Bokaro Forest Division in connection with the project. There were 44 cases registered by forest department against the project proponent for forest land encroachment during 2010 & 2014, but all of them were quashed by hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand. There are another 10 such cases by the state forest department against the PP that are pending in the court of CJM Bokaro. The detailed list of all the 54 cases is attached herewith.

The extent of forest land under violation corresponds to 184.43 ha of forest land presently under possession and non-forest use by the User Agency for the steel plant and associated infrastructure. Although, as highlighted in the SIR 10.38ha forest land within the plant premises is said to be unused yet it is under possession of user agency, within its premises and destitute from any forestry uses since its occupation by the PP, therefore, entire 184.43ha of forest land is the extent of violation in the present case.

During the meeting dated 18.02.2026, the Nodal Officer informed that no specific action against the User Agency has been initiated under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 to date as the forest land under proposal was encroached and not diverted by any state authority without prior approval of central government.

In view of the established violation and the fait accompli nature of the project, the Regional Office is of the considered view that the State Government may be directed to initiate appropriate action against the User Agency in accordance to the provisions prescribed in paragraph 1.16(ii) (d) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the V(S&S) Adhinyam/Rules.

vii. **Overall Assessment and Conclusion:**

- a) The proposed CA land parcels are almost suitable for plantation from a silvicultural and management perspective, notwithstanding their fragmented and scattered distribution.
- b) Patches contiguous or partially contiguous to forest land are feasible for effective protection and management under routine measures by the State Forest Department.
- c) Isolated and non-contiguous patches require revision of the CA scheme with adequate provisions for fencing, watch and ward, and intensive protection during the formative period, at the cost of the User Agency.
- d) Verification of contiguity details for certain parcels is under process and updated information shall be submitted separately upon receipt from the concerned DFOS.

- e) Acceptance of CA sites may be considered subject to certification that the lands are encumbrance-free prior to handing over to the State Forest Department.
- viii. The proposal involves established violation over 184.43 ha of forest land with multiple cases registered; therefore, appropriate action under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 may be initiated by the State Government as per directions of the Ministry.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Ranchi and Nodal Officer, Government of Jharkhand, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 184.43 ha Forest land in favour of M/s ESL Steel Limited (Formerly known as Electrosteel Steels Limited) for setting up of an Integrated Steel Plant under Bokaro District of Jharkhand State subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:-
- (i) No Environmental Clearance shall be considered for the extant proposal until the entire compensatory afforestation land including the penal compensatory afforestation is transferred and mutated in favour of State Forest Department.
  - (ii) All the non-binding conditions in the previous in-principle approval accorded by the Ministry vide letter No. 8-21/2019-FC dated 17.12.2019 which was revoked, shall be imposed in the in-principle approval.
  - (iii) Action under Section 3A/3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 shall be initiated against the erring officials and a report in this regard, be submitted by the State Forest Department at the time of submission of the proposal for Stage-II approval.
  - (iv) The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 regarding the procedure and prescription of penal compensatory afforestation, in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. In compliance with these guidelines, the State Government shall identify and provide suitable land for undertaking penal compensatory afforestation equivalent to the forest land used in violation of the Adhinyam. The proposal shall be supported by requisite documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, and other relevant documents to ensure compliance with the said guidelines. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal compensatory afforestation shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
  - (v) Penal compensatory afforestation proposed 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.

(vi) The State Government shall ensure that the environmental damage resulting from the unauthorized use/diversion of forest land, if any, is comprehensively assessed by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) or any institution designated by it, at the cost of the User Agency. The assessment shall, inter alia, evaluate the extent of ecological degradation, loss of forest cover, biodiversity impacts, soil and hydrological disturbances, and any other associated environmental externalities arising from such violation. Based on the findings of the assessment, the State Government shall submit the environmental damage assessment report to the Ministry along with the compliance report for Stage-I approval. The report shall also include specific recommendations for remedial and restorative measures, including ecological restoration, soil and moisture conservation measures, and any other mitigation interventions considered necessary.

The entire cost associated with the assessment as well as the implementation of the recommended remedial and restorative measures for mitigating the environmental damage shall be borne by the User Agency, and the State Government shall ensure that such measures are implemented in a time-bound and verifiable manner

### **Agenda No. 21**

#### **Proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/QRY/492393/2024**

**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 62.4612 ha. Forest land for Jitpur Opencast Coal Project (2.5 MTPA in a total area of 537.93 Ha) in f/o M/s Terri Mining Private Limited under Godda District in the State of Jharkhand (Proposal No FP/JH/MIN/QRY/492393/2024)-regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Ranchi and Nodal Officer, Government of Jharkhand 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 62.4612 ha Forest land for Jitpur Opencast Coal Project (2.5 MTPA in a total area of 537.93 Ha) in f/o M/s Terri Mining Private Limited under Godda District in the State of Jharkhand.

ii. Component-wise details are as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Proposed Diversion (in ha)	Land for Non-forest Land (in ha)
1.	Excavation Area	21.786	113.664
2.	External dump	13.659	86.341
3.	Safety Zone	3.103	7.734
4.	Road Diversion	0.725	1.335
5.	Nala Diversion	4.084	12.366
6.	Road & Infrastructure Area (Coal Stockyard, CTR, Pit Office, Weighbridge, Stockpile, Permanent Haul Road)	1.491	8.312
7.	Rationalization Area	3.004	18.654
8.	Garland Drains	0.592	2.439
9.	Embankment	1.043	6.659
10.	Green Belt	11.23	41.626
11.	Coal Transportation Road (Outside Lease Area)	1.7442	18.284
12.	Settling pond	0	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>62.4612</b>	<b>319.720</b>

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.4 of forest types of Eco class III with 8101 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. The instant proposal falls under Not-Inviolate or Not-In high conservation zone (NHCV) category as per the DSS Rule-2. However, the instant proposal falls under Inviolate or In High conservation (HCV) as per DSS Rule-I due to presence of Hydrological feature i.e. Gumani Nadi within lease boundary of the instant project. Final result is Not-Inviolate/ Not-In high conservation zone (NHCV).
- vi. Compensatory Afforestation was proposed over 63.757 ha non-forest land in Govindpur, Chakpalsa and Tangdaha Villages of Dumka District. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. No violation of the Adhinyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- viii. Recommendations of DDGF (Central), RO, Ranchi: Based on the site inspection, the recommendations of the State Government, and the

site-specific nature of the proposal, the proposal has been recommended subject to the following conditions:

- a. The User Agency shall explore the possibility of shifting all non-site-specific ancillary activities, including overburden dumping, crushers, pit offices, and stockyards, to the non-forest area of the lease. The forest area originally proposed for diversion for these activities shall be retained as green cover.
- b. The User Agency shall bear the cost of preparation and implementation of a site-specific Wildlife Management Plan and a Catchment Area Treatment Plan to mitigate the impacts of mining on flora and fauna, as well as on water discharge within the lease area.
- c. The User Agency shall maintain a green belt/safety zone along the lease boundary, as required for mining projects.
- d. The State Government shall assess and confirm the suitability of the proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) non-forest land from a management perspective, with specific reference to its location in a predominantly agricultural region. The proposed CA land in the non-forest area at Govindpur, comprising patches of 0.278 ha, 0.028 ha, 0.099 ha, and 0.083 ha, is not recommended due to the fragmented nature of the patches, lack of connectivity with larger CA non-forest land parcels or existing forest areas, and the associated management challenges. The State Government shall advise the User Agency to identify alternative suitable non-forest land in lieu of these patches, ensuring that such land is contiguous either to the selected patches or to existing forest areas.
- e. The State Government shall ensure that the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan is implemented in accordance with the relevant rules.
- f. The User Agency shall submit the progressive reclamation plan, restoration schedule, and the schedule for surrender of forest land, as stipulated under Standard Condition 2(1) of the standard conditions applicable to such projects.
- g. The State Government shall notify the CA land received against Proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/928/2010, for which Stage II approval was issued on 03-03-2018, and shall ensure that CA plantation is established expeditiously.
- h. Diversion of the existing drainage system within the lease area shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved plan, the study conducted by IIT-ISM, Dhanbad, and after obtaining all statutory clearances. The User Agency shall

maintain a green belt of 50 m on both sides of the diverted channel, in addition to the mandatory safety zone.

- i. The ambiguity arising in the area statement of the project, due to differences between the ROR data and the DGPS data as compiled by CMPDI, as detailed in point No. 1A(4) of the SIR, may be rationalised by the competent authority by allowing the earlier approved area of 139 ha to prevail over the latter figure of 136.251 ha (finalised as per the mine boundary by CMPDI) for all technical, administrative, and logistical requirements, including NPV/CA calculations and R&R compensation considerations.
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 62.4612 ha Forest land for Jitpur Opencast Coal Project (2.5 MTPA in a total area of 537.93 Ha) of M/s Terri Mining Private Limited under Godda District of Jharkhand State subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. The State Government shall implement the Wild Life Conservation Plan duly approved by the CWLW at the cost of the User Agency.
  - ii. Compensatory Afforestation patches less than 5 ha which are not adjoining to any forest boundary, shall be maintained for 20 years at the cost of user agency.

#### **Agenda No. 22**

#### **Proposal No. No.FP /KA/WATER /456606/2023**

**Sub:Proposal for seeking ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL), Bengaluru for diversion of 111.0277 ha (originally proposed area is 173.3105 Ha) of forest land from CH 000+00 to 261.690 Km in Hassan and Tumkur District for the construction of Gravity Canal under Yettinahole Drinking Water Project from Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited in Karnataka State- regarding.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Committee noted that proposal was earlier considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 24.06.2025 and 27.10.2025 and the Committee, after considering the various facts of the proposal desired additional

information from the State along with a joint inspection report from the Regional Office and the State Government regarding the area used in violation of the Adhinyam and action taken by the State Government against the violation of the Adhinyam.

4. The Decision of the Advisory Committee was communicated to the State Government on 09.11. 2025. In response to this, the State Government vide letter dated 09.12.2025 forwarded the letter dated 06.12.2025 of the PCCF (HoFF) with reference to the reply of the observations raised by the Ministry.
5. As per the decision of the Advisory Committee, the Regional Office, Bengaluru, vide letter dated 26.12.2026, had submitted its independent inspection report to the Ministry, wherein it has been observed that the modified forest area proposed for diversion is 108.01 ha, as against 111.0277 ha indicated by the State Government.
  - i. The canal area proposed for diversion remains unchanged at 69.80 ha, while the muck dumping area has been substantially reduced from 103.50 ha to 38.21 ha, with no muck dumping proposed in areas yet to be worked, 47.88 ha of forest land earlier proposed but not utilized for muck dumping, and 17.41 ha already utilized to be cleared of muck by the User Agency. Further, though the total forest area proposed for diversion falls within Hassan and Tumkur Forest Divisions, the reported violation of 107.97 ha has occurred only in the Hassan Division, covering four different forest areas. Moreover, the State Government, vide letter No. FEE 89 FLL 2025 (e) dated 08.10.2025, submitted that out of 107.87 ha of reported violation, 107.83 ha was not recorded as forest in revenue records (RTC) and largely comprises agricultural lands under possession and cultivation of local farmers. However, the relevant revenue records, RTC extracts, and possession certificates were not furnished and the claim could not be verified. The Karnataka Forest Department has been asked to justify how, notwithstanding Notification No. 10783-Ft dated 13.05.1898 notifying 10,000 acres as forest, the work was allowed to commence, resulting in violation of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, with the reply from the Forest Department still awaited to ascertain whether the violation of 107.87 ha is attributable to the User Agency.
  - ii. As per the observations of the Advisory Committee, this Ministry requested the State Government to provide the approved WL management plan duly vetted by Wildlife Institute of India. The Wildlife Mitigation plan duly vetted by the WII is yet to be submitted. However, the State Govt. submitted that the Wildlife Mitigation/Management Plan Framework was approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden vide order dated 29.11.2025, after submission through the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Tumakuru. Subsequently, the User Agency was directed to obtain a comprehensive Wildlife Mitigation/Management Plan from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in accordance with the approved Framework. Accordingly, WII was

approached and, vide letter No. WIICAP/Yettinahole/209 dated 26.12.2025, conveyed that the plan would be prepared subject to payment of Rs. 3,92,93,232/- (excluding 18% GST). An amount of Rs. 4,63,66,014/- (inclusive of 18% GST) has since been deposited with WII on 02.01.2026 (UTR No. SBINR52026010211485113). The Yettinahole Project, an integrated drinking water project, has completed 246.00 km out of 252.34 km of gravity canal, with only about 6.00 km falling within the forest stretch for which the forest clearance proposal has been uploaded. Upon clearance, the remaining work will be completed, facilitating drinking water supply to approximately 75 lakh people in drought-prone districts. Since the Framework stands approved and the comprehensive plan is under preparation by WII in accordance with the approved Framework, Stage-I approval is requested.

- iii. With regard to extent of forest land used in the proposal for diversion of 13.93 Ha in Sakleshpura taluk of Hassan District wherein the Ministry had granted Stage-II approval on 15.09.2016, the State Government has submitted that out of 13.93 Ha area in Sakleshpura taluk of Hassan District wherein the Ministry had granted Stage-II approval on 15.09.2016, an area of 4.98 Ha has been utilised and 8.95 Ha area is not utilised.
- iv. Subsequently joint inspection report was submitted by the DDGF RO Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Karnataka Forest Department. The joint inspection report concluded the that:
  - a) Violations of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 were committed during the period from March 2018 to December 2019. The violations occurred in Idahalla Amruth Kaval and the contiguous Naikanakere Amruth Mahal Kaval in Hassan Forest Division. The forest land parcels in these areas are covered under Gazette Notification No. 10783-FT.F.40-95 dated 13.05.1898, published in the June 1898 Gazette, whereby 10,000 acres (4046.85 ha) were notified as Reserved Forest. Reference has also been made to a notification published in the May 1898 Gazette (1,000 acres) and a subsequent notification dated 19.05.1930.
  - b) The Report further records that the Working Plan of the Division was not prepared on the basis of the extent notified in the May or June 1898 Gazettes. Instead, forest boundaries were mapped with reference to the notification dated 19.05.1930. Subsequently, during the period 2022–25, the forest boundary map was revised and the areas covered under the June 1898 notification were incorporated into the Working Plan.
  - c) It has been observed that the Karnataka Forest Department failed to prevent violations over an extent of 84.463 ha carried out by the User Agency, primarily due to the non-availability of the June 1898 Gazette

notification in its records. The Department relied instead on a notification bearing the same number but published in the May 1898 Gazette, which reflected a notified extent of only 1,000 acres in Idahalla Amruth Kaval as Protected Forest.

- d) The violation has therefore been attributed to the non-demarcation of forest boundaries on the ground through boundary pillars and the failure to incorporate the relevant forest notifications in revenue records. The User Agency relied upon revenue records and documents held by the land occupant, which did not indicate the land as forest. Accordingly, the cause of the violation cannot be solely attributed to the User Agency but appears to be a consequence of long-standing discrepancies in official records and lack of effective ground demarcation.
- e) The total area involved in violation of the Adhiniyam is 107.97 ha, comprising 84.463 ha in Idahalla Amruth Kaval, 21.9 ha in Sigegudda, and 0.132 ha in Ramadevahalli. Out of the total forest land used in violation, an area of 84.09 ha has been included in the modified proposal. As per the Joint Report, the remaining area involved in violation shall be surrendered to the Forest Department.
- f) The Committee noted that as per the joint inspection report, the area under violation is 107.97 ha observations made by the joint inspection report.

6. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO Bengaluru and Nodal Officer Karnataka recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL), Bengaluru for diversion of 111.0277 ha (originally proposed area is 173.3105 Ha) of forest land from CH 000+00 to 261.690 Km in Hassan and Tumkur District for the construction of Gravity Canal under Yettinahole Drinking Water Project from Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited in Karnataka State subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:

- i. Action under section 3A and 3B shall be initiated by the State Forest Department against those responsible for violation of the Adhiniyam.
- ii. In accordance with the provisions of para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhiniyam by the user agency which shall be five time the NPV of forest land plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand and till the deposit is made by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.

- iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land for penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- iv. Penal compensatory afforestation 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.
- v. The remaining forest area used without prior approval, but proposed to be surrendered by the user agency, shall be restored through appropriate reclamation and rehabilitation (R&R) measures. The cost of reclamation and rehabilitation shall be borne by the user agency. The State Forest Department shall submit a detailed R&R plan for the remaining area under violation along with the compliance of the in-principle approval, and the same shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency.
- vi. The State Government shall submit a Wildlife Management Plan for the conservation and protection of wildlife in the area, duly vetted by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), along with the compliance report.

#### **Agenda No. 24**

#### **Proposal No. FP/KL//NONMIND/547248/2025**

**Subject: Proposal received from Government of Kerala under Section 2 (iii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for renewal of lease of 7,748.441 ha of forest land in favour of Kerala Forest Development Corporation Ltd (KFDC) for continuation of existing forestry and plantation management operations for a further period of 25 years (Proposal No. FP/KL/NONMIND/547248/2025)- regarding.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 2.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Kerala 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 proposal relates to assignment of forestland on lease under section 2(1) (iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the purpose of renewal of an existing lease granted to Kerala Forest Development Corporation Limited over an area of 7,748.441 ha of forest land. Proposal has been submitted in accordance with the provisions of section 2(1)(iii) and Guidelines issued thereunder.
- ii. The proposal has been submitted in accordance with the provisions of section 2(1)(iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 which mandates the prior approval of the Central Government for:
  - i. *(iii) that any forest land or any portion thereof may be assigned by way of lease or otherwise to any private person or to any authority, corporation, agency or any other organisation subject to such terms and conditions, as the Central Government may, by order, specify;*
- iii. It is reported that the lease has been expired on 31.12.2025. Proposal is submitted for renewal of lease for next 25 years
- iv. The *Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC)* was established in 1975 and was entrusted with the management of forests in Kerala. The ownership structure of KFDC is shared between the State Government (90%) and the Central Government (10%). Within the leased forest areas, KFDC's activities are silvicultural in nature, focusing on the cultivation of long-rotation crops such as timber, pulpwood, and bamboo, along with the management of eco-tourism initiatives.
- v. In line with the State Government's eco-restoration policy, KFDC has initiated a program to replace exotic species with native ones, with a target of full conversion by 2040. It has been informed that all activities of KFDC have been carried out in accordance with a management plan approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It has been informed that all activities of KFDC have been carried out in accordance with a management plan approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- vi. The Management Plan has been approved by the Regional Office on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 for the period 2025-26 to 2029-2030.
- vii. The lease is located over 7,748.441 ha in Thiruvanthapuram, Punalur, Achencovil, Ranni, Munnar and Thrissur Forest Division of Kerala State.
- viii. Division wise detail of forest area proposed for assignment of lease is as under:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Division</b>	<b>Area applied for renewal (ha)</b>
1.	Thiruvanathapuram	2092.56
2.	Punalur	2169.14
3.	Achencovil	792.31
4.	Ranni	451.294

5.	Munnar	1212.59
6.	Thrissur	1030.547
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7748.44</b>

- ix. The State Government has stated that in certain patches of Pathanapuram Range (Punalur Division), encroachments were observed over an area of approx. 0.459 ha. As per records, these encroachments occurred prior to transfer of the forest land to KFDC.
- x. The presence of wildlife species in and around the lease area has been reported underscoring the ecological significance in term of its wildlife.
- xi. After initial examination of the proposal in light of the provisions of the Guidelines given under para 7.2 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the Ministry sought additional information on the proposal from the State Government of Kerala on 08.02.2026. The State Government submitted its online reply on the observations of the MoEF&CC.
- xii. The Committee also noted that the Regional Office, Bengaluru has carried out Site inspection of the proposed lease area using the sample size of 23 to 46% in different Divisions. Key observations made by the Regional Office in their inspection report are as under:
- a) The lease originates from Government Order No. 43/76/AD dated 09.02.1976, whereby the Government of Kerala accorded approval for the transfer of 10,618.897 hectares of forest land to the Kerala Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (KFDC) in a phased manner from various forest divisions for raising plantations and undertaking forestry operations
  - b) Subsequently, as per letter No. 389/2003/F&W dated 04.03.1989, an additional extent of 25 years was granted, and a further lease deed was executed on 15.05.2003 for 7,748.441 hectares of forest land
  - c) The lease period has since expired on 31.12.2025, and the present proposal pertains to its renewal for continuation of existing forestry and plantation management operations.
  - d) The land transferred to KFDC was primarily intended for plantation forestry and scientific management of forest areas. Over time, certain portions of the leased land were diverted prior to transfer—such as 0.19 hectares handed over to the Revenue Department for establishment of a Government Veterinary Hospital in 1976, and 0.269 hectares handed over to the Irrigation Department for the Kallada Irrigation Project
  - e) The Regional Office has observed that the renewal of lease is sought for continuation of existing plantation and forestry operations, including eco-restoration of certain degraded and grassland patches, and sustainable harvesting in accordance with the approved Detailed Project Report (DPR). No additional forest land is proposed for diversion beyond the existing leased area.
  - f) During inspection, the majority of plantations were found to be established and maintained, though exhibiting varying stock densities and growth

conditions. Several plantations demonstrated good to excellent growth performance, while a few isolated patches reflected poor stocking or failed plantations. The boundaries of the lease area were found to be largely intact.

- g) The presence of wildlife species in and around the lease area was also noted, underscoring the ecological significance of the landscape and the need for continued environmentally responsible management practices.
- h) **Encroachments:** In certain patches of Pathanapuram Range (Punalur Division), encroachments were observed over an area of approx. 0.459 ha. As per records, these encroachments occurred prior to transfer of the forest land to KFDC.
- i) **Area Mismatch:** Minor discrepancies were observed between Working Plan records, proposal area, and DSS/KML data in Ranni, Achenkovil and Thrissur Forest Divisions. The observed area differences are attributable to survey refinements, inclusion/exclusion of non-plantable patches, and historical administrative adjustments. The discrepancies do not indicate unauthorized diversion or expansion of leased forest land. The Regional Office considered the justifications provided by the DFO concerned and noted that matter relates to technical reconciliation which can be rectified by record reconciliation and proper documentation.
- j) **Violations of the Adhiniyam, 1980:** No violation of the Adhiniyam reported in case of current lease renewal proposal.
- k) No non-forestry construction activities are proposed.
- xiii. The Regional Office, after detailed field inspection and scrutiny of records, has recommended renewal of the lease for continuation of existing forestry and plantation management operations for a further period of 25 years under Section 2(iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam.
- xiv. The Committee noted that proposal is for renewal of lease under section 2 (1) (iii) of Adhiniyam.
- xv. The activities proposed are primarily a forestry activity as per the approved management plan of the Kerala Forest Development Corporation.
- xvi. The Nodal officer Kerala appraised the committee that activities of the Corporation have been stopped due to the pending renewal of lease.
- xvii. The committee was of the view that forestry activities can be continued on the proposed lease area.

**Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Kerala. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Kerala, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal and decided to take up subject proposal as separate policy matter in next Advisory Committee, as the activities proposed on the leased area are primarily related to forestry activities.

## Agenda No. 25

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

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 6.6151 ha Forest land (revised from earlier 9.08 Ha) for the construction of Marshall Small Hydel Power Project (24.75 MW) under Rewa Forest Division, Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State in favour of M/s Marshall Small Hydel Power Pvt. Ltd. (Online No. FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/516717/2024) – regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under 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 Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their File No F-4/64/2024/10-11 dated 13.02.2025 forwarded a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 9.08 ha Forest land (revised to 6.6151 Ha) in favour of M/s Marshall Small Hydel Power Pvt Ltd, A-148, Emerald Park City, Near AIIMS, Bagsewania Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh for the construction of Marshall Small Hydel Power Project (24.75 MW) under Rewa Forest Division, Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State.
  - ii. Prevailing Rules & Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023 regarding the instant proposal is as under:
    - (a) Rule 10 (2) (iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023 says that hydro-electric power projects of more than 25 MW and those falling in a river basin where cumulative impact assessment study to assess the carrying capacity of river basin has not been done or policy decision on allowing the projects in a river basin has not been taken by the Central Government, shall be examined and disposed of by the Central Government in the manner specified under these rules.

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

- iii. Earlier, the UA submitted the proposal No. FP/MP/HYD/42686/2019 (12.8042 Ha). The proposal was considered in the AC meeting held on 25.04.2023, where in the AC recommended that the proposal cannot be considered in the present proposition because of the left over 0.75 Ha thick forest existing between the water body and area proposed for diversion. Subsequently, the UA submitted the revised proposal by including that left out area.
- iv. It has been submitted by the State Government that the total area involved in the proposal is 31.4061 Ha. Out of this 24.791 ha is Non-Forest Land (NFL) and the balance 6.6151 ha is Forest Land. The proposal is situated on the bank of the rives Tamsa/Tons.
- v. **The proposed 6.6151 Ha of forest land (4.22 Ha: Reserved Forest and 2.3951 Ha: Protected Forest) is having the canopy density of 0.4 with Eco Class II forest types.**
- vi. **The State Government has submitted the following component-wise breakup of the land use plan of the proposal:**

S.N.	Component	Forest Land (in Ha) Original Proposal	Forest land (in Ha) Revised proposal	Non forest land (in Ha)
1.	Approach Road to Power House	-	1.189	-
2.	Surge Shaft	-	0.6383	-
3.	Transmission Line and road to surge shaft	0.37	0.37	-
4.	Power House,	2.335	1.8468	-

	Switchyard, Penstock, TRC, Road and connected Civil Structure			
5.	Approach road to Power House (Patch 2)	-	2.478	-
6.	Weir (Diversion structure) Area	0.093	0.093	1.1905
7.	Road to Power House	2.316	-	-
8.	Working Area and Camp	2.11	-	-
9.	Approach Road to Power House	0.566	-	-
10.	Store Area	1.29	-	-
11.	Road (Weir to work Area camp)	-	-	-
12.	Intake Structure Area	-	-	0.324
13.	Road (intake to weir area)	-	-	0.2023
14.	Head Race Tunnel Area (Part 1)	-	-	0.22
15.	Tunnel Area (Part II)	-	-	0.152
16.	Head Race Tunnel Area (Part 3)	-	-	0.3298
17.	Muck Disposal Area (Part 1)	-	-	1.6235
18.	Muck Disposal Area (Part 1 to 2)	-	-	0.2026
19.	Muck Disposal Area (Part 2)	-	-	1.1223
20.	Muck Disposal Area (Part 3)	-	-	1.624
21.	Transmission Line	-	-	17.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9.08</b>	<b>6.6151</b>	<b>24.791</b>

- vii. The Cumulative assessment for impact study of river basin-carrying capacity and cumulative impact assessment study of river basin of Tons river is not necessary for the proposed Marshall Small Hydro Power Project since this project is the first project on the Tons river. This has been confirmed vide letter of the office of the Commissioner New & Renewal Energy indicating the Marshall Hydro Power Project is the first Hydro Power Project proposed in the Tons/Tamas river.
- viii. It has been submitted by the State Government that as per EIA notification, 2006, the project involving hydro-electric power generation below 25 MW capacity does not require Environmental Clearance. The

Capacity of the instant Project is 24.75 MW and does not fall within ESZ or any protected area.

- ix. The State Government reported that the project does not involve displacement of any human habitation and therefore resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required.
- x. The proposed project requires electricity for construction and operations. A 33KV line will be provided from Umari Substation to the project site switchyard, which will also exporting the generated power to the substation after completion of construction and commissioning. A new 11 kV / 33 kV transmission line will be laid from the nearest substation located at Umiri village approximately 12.14 km from the project site. Total area of the Transmission line is 18.1909 Hectors. Out of this, the UA will be utilising only 0.37 Hectors of forest land. New DG set for backup of power will be installed.
- xi. The State Government has submitted the copy of Muck disposal plan along with the proposal.
- xii. The Divisional Forest Officer in its Site Inspection Report mentioned the presence of the Wild boar, Blue cow, Hare, monkey, Peacock, vulture etc. in the area proposed for diversion.
- xiii. It has been submitted by the State Government that the proposed forest land is not prone for soil erosion because User Agency will not be disturbing natural streams and drains passing through project site. If any soil erosion will take place, the user agency will take mitigation measures.
- xiv. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 9.194 Ha of Non Forest land in a single patch in Village Kaadi, tehsil Mauganj, Khasra No. 11, 12, 14, 17, 18/1, 18/2, 19/1, 19/2, 20/1, 20/2, 21/1, 21/2, 22/1, 22/2, with area respectively (in Ha) 1.473, 0.827, 0.550, 0.145, 0.521, 0.547, 0.291, 0.292, 1.064, 1.064, 1.097, 1.100, 0.112, 0.111, for which the technical approval has been granted by the CCF, Rewa vide order no.304 dated 16.10.2024. The CA scheme has also been prepared for 0.7672 crores.
- xv. The Site Suitability certificate has been given by the DFO, Rewa for the proposed CA land. It has been further submitted by the State Government that the proposed CA land is adjacent to the forest land.
- xvi. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
  - a) While constructing the structures as mentioned in the layout plan, the User Agency is suggested to fell only those trees which are required to be felled. Further, the vegetation near to the river bed shall be protected by strong RCC wall. Also, the areas where, no construction is required, the existing trees should be protected and also plantation shall be done in gaps. The proposed road should have plantations on either side of the road.

- b) The area is suitable for raising plantation with a mixture of native species after taking up chain link fencing all around. The soil and moisture conservation works like staggered contour trenching is suggested for better results. Since, the area is located at higher altitude, a watcher's hut cum watch tower is suggested to be constructed at a suitable location for better monitoring and shelter for the watcher.
- xvii. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report also submitted that the User Agency has already taken up, the hydro-geological studies before submitting the proposal and also it is observed that there is a Purva fall in the river which creates a head of about 100 meter, sufficient for production of 24.75 MW power under the given situation. Also, it is observed that all the areas in the river bed downstream of Purva falls are falling in RF/PF. So, any change in location of the project downstream of Purva falls to take advantage of the head, would require diversion of forest land. Therefore, the project is observed to be site-specific in nature with no any other alternatives.
- xviii. The CAT plan for the subject proposal has been approved by the APCCF & Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh with a financial outlay of ₹4360635/-.
- xix. The Committee observed that the State Government has reduced the forest land requirement from 9.08 ha to 6.6151 ha by shifting the Working & Handling Area and Store Area to non-forest land as per the observations made by the Advisory Committee.
- xx. The Committee further observed that the State Government, vide letter dated 12.02.2026, has informed that the surplus muck disposal area and the muck compaction and stabilization area, measuring more than 2.50 ha, shall be utilized for accommodating the Working and Camp Area and Store Area (2.4649 ha), which have been shifted from the proposed forest land to non-forest land. Accordingly, no additional non-forest land is required.
- xxi. The Committee further observed that the User Agency has reduced the proposed forest land requirement by 2.4649 ha, from 9.08 ha to 6.6151 ha, being the bare minimum. It has been further stated by the State Government that there is no feasibility or scope for any further reduction, as the remaining 6.6151 ha is essential for project components that are required to be located in the vicinity of the main Hydel Project area.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee recommended the proposal for '*In-principle*' approval for diversion of 6.6151 ha Forest land (revised from 9.08 Ha) for the construction of Marshall Small Hydel Power Project (24.75 MW) under Rewa Forest Division,

Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State in favour of M/s Marshall Small Hydrel Power Pvt. Ltd. with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. While constructing the structures as mentioned in the layout plan, the State Government shall ensure to fell only those trees which are required to be felled. Further, in areas where no construction activities are required, the existing trees should be protected and plantation shall be undertaken in gaps.
- ii. No working & handling area and Store Area shall be constructed over the forest land proposed for diversion.

### **Agenda No. 26**

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

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

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 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 Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their note No R-2142750/2024/10-3 dated 05.07.2024 forwarded a fresh diversion proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 28.079 ha forest land (now revised to 31.4161 Ha) of Compartment No RF-23, Range Rewa under Rewa Forest Division for Tikar Bauxite Phase-I mining project of M/s Katni Minerals Private Ltd. in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State.
  - ii. As per the observations of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 26.09.2025, the area of the proposed road for mineral evacuation was added in the instant proposal and a consolidated proposal was submitted

by the State Government. Accordingly, the total area involved in the proposal has been revised from 28.079 Ha to 31.4161 Ha.

- iii. The legal status of the proposed forest land for diversion i.e. 31.4161 Ha is Reserved Forest with canopy density of 0.5 with forest of Eco-class IV. The number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is 16660.
- iv. The LOI has been issued for the entire forest block of 95.26 Ha. But, only 28.079 Ha. forest area is available for mining and allied activities in the mineralized zone; therefore, a proposal has been submitted for diversion only for the mineralized zone available within the block. The validity of the LOI is upto 13.03.2027.
- v. The committee noted that the State is submitting the forest diversion proposal in piecemeal manner and it is also reflecting in the title of the proposal like Tikar Bauxite Phase-I and in future the Phase-II may be come up. In this reference, the Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh informed that after prospecting the entire block and calculating the reserve of the entire forest block, it is found that the entire forest block is not mineral bearing area and only part of the forest area is mineralized area. That is why the area within the mining lease is marked in pieces to carry out non-forestry activity. The Mining proposals as per the approved Mining Plan is confined within the area proposed and applied for forest clearance and Mining operations in the auctioned block will be carried out by the bidder on the basis of the mining plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines, Govt. of India.
- vi. There is a presence of Schedule-I species in and around the project site like Leopard, hyena, jungle Cat, jackal, Blue cow, Wild boar, Black francolin, sambar deer, Grouse, Peacock, Quail, Parrot etc. The area is situated 9.82 KM away from Sanjay Tiger Reserve or Son Gharial WLS.
- vii. The State Govt. submitted that the proposed area does not come under any eco sensitive zone, hence instant proposal does not require Wildlife Clearance under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- viii. The State Government has informed that the proposed forest land forms part of the approved Working Plan of Rewa Forest Division (2013–14 to 2022–23), wherein no rare, endangered, or unique flora and fauna have been reported.
- ix. However, a Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan incorporating mitigation measures has been prepared and approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh, vide letter dated 03.02.2025. The approved Plan, with a financial outlay of ₹416.10 lakh for 10 years, has been submitted with the proposal.
- x. The State Government submitted that the overburden produced will be much smaller in quantity as the deposit is mostly exposed to the surface. The total deposit comprises of Bauxite and Laterite. The extraction of

minerals will be done by drilling and blasting with Shovel and Dumper combination. The extracted mineral will be supplied to the cement plants as raw material. The transport of minerals to cement plants is proposed by road.

- xi. The State Govt. has informed that reclamation plan as provided in the approved mining plan, suggests that the overburden and the mining waste will be used in backfilling the void created by extraction of minerals. As the quantity of mineral extracted would be much larger than the overburden and mining wastes, the void would not be able to be filled up to the current level. Therefore, a depression with surface terrain similar to the current terrain would be left after mining and the same shall be afforested at the cost of the User Agency.
- xii. The committee found that as per the DSS analysis the area proposed for diversion is having high biological richness. The Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the Director of Geology & mining Madhya Pradesh Bhopal vide letter no. 11812 dated 29.10.2024 has mentioned that "*This area has been auctioned as per the prospecting work carried out by department during 1987-1989 field season. On the basis of providing of mineral deposit and resources, the block was prepared and auctioned. Bauxite is metallic mineral and main source for production of aluminum. Apart from aluminum industry, it is also used in steel making, refractory, abrasive, cement and chemical industry. As on date, no mineral resources is proven in vicinity of unbroken area.*" The committee took note of the fact and agreed to the submission made by the Nodal Officer.
- xiii. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal, subject to the following conditions:
  - a) To mitigate the adverse impact of mining in the surrounding area, it is suggested to have about 20 meter un-disturbed buffer area around the proposed diversion area and approach road. This may be done by erecting chain link fence all around at a distance of 20 meter from the proposed diversion area and also on either side of the proposed approach road.
  - b) A wildlife mitigation plan and soil conservation plan shall also be prepared by the concern DFO at the cost of the User Agency to reduce the impact of mining in the surrounding area.
  - c) It is observed that the proposed approach road is only 3.5 meter in width and the transport of minerals is proposed by trucks through the same road from mine to outside the forest area. It may not be possible to use only 3.5 meter wide road for transport of minerals by trucks. Therefore, the User Agency is required to explain the plan for transport of minerals by truck through a 3.5 meter wide road.

- d) The proposal is for mining of minerals like Bauxite and Laterite which are site specific in nature. Therefore, there cannot be any alternative to the proposal.
- xiv. It was informed to the committee that the proposal was first considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 16.04.2025, wherein the committee “deferred “ the proposal for the want of the following:
- a) The evacuation of the mineral has been proposed through a road in the forest area which is just 3.5 meters wide. The efficacy, suitability and the carrying capacity of a 3.5 meter wide road for plying of trucks to transport minerals needs to be examined. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted.
  - b) The State shall provide the details of the existing 3.5 meters wide road passing through the forest land along with the copies of approval obtained under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
  - c) The copy of NoC from the competent authority of the State Government regarding the impact on the Nalla(s) due to mining activity in the proposed forest land shall be submitted.
  - d) The land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) in the proposal is found to be almost a linear patch on the ridge of a hillock beside Juhila river and the average width of the CA patch is around 100 meters. The area does not appear to be suitable from management point of view. Further, a black top road is also observed to be passing across the CA area indicating that the area is not free from encumbrances. Therefore, the CA area needs to be revised and relevant attributes like Map, KML file, Site suitability, CA scheme etc. shall be submitted accordingly.
  - e) The State Govt. shall submit the copy of valid Lol.
- xv. The State Government has uploaded the point-wise reply for the observations raised by the Advisory Committee meeting dated 16.4.2025, on the PARIVESH portal vide letter dated 02.09.2025. The details are as below:
- a) The State Government has informed that the road has not been diverted under the Adhinyam till date. The additional forest land would be required for the expansion of the road.
  - b) It has also been submitted by the State Govt. that 3.688 Ha Non Forest land has been identified as CA land for the use. The State Government has also submitted the CA scheme for 3.688 Ha. non forest land identified against the use of the existing forest road for the use of the User Agency for the mineral evacuation.
  - c) The widening of the road will be upto 6 m and at some places, it will be around 10 m wide.

- d) The State Government further submitted that there is no presence of the Nalla in the land proposed to be diverted. However, in the SIR report submitted by the Regional Office Bhopal, it is mentioned about the 5-6 seasonal Nalla(s) in the area.
  - e) The State Government also submitted that as per the report submitted by the DFO Anuppur vide letter dated 14.05.2025, the proposed CA site has been found suitable for the plantation and from management point of view. It is also submitted that the temporary road is passing through the NFL provided for the CA land, which is being used by the locals. Before plantation of trees in the said area, the UA shall shift the road towards south of the river for movement of villagers. There is no encroachment in the said proposed plantation area.
  - f) The State Government also submitted the Lol with validity till 12.03.2027.
- xvi. Thereafter, the proposal was again considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 26.09.2025 and the committee after detailed deliberation with the DDGF (C) Bhopal and Nodal Officer Madhya Pradesh *deferred* the proposal for the want of the following:
- a) The State Government has informed that additional forest land would be required for the widening of the existing road to 6 m and at some places, around 10 m, which will be used for the mineral evacuation purpose. Accordingly, the state shall include the entire area involved in the road to be used for mineral evacuation and submit a comprehensive proposal for diversion of forest land.
  - b) The state shall verify the legal status of existing road, and submit a detailed report in this regard.
  - c) The State Government vide letter dated 02.09.2025 had informed that there is no Nalla (stream) in the area proposed for diversion. However, the Regional Office, Bhopal during Site Inspection has observed the presence of 5-6 seasonal Nallas in the area proposed for diversion. The State Government shall examine the matter and take necessary measures accordingly
- xvii. The State Government uploaded the point wise information on the PARIVESH portal vide letter dated 07.11.2025 and accordingly, the State Government, revised the area of the proposal from 28.079 Ha to 31.4161 Ha by including the area of the road that is proposed for the use of the Mineral Evacuation purpose. The necessary corrections have been made in the online proposal. The State Government further clarified that there is no permanent Nalla found in the area proposed for diversion. However, there are 6 Seasonal Nallas in the area proposed for diversion. The water flows in these Nallas only in the rainy season.

- xviii. The proposal was again considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025. After consideration of the proposal in its AC meeting held on 02.12.2025, the committee *deferred* the proposal for the want of the following information:
- a) The State Government has proposed 3.4051 ha for the approach road to be utilized for mineral evacuation. Against this requirement, 3.76 ha of non-forest land comprising three isolated patches of 2.480 ha, 1.0 ha, and 0.280 ha has been proposed for compensatory afforestation. Since, these fragmented patches are small and may not be suitable for effective management and protection, the State Government shall provide a single CA patch of adequate size against the above requirement.
  - b) The Regional Office shall inspect and confirm the suitability of the area so proposed for compensatory afforestation by the state government.
- xix. The State Government uploaded the point wise information on the PARIVESH portal vide letter dated 27.01.2026, and submitted that the proposed patches are adjacent to forest compartment boundaries. Accordingly, the proposed CA lands may be considered in terms of para 2.2 (xi) of the consolidated guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. Further, the Regional Office, Bhopal, vide letter dated 13.02.2026, also submitted in its Site Inspection Report that the proposed CA patches are adjacent to Forest Compartment No. 1746 and possess good potential for forest restoration, soil stabilization, biodiversity enhancement, and long-term ecological sustainability in the Betul region. The DDGF (C), RO, Bhopal, has also recommended that the proposed CA sites are suitable for undertaking compensatory afforestation
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee recommended the '*In-principle*' approval for the diversion of 31.4161 Ha (Originally proposed for 28.079 ha) of forest land for Compartment No RF-23, Range Rewa under Rewa Forest Division for Tikar Bauxite Phase-I mining project of M/s Katni Minerals Private Ltd. in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan duly approved by the CWLW shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency.
  - ii. Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan shall be prepared and implemented at the cost of the User Agency and the cost of implementation shall be deposited in CAMPA account.

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

**Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/532908/2025**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 469.612 ha. of reserve forest land for proposed Under Ground Gondbahera Ujheni East coal mine in favour of M/s Mahan Energen Limited, District Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh (FP/MP/MIN/QRY/532908/2025)- reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under 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 Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter F-1/909/FP/MP/MIN/QRY/532908/2025/ dated 21.11.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Forest Clearance for diversion of 469.612 ha. forest land for proposed Gondbahera Ujheni East coal mine, M/s Mahan Energen Limited, District Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh (FP/MP/MIN/QRY/532908/2025).
  - ii. The proposal is for mining of coal from "Gondbahera Ujheni East Coal Mine" with rated capacity of coal 3.0 MTPA by M/s MP Natural Resources Pvt Ltd, having Project area / Lease boundary as 1130.00 ha located at Villages- Ujjaini, Majhauri, Pachur and Kunda, Tehsil/ Taluka – Deosar / Bargawan, Dist-Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh.
  - iii. The coal block has been allocated to M/s MP Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd. (MPNRPL) vide letter no. NA-104/8/2022-NA dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Subsequently, the ownership of the block has been transferred to M/s Mahan Energen Ltd. (MEL) from M/s MP Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd. (MPNRPL) and the execution of the deed of adherence and deed of assignment was done on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024, and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024, respectively. Stage-II exploration approval was received on 10.05.2024 in online proposal no. FP/MP/SRY/430957/2023. The UA through State Government has submitted the compliance of the conditions of the approval dated 10.05.2024.

- iv. The State Government submitted that proposed land for diversion have canopy density of 0.4 with forest type of Eco Class III. The number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is Nil due to the underground mining.
- v. As submitted by the State Government, the proposal does not involve the violation of the Van (Sanralshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- vi. The land use plan for the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)
1.	Excavation area	0	221.241
2.	Top soil dump	0	10
3.	Safety zone	0	2
4.	Road and Infrastructure area	0	21.457
5.	Green belt	0	10
6.	UG entry	0	2.82
7.	Undisturbed area	469.612	392.87
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>469.612</b>	<b>660.388</b>

- vii. The State Government submitted that the proposed forest land for diversion is not located within 10 Km from any Wildlife sanctuary, National park, Tiger Reserve and Tiger corridor. The wildlife present in and around the land proposed for diversion are Parrot, House Crow, Sparrow, Python, Monitor Lizard, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Jackal Hyena, Monkey etc.
- viii. The State Government further informed that a subsidence study conducted by CIMFER (CMRI), Dhanbad, indicates that out of 208 panels, 194 panels are proposed for depillaring from five seams using continuous miner technology. The maximum predicted tensile strain after 33 years is 2.98 mm/m, which, as per the study, is not expected to cause damage to surface structures or forest land. Necessary safeguards, including maintaining a 25° angle of draw and provision of drainage systems have been proposed.
- ix. The State Government has submitted that the project involves only underground mining, with no requirement of forest land for surface activities, and that subsidence management measures have been proposed. It has been stated that the temple and other structures will not be affected; the road constructed after 2002 does not belong to or will not be used by the present User Agency; and the railway line, located on non-forest land, is being used by another User Agency. However, specific details of prior approvals or confirmation regarding any fresh diversion or re-diversion of forest land, if applicable, for the existing road and railway line have not been furnished by the State Govt.

- x. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal with the following observations:
- The proposal is recommended. Subsidence as a result of depillaring may impact waterbodies and stream flow in the mined area, and the flora as a consequence. Necessary mitigation may be planned in anticipation.*
- xii. The committee observed that the coal block was initially allocated to M/s MP Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd. by the Ministry of Coal vide letter dated 10.10.2022. Subsequently, ownership was transferred to M/s Mahan Energen Limited after obtaining consent from the Ministry of Coal, followed by execution of the Deed of Adherence and Deed of Assignment as per CBDPA conditions. The committee further observed that, upon completion of the assignment process, the approved mining plan and mine closure plan also stood transferred to M/s Mahan Energen Limited, and relevant documents have been submitted.
- xiii. The State Government submitted that, as per the certified land schedule, the total forest land within the mine lease is 469.612 ha, and the variation may be due to differences in projection systems and datums used during digitization. It was also clarified that the forest land diverted for the Gond Deosar Multi-Village Rural Water Supply Scheme lies outside the lease boundary and does not overlap with the proposed diversion area.
- xiv. The State Government further stated that no mining will be undertaken below surface water bodies. Additionally, a surface water rejuvenation plan, including pond rejuvenation, construction of new ponds, check dams, settling tanks, and rainwater harvesting structures, is proposed. However, the State Government has not furnished the NOC from the Water Resource Department.
- xv. The State Government submitted that two operational opencast mines and one underground mine exist near the proposed diversion area. The M/s Jaypee Ventures Limited (JPVL) operates the Amelia North Coal Mine, which received Stage-II approval on 11.05.2015. The Amelia Coal Mine operated by THDC India Limited received Stage-II approval on 15.02.2021. The Gondbahera Ujheni Mine of MP Natural Resources Private Limited received Stage-II approval vide proposal dated 12.08.2025 for diversion of 461.77 ha. The State Government clarified that the present proposal pertains to Gondbahera Ujheni East Coal Mine (469.612 ha), which is owned by Mahan Energen Limited, and therefore involves a different project and ownership.
- xvi. The State Government submitted that the approved mine plan includes both underground and open-cast mining; however, no surface activity is proposed on forest land. It was further informed that, as per the recommendation of the EAC while granting EC, mining is permitted only through underground methods. Although the mine plan envisaged limited open-cast mining during the last five years of the mine life, the EAC recommended extraction of such reserves through underground methods.

- xvi. The State Government has also submitted an undertaking from the User Agency confirming that it will not seek approval for conversion of the proposed underground mine into an open-cast mine or undertake open-cast operations over the forest land proposed for diversion.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh, the Committee recommended the proposal for '***In-principle***' approval for the diversion of 469.612 ha. of reserve forest for proposed Under Ground Gondbahera Ujheni East coal mine in favour of M/s Mahan Energen Limited, District Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The proposed underground mine is likely to cause subsidence of 2.98 mm/m. Accordingly, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented by the State Government, at the cost of the User Agency, to reduce tensile strain on the surface.
  - ii. In case the subsidence level is more than 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 the event of any subsidence within the forest area, prompt safety measures shall be implemented by the User Agency in coordination with the State Forest Department.

### **Agenda No. 28**

**Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/454396/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 96.66 ha forest land for Bajna iron Ore mine of M/s SUNFLAG IRON & STEEL COMPANY LIMITED in Chhatarpur District of Madhya Pradesh State (Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/QRY/454396/2023).**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under 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 Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter No. F-11899/2025/FP/MP/MIN/QRY/454396/2023/ dated 21.11.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 96.66 ha of protected forest land for New Opencast Mechanized Mining Project (HEMS-Based) in Chhatarpur District in favour of M/s Sunflag Iron & Steel Company Limited.
- ii. The proposed forest land for diversion i.e. 96.6 Ha is having the canopy density of 0.5 with Eco Class III and 17406 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- iii. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)
1.	Total Area degraded	58	0
Includes other areas as follows			
2.	Office	0.0513	0
3.	Garden	0.0313	0
4.	Water Storage	0.0204	0
5.	Temp. Soil Dump	0.5024	0
6.	Non degraded area	38	0
Includes other areas as follows			
7.	Mineral Stack	0.5608	0
8.	Crushing and Screening Plant	0.5018	0
9.	Safety Zone (Plantation)	3.7388	0
10.	Approach Road	0.66	0
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>96.66</b>	<b>0</b>

- iv. The proposed land for diversion is having the presence of the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*), and Chital (*Axis axis*). Further, the Proposed area is situated at a distance of approx. 12 km from the boundary of Panna Tiger Reserve.
- v. The CA has been proposed over 96.72 Ha in 9 villages in clusters. The State submitted that all CA sites are adjacent to the forest compartment boundaries and accordingly may be considered as per the guidelines.
- vi. The State Government submitted that the proposed mitigation measures have already been included in the approved Mining Plan and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, and that the same shall be implemented as proposed in the Mining Plan and Environmental Management Plan (EMP).
- vii. With regard to justification for opening new mine in High Conservation Zone, the State Government has submitted that on ground verification, the

proposed area has been found to have degraded mixed deciduous forest with canopy density (0.3–0.4) and with no unique or threatened flora. The DSS classification, being based on landscape-level modelling, may not fully reflect site-specific conditions. It has been stated that the mineral deposit is site-specific and auctioned by the State, rendering the project unavoidable, and that approved mitigation measures, EIA/EMP provisions, and compensatory afforestation will be implemented. The Committee took note of the facts and agreed to the submission made by the State Government.

- viii. There is an adjoining mine of Khera Majora Pyrophyllite Mine (4.650 ha) operated by M/s Khajuraho Minerals in Compartment No. P-306, Forest Block Khera Majora, for which forest clearance was granted by the Regional Office, Bhopal on 17.03.2008. It has further been stated that there is no overlapping forest diversion with the present proposal and there is no cumulative impact on forest land beyond the assessed buffer zone.
- ix. It has been submitted by the State Govt. that the seasonal nallah lies outside the western boundary of the proposed mining area and that no mining, excavation, dumping, or construction activity is proposed in and around the nallah. The natural course of the nallah will neither be diverted nor obstructed. It has further been stated that necessary mitigation measures have been incorporated in the approved Mining Plan and EIA/EMP, which are considered adequate to safeguard the nallah and support the grant of Forest Clearance.
- x. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal subject to the following:
  - a. A 7.5 m mandatory safety barrier along the mine periphery shall be provided for open-cast mining, and the same must be clearly incorporated in the revised KML file for the proposed diversion area.
  - b. The safety zone, dumping area, office/maintenance hut, and all other components shall be properly depicted in a revised KML to be uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.
  - c. The mined-out forest land shall be progressively reclaimed by backfilling as per the approved Mining Plan, restoring the terrain close to its original topography and enabling plantation of native species.
  - d. The User Agency shall submit detailed information on muck disposal, clearly indicating whether dumping is proposed within forest land or at an alternative site.
  - e. In view of the presence of ecologically important wildlife, a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared and implemented with appropriate mitigation measures to safeguard wildlife and forest ecology.

- xi. The Committee observed that the State Government has proposed the CA land over 96.72 Ha in 9 villages in clusters. Many of them are falling inside the forest compartment boundaries as per DSS analysis.
  - xii. The Committee observed that the user agency has agreed to shift non-site-specific activities such as mineral beneficiation to non-forest land. However, the revised area details have not been submitted by the State Govt.
  - xiii. The Committee further observed that the proposed area is situated at a distance of approx. 12 km from Panna Tiger Reserve boundary. Further, the land proposed for diversion have the presence of the Leopard, Sloth Bear, Nilgai, Golden Jackal, and Chital.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
- i. The State Government has proposed the CA land over 96.72 Ha in 9 villages in clusters. Many of them are falling inside the forest compartment boundaries as per DSS analysis. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit the correct KML files of CA site after rectifying the KML boundary and ensure that the identified CA land falls outside the forest boundaries and free from encroachment and encumbrances along with the documentary evidences.
  - ii. The State Government submitted that overburden dumping and mineral storage are site-specific activities as per the approved Mining Plan and the proposed land use is in conformity with the approved Mining Plan/EMP. The user agency has agreed to shift non-site-specific activities such as mineral beneficiation to non-forest land. Accordingly, the revised area details shall be submitted by the State Govt.
  - iii. The proposed area for diversion is situated at a distance of approx. 12 km from Panna Tiger Reserve boundary. Further, the area proposed for diversion has the presence of the Leopard, Sloth Bear, Nilgai, Golden Jackal, and Chital. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit comments of NTCA and CWLW in the matter.

#### **Agenda No. 29**

**Proposal No: FP/MP/MIN/QRY/481237/2024**

**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 1063.1142 ha of forest land out of total 1,200 ha lease area of the Marwatola-VII coal block for coal mining [Coal Mining proposed in the project is partly by Open Cast including infrastructure (624.6439 ha) and Partly by**

**Underground method (438.4703 ha)] by M/s Rama Cement Industries Private Limited, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) in Ghanghuti Forest Range under the Umaria Forest Division, Umaria District of Madhya Pradesh State.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 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 Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide letter No F-5/2025 forwarded a fresh proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 1063.1142 ha of forest land out of total 1,200 ha area of the Marwatola-VII coal block for coal mining by M/s Rama Cement Industries Private Limited, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) in Ghanghuti Forest Range under the Umaria Forest Division, Umaria District of Madhya Pradesh State.
  - ii. The Coal Block Development and Production Agreement (CBDPA) was signed on 29.03.2023. Allocation order was issued vide reference no. NA-104/19/2023-NA dated 08.06.2023. Total area of Coal Mine Block allocated is 1200.00 ha. Out of total 1200.00 ha project area, an area of 1063.1142 ha falling over Forest Land (including an encroachment of about 385.753 hectare as per revenue and forest records) has been proposed for diversion.
  - iii. The State Government submitted that out of 1063.1142 Ha of forest land involved in the proposal, 1000.3379 Ha is reserved forest, 37.5533 Ha is Protected forest and 25.223 Ha is Revenue forest land. The area proposed for diversion has the canopy density of 0.5 with Eco Class III forest type. The number of trees, proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is 153657.
  - iv. As submitted by the State Government, the proposal does not involve the violation of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
  - v. The land-use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)	Total (in Ha)
1.	Safety Zone	29.0853	18.3887	47.474

2.	Garland Drain/ Trench	6.7402	0.9805	7.7207
3.	Nala Diversion	1.6706	5.0265	6.6971
4.	Road Diversion	2.3762	3.4292	5.8254
5.	HT line diversion	3.981	8.9727	12.9537
6.	OC Mine	552.2309	100.2682	652.4991
7.	Infrastructure	33.5	0	33.5
8.	UG Mine	433.53	0	433.53
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1063.1142</b>	<b>137.066</b>	<b>1200</b>

- vi. The DFO, in its Site Inspection Report has stated that the proposed diversion area is located at a distance of 19.8 km from the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. However, the boundary of the proposed area is adjoining the Bandhavgarh–Achanakmar Wildlife Corridor. In the diverted forest land and nearby area wild animal like tiger, leopard, sloth bear, cheetal etc. live and have their habitation.
- vii. The State Govt. submitted that the Wildlife Biodiversity Conservation and Management has been approved by the CWLW. Further, the CWLW vide its letter dated 09.09.2025 informed that the Wildlife Clearance is not required in the instant proposal.
- viii. A 3D subsidence modelling study was carried out by CSIR-CIMFR, Dhanbad for the underground mine. Results indicate maximum surface strain of 4.96 mm/m, which is within the permissible limit of the guidelines issued under the Adhiniyam.
- ix. The State Government has initially proposed the CA land over an area of 628.452 Ha in 4 patches. However, during the Site Inspection, the DFO found that there is a presence of road, Nallas etc. comprising an area of 0.752 Ha. The DFO has excluded that land from the proposed CA land leading to reduction in the CA land to 627.7 Ha, sub-divided into 20 sub patches.
- x. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal with the following observations:
  - a) Out of 1063.1142 ha proposed for diversion, 88.29% of the coal block area is under Forest land, of these, 93.69% is Reserved Forest. Approximately half of the Northern part of the block is densely Forested. Accordingly, it is planned by the user to Exploit Coal beneath majority of densely Forested area (438.47 ha) by UG Mining, 33.50 ha. Infrastructure with UG Mining and remaining

Southern part of Coal block area of 728.03 ha. is planned to be exploited by OC Mining along with area required for Garland Drain and diversion of Nala, Road and HT line.

- b) There is a possibility of subsidence in UG mined areas due to depillaring which may affect the growth of trees. The subsidence should be periodically monitored and remedial measures should be undertaken immediately.
  - c) CA has been proposed over the Non forest land in lieu of the Open Cast Mine. The proposed CA sites are suitable for afforestation with site specific interventions for conserving soil moisture, protect from biotic pressures and choosing tall plants of native hardy tree species.
- xi. The State Government submitted that the evacuations of material shall be done by the existing PWD roads. Also, as per the land use plan submitted by the UA, 12.95 Ha land is proposed to be used for HT line diversion. Accordingly, the UA submitted that no additional forest land beyond the area already proposed for diversion is required for project execution.
  - xii. The State Government further submitted that the lease area of 1200 ha allotted for the Mavatola VII Coal Mine was separately verified by the Revenue and Forest Departments. Upon superimposition of the certified maps, 390.1162 ha was found overlapping, primarily due to longstanding encroachment of revenue land within recorded forest land, as also noted in the inspection report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Umaria. The user agency has treated the entire overlapping area as forest land and has included it in the forest diversion proposal, undertaking to comply fully with applicable provisions, including compensatory afforestation and NPV payment. An undertaking has also been submitted to extend due benefits to private landholders and occupants as per Government norms, and it has been stated that the rights of the Forest Department and affected occupants will not be prejudiced.
  - xiii. The State Government has submitted copies of NOCs under the PESA Act, from MP Power Transmission Company Limited for shifting of transmission line, from MP Gramin Sadak Vikas Pradhikaran for road diversion, from the Water Resources Department for diversion of nallah, and compliance under the Forest Rights Act.
  - xiv. The State Government has submitted that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking to remove the encroachments prior to handing over the non-forest land identified for compensatory afforestation to the State Forest Department, pertaining to Patch Nos. 1, 3, and 7 of Jhiriya village and Patch No. 1 of Chakk Bilaiki village.
  - xv. The Committee observed that, upon superimposition of the certified maps, an area of 390.1162 ha was found to be overlapping, primarily due to longstanding encroachment of revenue land within recorded forest land,

as noted in the inspection report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Umaria. The entire overlapping area has been treated as forest land and included in the diversion proposal, with an undertaking from the User Agency to comply with all applicable provisions, including payment of NPV and undertaking compensatory afforestation.

- xvi. The Committee observed that the User Agency has submitted the copies of the NOCs under the PESA Act, from MP Power Transmission Company Limited for shifting of transmission line, from MP Gramin Sadak Vikas Pradhikaran for road diversion, from the Water Resources Department for diversion of nallah, and compliance under the Forest Rights Act.
  - xvii. The Committee observed that there is a possibility of subsidence in UG mined areas due to depillaring which may affect the growth of trees. The subsidence should be periodically monitored and remedial measures should be undertaken immediately in consultation with the Forest Department.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee recommended the proposal for '***In-principle***' approval for the diversion of 1063.1142 ha of forest land out of total 1,200 ha lease area of the Marwatola-VII coal block for coal mining [Coal Mining proposed in the project is partly by Open Cast including infrastructure (624.6439 ha) and Partly by Underground method (438.4703 ha)] by M/s Rama Cement Industries Private Limited, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) in Ghanghuti Forest Range under the Umaria Forest Division, Umaria District of Madhya Pradesh State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The proposed underground portion of the mine is likely to cause subsidence of 4.96 mm/m. Accordingly, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented by the State Government, at the cost of the User Agency, to reduce tensile strain on the surface, and any additional amount towards NPV/CA, as required under the Ministry's guidelines, shall be paid.
  - 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 the event of any subsidence within the forest area, prompt safety measures shall be implemented by the User Agency in coordination with the State Forest Department.
  - iv. The subsidence should be periodically monitored and remedial measures should be undertaken immediately.

- v. The State Government shall implement the Biodiversity Conservation and Management plan as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) at the cost of the User Agency.

### **Agenda No. 30**

**Proposal No: FP/MP/HYD/IRRIG/421339/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 520.66 ha of forest land (308.96 hectares under Satna Forest Division, Satna district and 211.70 ha under North Panna Forest Division, Panna district) for the construction of the Panari Standalone Pumped Storage Project (1800 MW) in favour of M/s Sri Siddharth Infratech & Services (1) Private Limited under Satna & Panna Districts of Madhya Pradesh-reg.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under 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 Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their State File No F-4/67/2025/10-11/ dated 08.06.2025 forwarded a fresh diversion proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 520.66 ha of forest land (308.96 ha under Satna Forest Division, Satna district and 211.70 ha under North Panna Forest Division, Panna district) for the construction of the Panari Standalone Pumped Storage Project (1800 MW) by M/s Sri Siddharth Infratech & Services (1) Private Limited under Satna & Panna Districts of Madhya Pradesh.
  - ii. The State Government submitted that Panari Standalone Pumped Storage Project (PSP) is of 1800 MW /11160 MWH storage capacity, located at Panna and Satna District, Madhya Pradesh. The Panari Standalone PSP will comprise of two reservoirs which are to be constructed afresh. The Upper reservoir constructed in Panari village under Panari Beat, Devendra Nagar Range, North Panna Forest Division in Panna District. The lower reservoir is proposed to be created in the existing seasonal tributary / Nala (Baghain Nadi) in Kathawariya Beat, Barondha Range, Satna Forest

Division in Satna District. Water requirement for PSP is 1.383 TMC. The proposal is of closed loop PSP project type.

- iii. Out of 520.66 ha of forest land proposed for diversion, 308.96 ha is protected forest with canopy density of 0.4 with Eco-class III forest type in Satna District and 211.7 ha is also protected forest with canopy density of 0.4 with Eco-class III forest type in Panna District. Total 140023 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- iv. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

Component	Forest Proposed Diversion (ha)	Land for Non-forest Land (ha)
Upper Reservoir & Upper Intake	176.42	0
Lower Reservoir , Lower Intake	257.28	0
Water Conducting System	18.92	0
Power House & Lower Intake	15.17	0
Road To Adits, Lower Dam, Adits & Portal	5.29	0
Road to Diversion Tunnel and Lower Dam	8.75	0
Muck Disposal Area-1	0	17.68
Muck Disposal Area-2	0	6.14
Job Facilities Area-1	0	13.08
Job Facilities Area-1	0	10.87
Job Facilities Area-3	0	10.33
Road to VPS, Buried penstock & Upper Reservoir	18.69	2.8
Diversion Tunnel	2.85	0
Magazine	0	0.12
Stock Yard- 1	5.34	0
Stock Yard- 2	11.95	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>520.66</b>	<b>61.0200</b>

- v. The State Government submitted that total 211.70 ha of proposed area falls under compartment P-132, 133, 135, 136, 137, which is part of NTCA approved North eastern Tiger Corridor Plan of Panna Tiger Reserve.
- vi. The State Government submitted that the Wildlife Clearance proposal has been submitted in PARIVESH 2.0 under Proposal No. WL/MP/HYD/551887/2025 and the same is under consideration in the Ministry.
- vii. The State Government has submitted that the CAT Plan has been approved by the PCCF (LM) vide letter dated 04.02.2025 with a financial outlay of ₹4,99,53,220/-

- viii. The State Government submitted that ToR in the instant proposal has been granted by Ministry vide its letter No. J- 12011/05/2020-IA. I [R] dated 13.04.2020.
- ix. The State Government submitted that the expected impact on downstream flows due to impoundment is negligible, as the project is a purely Pumped Storage Project (PSP) and prescribed guidelines shall be followed in the instant proposal.
- x. The State Government submitted that 531.845 ha of non-forest land has been identified as Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land. However, based on site suitability, plantation is proposed over 527.88 hectares only, and the CA scheme has accordingly been prepared for 527.88 hectares.
- xi. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report submitted that possible alternatives have been explored for which details are given in the proposal. However, the proposal seems to be site-specific in nature due to involvement of lots of technicalities required to install such PSP based projects. Accordingly, the Regional Office has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a) The lower Reservoir is proposed across a seasonal stream (Baghain Nadi), implying minor hydrological impact, which should be taken under consideration while deciding the proposal under the provision of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The Upper Reservoir is standalone and located away from any major river systems. As per the discussion held with the Project Authorities, adequate provisions to release natural flows from lower reservoir without impacting downstream of the Baghain Nala has been included in the design.
  - b) The construction of access approach are critical for construction but may cause temporary forest fragmentation. Therefore, wherever possible, structures suggested in the guiding document of WII for "Eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of liner infrastructure on wildlife" shall be followed during construction.
  - c) As per the proposal, tentative figure of enumeration of trees provided after conducting survey is 70240 in Satna Forest Division and 62278 in North Panna Forest Division, which comes out to be 1,32,518 trees. But, during the visit, it was informed that 100% tree enumeration has been done in the area of North Panna Forest Division while in Satna Forest Division 100% counting is about to complete. It is suggested that the blanket felling in the project area is avoided and felling can be done as and when requirement basis. A committee could be formed of Site Engineer, Range Officer and one specialist (wildlife/ornithology), to ensure correct and necessary felling of trees in the area.

- d) Since this is large standalone HEP, in order to understand the impact on downstream flows due to impoundment in seasonal Baghain Nadi and evaluate fragmentation of forest patches and wildlife movement barriers must be taken under consideration.
- e) Though, the muck disposal is to be carried out in non-forest area in the project, but there is a possibility for unregulated dumping during the construction, especially on slopes and near water channels. The approved engineering designs incorporating bio-engineering techniques, check dams, slope stabilization to check the unregulated dumping or erosion in the area may be ensured with detailed plan of transporting the muck to the selected dumping sites.
- f) In the Wildlife Management Plan and CAT Plan submitted with the proposal, issues like monitoring of Schedule I species, Reclamation & Restoration of disturbed sites, Invasive species Management, Green Infrastructures (Wildlife Crossings or Underpass are not integrated in design of linear components) and contingency plan for wildlife displacement is partially covered or missing. These needs to be addressed with more clarity.
- g) The Power Evacuation Plan (PEP) has not yet been finalized for the project. Further, this is also not clarified that during the construction how would they meet the requirement of power (Grid or DG- based). The clarity on Power Evacuation Plan and cogent and convincing reasons for not including in PEP at this stage are required to be provided by the State Govt/Project Proponent.
- h) The CA area should be secured with Chain Link Fencing all around before taking up plantation activity. Soil-Moisture conservation works like staggered contour trenching and formation of percolation tanks at suitable locations would be helpful for better results.
- i) This is observed that all selected sites for raising CA are very much suitable for raising mixed plantation with native species after fencing. The availability of water bodies are also observed in and around the few selected sites which is good. For rest of the site provision of solar pump and borewell may be installed.
- j) The requirement of “monitoring/watchers hut” is also suggested to be part of the scheme in patches of more than 15 ha.
- k) This is observed that in almost each patches some of the area is under cultivation by the locals and can be considered as encroachment. However, as enquired with the representatives of the project proponent and forest staff, the encroachment would be evicted prior to taking up plantation in these areas. The concerned DC has also given certificate to this effect.

- l) Considering the large-scale tree felling and movement/presence of Schedule I, II, III and IV wildlife species in and around the project area, the project proponent shall install adequate noise barriers around high-decibel construction zones. This measure is essential to mitigate noise pollution and reduce disturbance to local fauna, particularly during critical periods like breeding and migration seasons. The layout and design shall be prepared in consultation with the concerned Forest Divisions.
  - m) The user agency shall develop and maintain a green belt in and around the diverted forest land, as well as in adjacent vacant areas wherever feasible, in consultation with the local forest department. The green belt shall preferably consist of indigenous species and be designed to aid in ecological restoration and aesthetic improvement of the area.
  - n) This is observed that area around Stock Yard 1 and 2, diversion tunnel and penstock are fragmented due to construction of approach access in the area for which the project Proponent may ask to develop forest with "Miyawaki Method" under the supervision of Forest Department after completion of the project except the area needed for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) because the area will be of no use or used in lesser extent after completion of the construction in the project.
  - o) Since this is "closed PSP" in which the "lower reservoir" as informed by the Project Authority shall be filled once, the trees felling in FRL-4 in lower reservoir can be allowed, if there is any absolute requirement.
- xii. The State Govt. submitted that the project site is entirely located within forest land, no private land is available in proximity to the powerhouse area. Accordingly, temporary stock yard locations have been identified within the forest area to facilitate construction the forest activities. These stock yards have been established on a non-permanent basis and will be dismantled upon completion of the project. Post-removal, the area will be restored through plantation.
  - xiii. State Govt. submitted that in this project both the reservoirs are proposed to be newly constructed due to the absence of suitable existing reservoirs for meeting technical criteria like elevation difference, head, shortest water conductor system (WCS), and capacity. The site of this project has been selected based on topography, geology, and availability of land.
  - xiv. The Committee observed that the location of the project falls within the High Conservation Zone. In response, the State Government submitted that three locations were comparatively assessed on technical, hydrological, geological, environmental, and techno-economic parameters. Based on this assessment, Location-3 (Panna & Satna Districts) was found most suitable due to its higher net head, shorter WCS length,

favourable L/H ratio (3.88, eliminating the need for a surge shaft), lower excavation and land requirement, reduced construction cost, and absence of impact on National Parks or inhabited areas. Accordingly, Location-3 has been selected for the proposed project. The committee noted the submission made by the State Govt.

- xv. The Committee observed that the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), in letter dated 02.09.2025, has asked to submit the Wildlife Clearance for the project, as it falls within a designated Tiger Corridor. Accordingly, the Wildlife Clearance proposal has been submitted in PARIVESH 2.0 under Proposal No. WL/MP/HYD/551887/2025 and the same is under examination in the Wildlife Division of the Ministry.
  - xvi. The Committee observed that on downstream flows due to impoundment is negligible, as the project is a purely Pumped Storage Project (PSP) and prescribed guidelines shall be followed in the instant proposal.
  - xvii. The Committee further observed that the proposed 308.96 ha of area out of the total proposed area falling under the Satna Forest Division, the improvement work has been done in the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the Bamboo Forests as per the prescriptions of approved working plan.
  - xviii. The Committee observed that the DPR/Pre-DPR covering the proposed design, structure, and components has been submitted to the Chief Engineer, HPP & I Division, Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The CEA has forwarded the same to the concerned agencies, namely CWC, GSI, and CSMRS. However, the approved DPR has not been submitted by the State Government.
  - xix. The Committee further observed that the User Agency submitted that the approval of NDSA will be obtained after approval of the embankment design (technical aspects) by the Embankment Directorate, CWC. The DPR covering the design, structure, and components has already been submitted. It has further been undertaken that project construction will commence only after obtaining NDSA approval, and an undertaking to this effect has been submitted by the User Agency.
  - xx. The Committee also observed that the District Collector, has issued certificate dated 19.02.2025, that the identified Government revenue land proposed for CA will be made available free from encroachments.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
- i. The State Government shall submit the recommendations of the SC-NBWL on the proposal.
  - ii. The State Govt. shall submit the DPR covering the proposed design, structure, and components duly approved by the competent authority.

- iii. The State Government shall submit the copy of the approvals obtained from the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO).

### Agenda No. 31

**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 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under 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 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 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 with Eco-class III type forest and 16648 number of trees are 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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>62.00</b>

- v. The proposed land for diversion is having the presence of Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Spotted deer, Sambar, Barking deer, Bison, Langur, etc.
- vi. The State Government has submitted that the project site is located at a distance of 21 KM from Kanha- Pench corridor.
- vii. 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).
- viii. 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.
- ix. 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.
- x. 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.
- xi. 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.
- xii. The Regional Office Bhopal in its Site Inspection Report mentioned that the electricity requirement for mining operations and workers shall be sourced from solar power, and water will be supplied through purchased water tankers.

- xiii. The State Government was asked to justify the presence of a transmission line passing through the proposed forest land for diversion, and to submit copies of the approvals granted for its establishment, along with a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the concerned agency and details of any proposed shifting plan, including additional forest land requirement, if applicable. In response, the State Government has informed that the NOC from MP Transco for construction of the road under the transmission line is under process. A request has already been made to the company, and the NOC will be submitted prior to grant of final approval of the proposal.
  - xiv. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal subject to the following:
    - a) 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.
    - b) Designated transportation routes shall be followed to prevent vehicular movement through sensitive forest patches or animal trails.
    - c) 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.
    - d) Garland drains and settling tanks, to intercept surface runoff and collected water are advised to be reused within the mine area for dust suppression and watering of plantations.
  - xv. The Committee observed that Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has been proposed 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.
  - xvi. The Committee further observed that 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.
  - xvii. The Committee also observed that there is presence of a transmission line passing through the proposed forest land for diversion.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.

### **Agenda No. 32**

#### **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 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under 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 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 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 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.
- iii. The proposed forest land for diversion i.e. 22.0 ha, is having the canopy density of 0.6 with Eco-class III forest type and 4207 number of trees are 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	1.60
2.	Mining area	16.00
3.	Road	0.40
4.	Temporary dumping area / overburden	2.16
5.	Temp site services / infrastructure	0.25
6.	Green belt, garland drain, settling tank etc.	1.29
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22.00</b>

- v. 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. The State Govt. has reported that the wildlife present in the area includes Leopard, Tiger, Sloth Bear, Chital, Sambar, Barking Deer, Hanuman Langur, Gaur, and various species of snakes.
- vi. The CA has been proposed over an area of 22.0 ha of Non-Forest Land in single patch in Reusa Village.
- vii. 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.
- viii. As the proposal falls under the High Conservation Zone, the State Government has submitted that the proposal is site-specific in nature.
- ix. 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.

- x. The Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal subject to the following:
    - a) 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.
    - b) 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.
    - c) This road further connects to another proposed mining road under a separate forest clearance proposal (FP/MP/MIN/QR/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.
    - d) Electricity requirements for mining operations and workers shall be met through solar power.
    - e) 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.
  - xi. The Committee further observed that the proposed land for diversion is situated at a distance 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.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
- i. 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.

### **Agenda No. 35**

#### **Proposal No. FP/OR/IND/526987/2025**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 60.203 ha of forest land for establishment of Integrated advanced specialty Steel and Auto components complex at Gajamara under Dhenkanal Forest Division in Dhenkanal District by Kalyani Steel Ltd.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under 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 Govt. of Odisha through PARIVESH 2.0 portal has submitted the fresh proposal on the above mentioned subject on 16.08.2025.
  - ii. The State Government submitted that the High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) of Odisha in its 34<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, approved "In Principle" the proposal of M/s Kalyani Steels Limited for setting up an Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel & Automotive Components Manufacturing Complex at Gajamara in District Dhenkanal of Odisha. Subsequently, Kalyani Steels Limited has signed a MoU with Government of Odisha on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 for the following phase of the complex:
    - a) 0.7 MTPA Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel & Automotive Components Manufacturing Complex.
    - b) Phase 1 of Integrated Titanium Metal / Alloy and Aerospace & Defense Components Manufacturing Plant of 10,000 TPA capacity.
  - iii. In view of the above, State Level Facilitation Cell (SLFC) has recommended the allotment of 560 Acres of land for the 0.7 MTPA Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel & Automotive Components Manufacturing Complex including the land requirement for its Ancillary & Vendors in favour of M/s Kalyani Steels Limited. This recommendation was approved in the 260<sup>th</sup> SLFC meeting held on 03.07.2024.

- iv. The Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) has considered the recommendation and allotted 560 Acres of land in village Talabarakot & Siaria under Dhenkanal Tahasil to M/s Kalyani Steels Limited for setting up Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel & Automotive Components Manufacturing Complex at Gajamara under Dhenkanal District.
- v. Out of the allocated land, M/s Kalyani Steels Limited is set to acquire 555.328 Acres (224.737 ha) of land for setting up the above project. Thus, the total land involved in the instant proposal is 224.737 ha, of which 60.203 ha is revenue forest land and 164.534 ha is non-forest land. Accordingly, the present proposal pertains to the diversion of 60.203 ha of revenue forest land.
- vi. The 60.203 ha of proposed forest land for diversion is having the canopy density of 0.35 of Eco Class III type forest. The number of trees proposed to be felled is 14379.
- vii. The land-use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Total forest Area (in ha)	Non-forest (in ha)	Total (in ha)
1	Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel Plant Units Area	15.462	94.210	109.672
2	Automotive & Industrial Component Manufacturing Facilities	9.281	14.747	24.028
3	Plant Road & Railway Route	2.893	9.807	12.700
4	Green Cover (Belt)	32.567	42.380	74.947
5	Natural Pond	0	3.390	3.390
	Grand Total	60.203	164.534	224.737

- viii. The State Government submitted that no violation of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 has been done. However, some agricultural activity by nearby villagers was noticed in a portion of the Revenue Forest land. A kachha road passing through the proposed Revenue Forest area and used by local villagers was also observed. Further, a solid structure was found in a demolished condition, and it was informed that a poultry farm previously existed at the site. In addition, one residential house was observed at the corner of the same Revenue Forest patch. It was informed that the Revenue Department has been requested to remove the encroachment. It was also informed that no legal action has yet been taken against the encroachers.
- ix. The State Government has proposed the CA land over 61.327 ha of Non-Forest Government Land in 3 patches (30.351 ha, 10.117 ha and 20.859 ha). Further, to accommodate the balance seedling, 35 ha of degraded forest land has been identified in Ghadaghadimal PRF under Padampur Range of Bargarh Forest Division.

- x. The State Government submitted that adequate power (220 kV from Neulapoi GIS) and water (Mahanadi intake within 15 km) are available nearby. The layout has been optimized to ensure minimum diversion of scattered revenue forest patches, with no involvement of protected forests, wildlife habitats or displacement of forest-dependent communities. Of the three alternative sites examined by IDCO, DIPA and KSL, Gajamara was found most suitable based on environmental, infrastructural and resource considerations.
- xi. The State Government submitted that the presence of a kachha road and certain structures do not constitute a violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 by the project proponent (KSL). The temporary pathway has long been used by villagers of Talabarakote and Siaria. It has further been stated that the identified structures were constructed by local villagers, and the District Administration, Dhenkanal, has initiated demolition action against the illegal abandoned structures on revenue forest land, as per letters dated 20.09.2025 and 24.09.2025.
- xii. The State Government has informed that the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), as the designated nodal agency, is responsible for development and commissioning of external utility infrastructure for the Integrated Advanced Specialty Steel and Auto Components Complex at Gajamara, Dhenkanal. IDCO is in the process of finalizing alignments for road, power, and water networks, and any requirement of linear forest clearance will be assessed after completion of land acquisition and finalization of the right of way, as confirmed vide letter dated 24.09.2025.
- xiii. The State Government submitted that the project site is located 5.80 km from the Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary, and approximately 3.35 km from its Eco-Sensitive Zone boundary. Accordingly, the proposed project lies outside the Eco-Sensitive Zone. This information has been furnished by the DFO, Dhenkanal Forest Division, vide letter No. 3855-4F/Misc/958/2025 dated 03.06.2025
- xiv. The Regional Office, Bhubaneswar in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal subject to the following:
  - a) While industrial projects are generally categorised as non-site-specific, the proposed project site offers distinct locational advantages. It is situated in proximity to iron ore mines, the GAIL natural gas pipeline, and key transport networks, including NH-55 and the nearby railhead, which render the project location-specific.
  - b) Further, the site comprises Revenue Forest situated within the area demarcated by the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO). These forest patches are dispersed in small areas and pose significant challenges for effective forest management, as detailed in Point 19.2 of the Site Inspection Report.

- c) Considering all these aspects, including the recommendations of the State Government, the proposal is recommended subject to the following conditions:
- i. The forest land earmarked for the "Future Expansion & Auto-Components Plant Area" shall be kept under green cover until the requisite approval for land-use change is obtained from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, as and when necessary.
  - ii. As proposed in the project, 32.567 ha of the diverted forest area shall be strictly maintained as a green cover.
  - iii. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site shall be cleared of all encroachments and fenced prior to the commencement of plantation activities by the State Forest Department.
  - iv. The State Forest Department shall implement Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.
- xv. The Committee observed instances of agricultural activity by nearby villagers within a portion of the Revenue Forest land and a kachha road used by local villagers passes through the proposed area. Further, a demolished solid structure, reportedly a former poultry farm, and one residential house at the corner of the same Revenue Forest patch were also noted. It was informed that the Revenue Department has been requested to remove the encroachments; however, no legal action has yet been initiated against the encroachers.
  - xvi. The Committee also observed that the DFO in part II submitted that the land proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion. Accordingly, the User agency has submitted an undertaking to take the mitigative measures for Soil and Moisture Consecration.
  - xvii. The Committee observed that the industrial projects are generally categorised as non-site-specific in nature.
  - xviii. The Committee observed that the project site is located 5.80 km from the Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary, and approximately 3.35 km from its Eco-Sensitive Zone boundary. Accordingly, the proposed project lies outside the Eco-Sensitive Zone. Further, the occasional/seasonal movement of wild elephant has also been reported in the surrounding area.
  - xix. The Committee observed that against the diversion of 60.203 ha of forest land, compensatory afforestation (CA) has been proposed over 61.327 ha of non-forest land (NFL). The identified NFL (open forest, canopy density <40%) can accommodate 26,616 seedlings, while the remaining requirement of 33,587 seedlings is proposed to be met by raising 35,000 seedlings over 35.00 ha of identified degraded forest land (DFL) in Ghadghadimal PRF of Bargarh Forest Division. However, as per the latest

consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 (as amended in 2024 and 2025), there is no provision for additional CA over DFL where CA has already been proposed on suitable non-forest land.

- xx. The Committee further observed that the Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report submitted that a six-lane Capital Region Ring Road (CRRR) is proposed by NHAI, passing close to one corner of the allotted boundary of Kalyani Steels Limited. In that proposal, some forest land has been identified for diversion, and the case is under consideration of the State Government and has been submitted through the PARIVESH Portal (Proposal No.FP/OR/ROAD/539828).
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
- i. The instant proposal is an industrial project, which is generally categorised as non-site-specific in nature. Accordingly, the State Government shall furnish its comments on site specificity of the proposal and as to why the project cannot be taken up in non-forest land.
  - ii. Instances of agricultural activity by nearby villagers were observed within a portion of the Revenue Forest land, and a *kachha* road used by local villagers passes through the proposed area. Further, a demolished solid structure, reportedly a former poultry farm, and one residential house located at the corner of the same Revenue Forest patch were also noted. It was informed that the Revenue Department has been requested to remove the encroachments. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit a detailed Action Taken Report on the violation.
  - iii. The project site is located 5.80 km from the Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary, and approximately 3.35 km from its Eco-Sensitive Zone boundary. Further, the occasional/seasonal movement of wild elephant has also been reported in the surrounding area. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit the comments of the PCCF (WL)/CWLW.
  - iv. The State Government had informed that the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO)
  - v. The State Government has informed that the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), is in the process of finalizing alignments for road, power, and water networks, and any requirement of linear forest clearance will be assessed after completion of land acquisition and finalization of the right of way. The State Government should inform the requirement of additional forest land for such ancillary infrastructure.

- vi. A six-lane Capital Region Ring Road proposed by NHAI overlaps with one corner of the proposed forest land in the instant proposal. The State Government shall furnish the factual details in this regard.

### **Agenda No. 36**

#### **Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/501460/2024**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 135.980 ha of forest land (130.603 ha within the mining lease area and 5.377 ha for connecting road, outside lease area) for non-forest purpose in respect of Kendudihi North Iron Ore Block of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd under Keonjhar Forest Division of Keonjhar District (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/501460/2024) - reg.**

1. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0062-2025-30039/FE&CC dated 25.09.2025 and uploaded on PARIVESH portal on 25.09.2025 submitted above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
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 State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0062-2025-30039/FE&CC dated 25.09.2025 and uploaded on PARIVESH portal on 25.09.2025 submitted above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ii. The State Government submitted that the total lease area over 187.862 ha (DGPS area) comprises of 130.603 ha of forest land and 57.259 ha of non-forest land. The forest land over 130.603 ha is involved in the said mining lease, out of which 99.001 ha is revenue forest and 31.602 ha is Sabik forest.
  - iii. The State Government submitted that no suitable transportation road exists outside the mining block for movement of iron ore to various destinations, as the nearby roads are inadequate for heavy traffic. Accordingly, it has proposed construction of a dedicated 39 km connecting road, with an average width of 15 metres, from NH-520 to the Kendudihr North Iron Ore Block (outside the mining lease area). Further, as per the

guidelines dated 23.08.2021 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, linear infrastructure projects ancillary to mining—such as roads, railways, and conveyor belts—are to be included in the main proposal, and only under exceptional circumstances may such proposals be considered as standalone projects.

- iv. Accordingly, outside the lease area forest land over 5.377 ha (2.534 ha revenue forest and 2.843 ha Sabik forest) has been proposed for diversion for construction of connecting road of 4 km in length and 15 metres in width, connecting the mine site to the existing National Highway NH-520.
- v. The proposed forest land for diversion is having the canopy density of 0.5 of Eco Class I forest type. The number of trees proposed to be felled is 11,162 above 30 cm & 41,465 numbers of trees below 30 cm girth.
- vi. The details of the land-use plan of the proposal (other than road of 5.377 ha) is as under:

SL	Item	Forest land (in ha)			Non. Forest Land (in ha)	Grand Total (in ha)	
		Revenue forest	Sabik Forest	Total Forest			
1.	Mining including Mobile Crushing and Screening Unit, Temporary Stack Yard	73.014	13.222	86.236	6.064	<b>92.300</b>	
2	Storage of Top Soil	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.500	<b>0.500</b>	
3	Dumping of Overburden	8.681	0.000	8.681	0.000	<b>8.681</b>	
4	Infrastructure (Temporary Office, Rest Shelter, Workshop, Weigh Bridge etc.)	0.000	0.404	0.404	0.876	<b>1.280</b>	
5	Mine Road	0.000	1.856	1.856	0.199	<b>2.055</b>	
6	Mine Camp Area	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.500	<b>0.500</b>	
7	Area Not To Be Utilized	A) 50 mtr. Along the Nala	9.596	7.843	17.439	13.413	<b>30.852</b>
		B) 10 mtr. Along the road	1.613	1.787	3.400	2.874	<b>6.274</b>
		C) ST, PVT land, Govt. land etc.	0.023	5.596	5.619	32.158	<b>37.777</b>
		D) Elephant Corridor/Green Belt	3.108	0.000	3.108	0.000	<b>3.108</b>
8	15 mtr. Wide	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.000	<b>0.094</b>	

	transporting road					
9	Safety Zone (7.5 mtr, Along M.L. Bounda	2.966	0.800	3.766	0.675	<b>4.441</b>
	Grand Total	<b>99.001</b>	<b>31.602</b>	<b>130.603</b>	<b>57.259</b>	<b>187.862</b>

- vii. The State Government has submitted that, as reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, M/s Thriveni Earth Movers Ltd. established a Security Training Institute over 1.680 ha in Village Kendudihi in 2010. Based on historical land-use records and satellite imagery, the DFO has stated that no violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 has occurred within the Kendudihi North Iron Ore Block. However, the DFO, vide letter dated 22.07.2025, has requested the Collector, Keonjhar, to initiate legal action in the matter. The action taken report is awaited.
- viii. Regarding the kachha road, the DFO, Keonjhar Division, has reported that it was constructed temporarily by the Geological Survey of India during the exploration phase prior to auction of the mineral block and was neither constructed nor upgraded by the User Agency without statutory approval. Regarding encroachment, a small portion of land is under temporary subsistence cultivation by a local villager, with no permanent construction. The villager has consented to vacate the land upon commencement of mining operations.
- ix. The State Govt. submitted that the Collector, Keonjhar has been requested by the DFO, Keonjhar Division vide his office letter No.7592 dated 22.07.2025 to take legal action against M/S Triveni Earth Movers Ltd. for the aforesaid violation. The action taken report on the above matter is yet to be received from the Collector, Keonjhar.
- x. The CA has been proposed over an area of 136.603 ha of NFL in a single patch in village Tanginigura and Podapadar in Kalahandi district.
- xi. The State Government submitted that High Conservation Value forest land in the Kendudihi North East Iron Ore Block on the grounds of the strategic importance of iron ore for national development in line with the National Steel Policy and National Mineral Policy, the site-specific and non-relocatable nature of the mineral deposit, absence of viable non-forest alternatives, statutory allocation of the block to Rungta Mines Ltd. through auction, and incorporation of impact-minimization measures including exclusion of sensitive areas, implementation of approved wildlife conservation plans, compensatory afforestation over equivalent non-forest land, and socio-economic benefits to local communities.
- xii. The State Government submitted that, in view of the sloping and erosion-prone terrain, comprehensive soil and erosion control measures will be undertaken during mining operations. These include terracing and contour trenching, construction of retaining/toe walls and check dams, settling

ponds, use of biodegradable geotextiles and mulching, development of a 7.5 m peripheral green belt and safety zone plantation, vegetative stabilization with native deep-rooted species (including overburden dump stabilization), and scientific topsoil management with phased reclamation, under the supervision of the Forest Department.

- xiii. Based on the recommendation of the State Government and considering the site-specific nature of the project, the Regional Office Bhubaneswar in its Site Inspection Report recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions, in addition to the standard conditions applicable to similar projects:
- a) The user agency has stated that most of the non-forest land within the lease area is protected under the Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1956, and that the project is therefore largely confined to forest land. The State Government shall verify and authenticate this claim.
  - b) The user agency shall conduct a Blast Vibration Study, Slope Stability Study, and Surface Hydrology Study, which are yet to be undertaken. It shall incorporate the findings into the project design to minimise the impact of mining on the surrounding forests and nearby habitations.
  - c) The State Forest Department shall prepare and implement a comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan, at the cost of the user agency, to mitigate the adverse impact of mining on forests and associated flora and fauna in the surrounding area, and to strengthen the elephant corridor within the lease area.
  - d) The user agency shall fund and implement a site-specific soil and moisture conservation plan to prevent the loss of soil, subsurface carbon, and moisture from the dense forest area within the lease.
  - e) The user agency shall ensure the protection of all stream courses within the lease. It shall carefully plan and implement green belt development of approximately 50 metres on both sides of these streams through a comprehensive Catchment Area Treatment Plan to ensure that the water budgeting of the Karo River is not adversely affected by the project.
  - f) The State Government shall initiate appropriate action against encroachments observed in the Revenue forest land, in accordance with the provisions of the V(S&S) Adhinyam, 1980, and submit an action taken report to MoEF&CC and the Regional Office.
  - g) The user agency shall also examine the possibility of realigning the approach road to the lease area in consultation with the State Forest Department and submit the State Government's recommendation in this regard.

- h) The State Government and the user agency shall explore the possibility of shifting non-site-specific activities, such as the overburden dump (10.700 ha) and infrastructure (0.500 ha), outside the forest area. If relocation is not feasible, they shall submit a detailed justification.
  - i) The user agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, a restoration schedule, and a timeline for the surrender of forest land.
  - j) The user agency shall revisit the cost-benefit analysis of the proposal as per the guidelines issued under V(S&S) Adhinyam, 1980.
  - k) In consultation with the State Forest Department, the user agency shall attempt to translocate trees likely to be affected into designated safety zone areas, wherever feasible.
  - l) The user agency shall maintain a contiguous safety zone along the entire project boundary.
  - m) The State Government shall ensure that, at Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites with high vegetation density, it prepares and implements a crop improvement scheme and carries out CA works in accordance with the prevailing rules.
- xiv. The Committee observed that the proposed land for diversion does not form a part of the National Park or wildlife Sanctuary. However, out of the total 187.862 ha mining lease, only 4.029 ha at the north-western extremity overlaps with the Karo–Karampada Elephant Corridor. The State Government has submitted to keep this entire portion as an undisturbed green belt with no mining or allied activities, along with construction of an Elephant Proof Trench under Forest Department supervision to safeguard wildlife movement.
- xv. The Committee also observed that Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) has been duly approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha on 16.08.2024 and covering the core area and 10 km zone of influence, with a total outlay of ₹311.888 lakh.
- xvi. The Committee observed that the soil erosion control measures during operations, as per the approved plan and under Forest Department supervision shall be implemented in the proposed area for diversion. These include terracing and contour trenching; construction of retaining/toe walls, check dams, and settling ponds; green belt and 7.5 m safety zone plantation with native species; overburden dump stabilization with deep-rooted plants; and phased reuse of topsoil in accordance with the approved Topsoil Management Plan.
- xvii. The Committee observed that, as the forest diversion proposal exceeds 100 ha, a Site Inspection Report was duly conducted. The proposal was accepted in-principle in the 58<sup>th</sup> Project Screening Committee meeting held on 02.11.2024. Thereafter, the PCCF (Forest Diversion) & Nodal

Officer (FCA), Odisha, issued inspection directions under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Rules, 2023, and a joint site inspection was carried out on 16.11.2024 by the Deputy Conservator of Forest (Nodal-I) along with the DFO, Keonjhar and other forest officials and recommended the proposal.

- xviii. The Committee observed that a dry seasonal nala traverses the lease area and joins the Karo Nadi outside the lease. The User Agency has undertaken to retain the nala with a 50-metre buffer on either side as a non-mining green belt to maintain natural drainage. No diversion is proposed; if required in future, prior approval from the competent authority of the Water Resources Department will be obtained.

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 ***'In-principle'*** approval for the diversion of 135.980 ha of forest land (99.001 ha revenue forest and 31.602 ha Sabik forest), out of which 130.603 ha within the mining lease area and 5.377 ha for connecting road, outside lease area) for non-forest purpose in respect of Kendudihi North Iron Ore Block of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd under Keonjhar Forest Division of Keonjhar District with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. The State Government shall implement the Wild Life Conservation Plan duly approved by the CWLW at the cost of the User Agency.
- ii. The State Govt. shall ensure that 4.029 ha land at the north-western corner of the forest land overlaps with the Karo–Karampada Elephant Corridor shall be kept as an undisturbed green belt with no mining or allied activities, to safeguard wildlife movement.
- iii. Soil erosion control measures during operations, as per the approved Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan and under the supervision of the Forest Department, shall be implemented in the proposed area for diversion at the cost of the User Agency.
- iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that a 50-metre buffer on either side shall be maintained on the dry seasonal nala, traversing through the lease area and joins the Karo Nadi outside the lease. No diversion of Nalls shall be done.
- v. A green belt shall be developed in approximately 50 metres on both sides of the stream through a comprehensive Catchment Area Treatment Plan to ensure that the water budgeting of the Karo River is not adversely affected by the project.

#### **Agenda No. 37**

**Proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/454474/2023**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 3.378 ha of Forest land including 2.645 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within Tantra Iron Ore Mines under Koira Tahasil and Barsuan Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha within Mining Lease area of 72.56 ha in respect of M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd.**

1. The Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0078-2024-22041 dated 14.11.2024, submitted a proposal under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 3.378 ha of Forest land including 2.645 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within Tantra Iron Ore Mines under Koira Tahasil and Barsuan Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District within Mining Lease area of 72.56 ha in respect of M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd.
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 their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0078-2024-22041 dated 14.11.2024, submitted a proposal under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 3.378 ha of Forest land including 2.645 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within Tantra Iron Ore Mines under Koira Tahasil and Barsuan Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District within Mining Lease area of 72.56 ha in respect of M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd.
  - ii. The Ministry vide letter No. 8-108/2008-FC dt. 14.06.2010 had accorded Stage-II approval over 69.041 ha of forest land involved in the Mining Lease. Now, as intimated by the PCCF (FD&NO, FC Act), O/o the PCC & HoFF, Odisha, the user agency has applied for diversion of Safety Zone area of 3.378 ha. Out of which 2.645 ha is meant for safety zone and balance 0.733 ha is meant for cluster mining with Jindal Steel and Power Limited and Penguin Trading and agencies in village Tantra and Tensa.
  - iii. The proposed cluster mining exists within the Eastern boundary of M/s Korp Resources Ltd. and the Western boundary of M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Limited and the Northern boundary of M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd. and the Southern boundary of Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. The adjacent lease common boundary of 7.5 m width in each of the Lease area is blocked.
  - iv. In the interest of safe and scientific mining, conservation and utilization of minerals resources over the blocked area and for protection of

Environment, M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd. has entered into MoU with M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Ltd. and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. to mine out and extract the blocked iron ore along the common boundary area.

- v. The 3.378 Ha of proposed forest land is having the canopy density of 0.6 and Eco-class I type forest. The number of trees proposed to be felled is 516.
- vi. The details of the land-use plan of the total lease area of the proposal is as under:

**Existing land Use Pattern:**

SI No.	Pattern of utilisation	Area proposed (in ha)
1	Area under Mining	9.903
2	Top Soil Stacking	0.000
3	Overburden/Waste Dumping	0.996
4	Mineral Storage	4.955
5	Infrastructure (Workshop, administrative building etc.)	1.000
6	Road	4.148
7	Mineral separation plant	3.550
8	Sub-grade stack	3.158
9	Parking area	1.120
10	Safety zone area	3.483
11	Other to specify	40.247
	<b>Total</b>	<b>72.560</b>

**Proposed land use pattern:**

SI No.	Pattern of utilisation	Area proposed (in ha)
1	Area under Mining	12.450
2	Top Soil Stacking	0.000
3	Overburden/Waste Dumping	2.061
4	Mineral Storage	4.955
5	Infrastructure (Workshop, administrative building etc.)	1.000
6	Road	4.148
7	Mineral separation plant	3.550
8	Sub-grade stack	3.158
9	Parking area	1.120
10	Safety zone area	2.750
11	Other to specify	37.368
	<b>Total</b>	<b>72.560</b>

- vii. The State Government submitted that the DFO, Bonai Forest Division in his Site Inspection Report has reported the lessee has broken up the area

without forest clearance. The violation has been done during 2023-24. Violation committed by the user agency over the applied forest land within the Safety zone over 3.378 ha. The violation area comes under Revenue and DLC forest category.

- viii. Further, the PCCF (FD&NO, FC Act), O/o the PCC & HoFF, Odisha has stated that violation in the Safety Zone area under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 has been reported by the Range Officer, Barsuan Range vide his Memo No.540 dt.28.7.2024:

<b>Locations of Safety Zone maintained at below of width 7.5 meter from ML boundary</b>			
<b>Pillar No.</b>	<b>Average Width of Safety Zone (in Meter)</b>	<b>Area in ha.</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
ML Pillar	2 to 6.6	0.039	1. Pillars found to be broken and SZ Boundary not maintained properly. 2. Fresh excavations noticed at the stretches.
ML Pillar A to D1	6.5 to 7	0.001 (DLC, Plot No.303)	1. Pillars found to be broken and SZ Boundary not maintained properly. 2. Fresh excavations noticed at the stretches.
ML Pillar D1 to D	6 to 7	0.002 (DLC, Plot No.303)	1. Pillars found to be in intact position but SZ boundary not maintained properly. 2. Old excavations noticed at the stretches.
ML Pillar D to C3	4.6 to 7	0.014 (DLC, Plot No.285)	1. Pillars found to be in intact position but SZ boundary not maintained properly. 2. Old Excavations noticed at the stretches.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.056</b>	

- ix. The State Government further submitted that the above area comes under the category of DLC and Revenue Forest area, the Collector, Sundargarh has been requested vide DFO, Bonai Forest Division Office Letter No.5610 dt. 1.7.2024 to take necessary legal action under relevant Revenue Laws.
- x. The State Govt. submitted that the applied area does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. However, the wildlife like Elephant, Sloth bear, Hanuman Langur, Indian giant squirrel, Jungle cat, Mongoose, Indian

Hare, Fox, Rat, Wild pig, Jackal, Indian pangolin, Porcupine, Hyaena, Peacock and different kinds of snakes and birds are noticed in and around the applied area.

- xi. The CA land has been proposed over an area of 3.44 Ha of NFL in village Dandapani under Lephripada Tahasil in Sundargarh District under Sundargarh Forest Division in a single patch.
- xii. The State Government submitted that the adjacent lease common boundary of 7.5 m width in each of the Lease area is blocked. In the interest of safe and scientific mining, conservation and utilization of minerals resources over the blocked area and for protection of Environment, M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd. has entered into MoU with M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Ltd. and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. to mine out and extract the blocked iron ore along the common boundary area.
- xiii. The Regional Office, Bhubaneswar in its Site Inspection Report submitted that the instant proposal is for diversion of 3.378 ha of forest land (including 2.645 ha earmarked for Safety zone) within Tantra Iron Ore Mines under Koira Tahasil and Barsuan Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District within Mining Lease area of 72.56 ha in respect of M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd. The site inspection of the above project was carried out by Smt. Padma Mahanti, Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C). The inspecting officer has reported the following:
  - a) Out of 3.378 ha of forest land, 2.645 ha is earmarked for Safety Zone around the mining lease area and 0.733 Ha is for Safety zone area diversion for cluster mining with TRB Iron Ore Mines of M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd and Tantra Iron Ore Mines of M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Ltd.
  - b) The user agency has violated over 0.056 Ha of forest land in the Safety Zone area for not maintaining safety zone boundary pillars and excavation of minerals.
  - c) Since, the user agency has violated the provisions of Van (Sanarakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, ; the proposal is recommended with imposition of five times Penal NPV over the violated area of 0.056 Ha along with general standard condition and action against the erring official.
- xiv. The Committee observed that DFO, Bonai Forest Division in his Site Inspection Report submitted that violation has been committed by the user agency over the applied forest land within the Safety zone over 3.378 ha. Further, the PCCF (FD&NO, FC Act), O/o the PCC & HoFF, Odisha stated that as per the Memo No.540 dt.28.7.2024 of the Range Officer, Barsuan Range, 0.056 ha violation has been done by the uSer Agency.
- xv. The Committee observed that there are two other adjacent mines of M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Limited and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.

- xvi. The Committee further observed that earlier the UA has not maintained the safety zone area as shown earlier land use and proposed land use. Now, 2.75 ha area has been earmarked for safety zone. However, the User Agency has agreed to deposit the Penal NPV and normal NPV with interest if applicable as per the provisions of the consolidated guidelines issued by Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 under Para 7.9 (iv) and (v).
  - xvii. The Committee observed that the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Bonai Forest Division, had reported that 37.368 ha of land is classified as barren land and, if utilized in future, would be incorporated in the mining plan with approval of the competent authority. However, as specific details of the proposed land use were not initially provided, the State Government was requested to clearly indicate the purpose of diversion. In compliance, the DFO has reported that the mining plan has since been modified and approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) vide Letter No. MPM-2414/2025-26/IBM\_RO\_BBS dated 11.12.2025, and the said 37.368 ha area has been included in the approved mining plan.
  - xviii. The Committee observed that the DFO, Bonai reported that out of 72.560 ha lease area, 72.419 ha is forest land. Of this, 69.041 ha was earlier diverted (2010 approval), and 3.378 ha (safety zone) is now proposed for fresh diversion, including 0.733 ha for mining use. The total change in land use within the already diverted area is 46.255 ha.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for the want of the following information:
- i. There are two other adjacent mines belonging to M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Limited and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. The State Government shall submit the details of earlier approvals granted, if any for the change in safety zone of these two mines along with the combined safety zone for the cluster mining.
  - ii. The DFO, Bonai Forest Division, has reported that out of the total lease area of 72.560 ha, 72.419 ha is forest land. Of this, 69.041 ha was diverted earlier (approved in 2010), and 3.378 ha, comprising the safety zone, is now proposed for fresh diversion, including 0.733 ha for mining use. The State Government should provide a comparative land use change proposed, within forest land and non-forest land, with detailed justification of each component.
  - iii. The State Government should clearly indicate the total area proposed for mining within the overall lease area, covering both forest land and non-forest land.

#### **Agenda No. 38**

**F. No. FP/OR/Airport/426096/2023**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 27.887 ha. of DLC forest land for construction of Shree Jagannath International Airport under Puri Forest Division in Puri District, Odisha. (FP/OR/Airport/426096/2023)- regarding.**

1. The Govt. of Odisha vide letter dated 02.09.2023 has submitted the above subject mentioned proposal to the RO Bhubaneswar and thereafter forwarded to the Ministry for prior approval of the Central Government.
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 the 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 Govt. of Odisha vide letter dated 02.09.2023 has submitted the above subject mentioned proposal to the RO Bhubaneswar and thereafter forwarded to the Ministry for prior approval of the Central Government
  - ii. The proposal envisage use of 27.887 ha of DLC forest land for construction of Shree Jagannath International Airport (SJIA), Puri in Puri (Wildlife) Division, Odisha.
  - iii. The legal status of the forest land is DLC Forest. Vegetation density of 0.5 (Eco Class III) with 13,504 number of project affected trees, has been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Trees numeration detail has been submitted at S. No. 4.1 of the Part-II. Approximate forest area as revealed by the KML file is 26.982 ha against the diversion of 27.887 ha. KML files needs to be rectified depicting the correct area and various project components. As per the Sol toposheet, most of project area falls on the open mixed jungle. Forest Cover belongs to the MDF (1 ha) and Non-wooded (27 ha) forest land moderately Dense Forest and 27 ha is Non-forest/ Non-wooded in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019.
  - iv. Total land involved in this project is 471.401 ha comprising of 27.887 ha of DLC forest land and 443.514 ha of non-forest land (Govt non-forest 353.882 ha + Private non-forest 89.632 ha). The purpose-wise break up of total land involved in this project is furnished below:

Sl. No.	Component	DLC forest (In ha)	Non-Forest area (in ha)			Grand Total (in ha)
			Govt.	Private	Total	

1	Admin Office	0	0	1.445	1.445	1.445
2	Airside	16.003	85.169	15.276	100.445	116.448
3	Apron	4.814	67.444	19.465	86.909	91.723
4	Cargo Terminal	0	3.959	1.185	5.144	5.144
5	Mix use Commercial	0	0.197	15.493	15.690	15.690
6	Open space	0	7.964	3.996	11.960	11.960
7	Passenger Terminal Building	0.037	23.747	0.028	23.775	23.812
8	Transport use	1.956	38.781	15.106	53.887	55.843
9	Runway	3.427	109.834	1.700	111.534	114.961
10	Utility	1.650	16.787	15.938	32.725	34.375
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27.887</b>	<b>353.882</b>	<b>89.632</b>	<b>443.514</b>	<b>471.401</b>

- iv. Compensatory afforestation over 29.939 ha of non-forest land in Anipatia and Banabarada village of Kakatpur Tahasil of Puri (WL) Division has been proposed in lieu of 27.887 ha forest land. Scheme for undertaking compensatory afforestation involving financial provisions of ₹2,22,87,500/- has been submitted online. The DFO, Puri (WL) Division has furnished land suitability certificate with the proposal.
- v. The DFO, Puri (WL) has reported that the applied area does not come under any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. But the area is coming under the Coast Regulation Zone.
- vi. The DFO, Puri (WL) has reported that no rare and endangered or unique species of flora and fauna area found in the applied area. The forest types of the applied area are Tropical Dry Deciduous Moderate Forest covered with mostly Casuarina, Cashew & Acacia species which were initially planted during 1970-1980. The sporadic movements of wild animals like Hyena, Porcupine, Spotted deer, Jackals are often noticed inside the applied area. Besides this, the reptiles like Snakes, Common Chameleon and birds like fly catchers and Brahamani kites etc. are found moving in the applied area.
- vii. The DFO has reported that proposed site is over 80 KM away from the Devi River mouth, a previously identified mass nesting site of Olive Ridley turtle.
- viii. Earlier, the proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee in meeting held on 07.06.2024.
- ix. The DFO, Puri (WL) Division, has reported that temporary fencing of 1,370 m was erected over DLC forest land and 9,950 m over non-forest land, with 2,001 m incomplete. The work (June–September 2023) was stopped, and the fencing over forest land has been dismantled. No tree felling or

ecological damage was reported, and no work was found ongoing during inspection dated 13.08.2024.

- x. The RO, in its Site Inspection Report, further observed construction of an additional boundary wall outside the proposed airport boundary up to the inter-tidal zone, not reflected in the land-use plan on PARIVESH, constituting a violation of CRZ norms. The State Government shall verify whether the violation involves forest land and ensure its removal.
- xi. An FIR was lodged vide IDCO letter No. 602 dated 22.03.2024 with the IIC, Sadar Police Station. Out of the total 13.3 km boundary, 1,370 m of temporary fencing was erected over DLC forest land, 9,950 m over non-forest land using removable materials, and 2,001 m remained incomplete.
- xii. The proposal was examined by the Regional Empowered Committee in its meeting held on 16.10.2023 and REC recommended the proposal subject to conditions i.e. (i) During landing and taking off flights, flying over the Balukhanda WL Sanctuary shall be avoided. (ii) The user agency shall obtain clearance from OCZMA for the area coming under CRZ-III before submission of compliance of 'in-principle' approval, if it is granted.
- xiii. The Regional Empowered Committee that the may be submitted to the Ministry for approval in view the non-site specific nature of the proposal.
- xiv. The MoEF&CC, after examination of the proposal sought additional information from the Regional Office on 09.03.2024. The Regional Office, after obtaining the same from the State Government, forwarded the additional information to the Ministry on 29.04.2024.
- xv. The proposal along with the additional information was placed before the Advisory Committee meeting held on 07.06.2024. The Committee, after deliberations and discussion with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office and Nodal Officer, Odisha observed that in order to take a well informed decision on the proposal, additional information on the following may be obtained from the State Government and the same may be submitted before the Advisory Committee for its examination:
  - Construction of airport in the vicinity of sea coast may have impact on the breeding activity of the olive ridley turtle reported in the area, it will, therefore, be appropriate that comments of the Chief Warden of the State on the likely impact of the proposed non-forestry activity on the breeding activity of the olive ridley turtle may be obtained and submitted by the State for further consideration of the Committee.
  - Examination of the area proposed for diversion using DSS tools and Google Satellite Imagery revealed that the user agency seems to has already started the construction of boundary wall in the forest as well as in the non-forest land which is a violations of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The State Government may therefore submit the following:

- Name of the erring officers responsible for allowing or not stopping the unauthorized construction in the forest land and status of action taken against the erring officials.
  - A detail violation report indicating the date and time of the commencement of construction of boundary wall along with present status of work of the construction of boundary wall along with efforts by the officers concerned in the State Government to stop the work relating to construction of boundary wall.
  - Details of the authority/agency issuing work order for construction of boundary wall and the entity bearing the expenditure incurred on the said alleged construction.
  - A detailed inspection of the area may be conducted by the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC and a report on the same, along with violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 committed by the user agency and remedial action taken by the State authorities, may be submitted for further consideration of the Committee.
- xvi. The recommendation of the AC was communicated to the RO Bhubaneswar. The RO has asked the information from the State Govt. vide letter dated 19.07.2024. The Nodal Officer, Odisha vide letter No.21733/9F (Airport)-357/2023 dated 30.10.2024 has furnished the point-wise reply of observation made in EDS dated 19.07.2024 to RO office. Reply of the State Government is as under:
- a) The State Government has reported that the proposed project area is more than 80 Km from Devi River mouth which has been marked as mass nesting area and no mass nesting has occurred at Devi River mouth for more than two decades. In the report, it is highlighted that this coast line is not used as a mass nesting site, it remains an active area for wildlife, supporting sporadic and secondary nesting by Olive Ridley Turtles. The construction and operation of Greenfield airport at the site could have the potential impacts on the Turtles. He has submitted a detailed report on the impact of this project and suggested mitigative measures.
  - b) The State Government has reported that being a DLC forest land under the administrative and management control of the Revenue Department, necessary action will be taken to ensure the removal of encroachment by the concerned revenue authority after inquiry. No action has been taken over the person and inquiry is under process.
  - c) The State Government has reported that Out of the total 13.3 Km length of the project boundary, a length of 1370 metre of temporary fence has been constructed over the DLC forest land and about

9950 meters over the non-forest land using removable materials and the work was left incomplete after 2001 metre.

- d) The State Government has reported that the Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO and the Divisional Head, BCD-II, IDCO had issued the work order for the temporary fence construction over the non-forest land in the year 2023.
- xvii. The RO Bhubaneswar has submitted Site Inspection Report in the instant proposal. The RO has mentioned that the proposal cannot be recommended without satisfactory reply from the State Govt. on certain information as noted by the DIGF (Central) in her SIR. The information desired by the RO from the State Govt. are as follows:
- a) Proposed project site is close to the nesting ground of olive ridley turtles, a Schedule I species.
  - b) The sea which abounds this project area has been close and contiguous with the Dolphin habitat and hence further study, documentation and conservation of this area is mandated before taking any further decision regarding this mega development project.
  - c) The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) in Chilika lake appears to be close to the airspace where this project is envisaged to be operated. This too needs further study and impact analysis and protection needs to be accorded to this CAF.
  - d) This proposal has not been presented as an integrated project. The six lane express way which will link Bhubaneswar airport to Puri airport supposedly to be built along the coast line is not part of this project proposal. The approach road to the airport is also not a part of the current proposal. It appears that facts are not presented in actuality in a bid to break the integrated proposal into many parts for obtaining easy clearance.
  - e) At present the proposed airport at Brahmagiri is neither connected by any express way or high way to either Ganjam or Khurda or Jagatsinghpur. Hence, justification for having the project to connect Puri, to cities like Jagatsinghpur is not correct. In fact, the proposed airport at Brahmagiri is at an approximate distance of 29 km from Puri town itself and hence defeats the very purpose cited for having this project in an ecologically fragile area like Brahmagiri (Puri).
  - f) The expansion of Biju Pattnaik airport can be taken up in other locations, with better connectivity like Jagarsinghpur, Khurda or Berhampur and not at the cost of huge environmental loss and at the same time exposing the area to various vagaries like tidal influence, cyclones and which is being frequent in both number as well as severity by cutting down 13000 trees which now act as bio-shield and coastal shelter belt. The VDF and MDF crown density in

- non-forest land has not been taken into account in the current proposal.
- g) The INS Chilika, which is a naval base is at a close distance to the proposed airport site. Whether the opinion of the Defence Ministry has been taken into consideration by the State Government before proposing this project. The site needs to be ascertained and evaluated from Defence point of view.
- h) The user agency has already violated the provision of the Adhiniyam by constructing a 1400 meter boundary wall which extends up to sea line. Action needs to be initiated for violation of V(S&S) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xviii. Further, the RO in its SIR reported that there is violation of CRZ norms since the boundary wall is now seen constructed up to the sea line. The violations need to be removed immediately. Long term studies on habitat of olive ridley turtles close to the proposed airport site as well as the Dolphin migration path needs to be studied and documented, and this proposed airport site needs to be conserved as a fragile coastal habitat and afforested to serve as a bio-shield and coastal shelter belt. Because of the aforesaid reasons, such mega development project in the fragile coastal ecosystem of Brahmagiri (Puri) is not an environment and conservation conducive proposal and will have detrimental impacts on both for coastal ecology and wildlife therein. The Puri pilgrimage tourism can be very well boosted by envisaging a sky train/metro from Bhubaneswar airport to Puri as is seen in tourism friendly countries like Thailand so that the travel time from Bhubaneswar to Puri can be considerably reduced, which even is now only 60-70 minutes. The travel time can be further reduced through innovative environmentally friendly and sustainable solutions.
- xix. Further, the RO in its SIR has also reported that during site inspection, the user agency has informed that an express way is proposed along the coastline to cater to the traffic from Bhubaneswar airport to proposed Puri airport. Though, this is an ancillary project of the airport, there is no mention of 6 lane the express way (road) along with the airport project.
- xx. A detailed study on the habitat and migration route of olive ridley turtles as well as Irrawaddy Dolphin along the entire coast of Puri needs to be observed for a stipulated period of at least one year and after ascertaining their number, presence and migration pathway of dolphin. A detailed action plan needs to be drafted for their conservation and protection. Systematic information on population trends, distribution and space use of both Irrawaddy dolphin and olive ridley turtles needs to be started at an early date all along the Puri coast up to Satpada, Konark and Astarang (the usual migration path of dolphin and nesting shelter of olive ridley turtle). Shelter belt plantation available in the project site needs to be protected and enriched to provide a bio-shield along the coast and in no

circumstances it should be removed or cut as the cutting of trees will have detrimental impact on the coastal ecology.

- xxi. DPR of proposed airport project, land use map, DPR of the 6 lane express way from Bhubaneswar airport to Puri airport and approach road to airport (to be constructed by Transport Department of Odisha as informed by the user agency) which is also an ancillary activity, and other allied construction are not found submitted along with the project proposal. Strict action needs to be initiated against erring officials for gross violation of the Adhinyam by construction of boundary wall. Action needs to be initiated against revenue officials for purposefully allowing the illegal construction to happen on DLC forest land.
- xxii. Since a part of the proposed site (approximately 15 ha) falls under 200-500 meters of NDZ of CRZ (CRZ III B), the applicability of CRZ regulations to the project needs to be ascertained and CRZ clearance obtained. The extent and magnitude of CRZ violation needs to be enquired into and adequately addressed. The project site being located at places between 200-500 meters of the HTL, applicability of CRZ rules to the project site, whether permissible as per rule. The Chilika Lake is a Ramsar wetland of International importance and migratory bird habitat and part of Central Asian Flyway (CAF). Hence, the proposed airport project which is adjacent to Chilika lake and is bound to impact the airspace with air traffic, sound, light and air pollution, needs to be studied for its impact on Chilika Lake, migratory bird species visiting Chilika, its zone of influence, vis-à-vis the regulation in the Wetland Conservation and Management Rules, 2017.
- xxiii. The above facts were considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 28.11.2024 and after thorough deliberation and discussion with DDGF (Central), RO Bhubaneswar and CCF Nodal Officer, Govt. of Odisha, the Committee decided to defer the proposal for want of following information from the State Govt. The RO has raised the following serious observations, which shall be examined by the State Govt. and a detailed justification/clarification shall be submitted for further consideration of the matter:
  - a) Proposed project site is close to the nesting ground of olive ridley turtles, a Schedule I species.
  - b) The sea which abounds this project area has been close and contiguous with the Dolphin habitat and hence further study, documentation and conservation of this area is mandated before taking any further decision regarding this mega development project.
  - c) The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) in Chilika lake appears to be close to the airspace where this project is envisaged to be operated. This too needs further study and impact analysis and protection needs to be accorded to this CAF.

- d) This proposal has not been presented as an integrated project. The six lane express way which will link Bhubaneswar airport to Puri airport supposedly to be built along the coast line is not a part of this project proposal. Nor is the approach road to the airport is a part of the current proposal. It appears that facts are not presented integrated manner.
  - e) At present the proposed airport at Brahmagiri is neither connected by any express way or high way to either Ganjam or Khurda or Jagatsinghpur. Hence, justification for having the project to connect Puri, to cities like Jagatsinghpur is not correct, as per the report submitted by the Regional Office. In fact, the proposed airport at Brahmagiri is at an approximate distance of 29 km from Puri town itself and hence defeats the very purpose cited for having this project in an ecologically fragile area like Brahmagiri (Puri).
  - f) The expansion of Biju Pattnaik airport can be taken up in other locations, with better connectivity like Jagarsinghpur, Khurda or Berhampur and not at the cost of huge environmental loss and at the same time exposing the area to various vagaries like tidal influence, cyclones and which is being frequent in both number as well as severity by cutting down 13000 trees which now act bio-shield and coastal shelter belt. The VDF and MDF crown density in non forest land having the ocular look of forest as per Writ Petition 202/1995 and having high density of vegetation, has not been taken into account in the current proposal.
  - g) The INS Chilika, which is a naval base is at a close distance to the proposed airport site. Whether the opinion of the Defence Ministry has been taken into consideration by the State Government before proposing this project site needs to be ascertained and evaluated from Defence point of view.
  - h) The User Agency has already violated the provision of Adhinyam by constructing a 1400 meter boundary wall which extends up to sea line. Action needs to be initiated for violation of V(S&S) Adhinyam, 1980.
  - i) A detailed study on the habitat and migration route of olive ridley turtles as well as Irrawarddy Dolphin along the entire coast of Puri needs to be observed for a stipulated period of at least one year and after ascertaining their number, presence and migration pathway of dolphin. A detailed action plan needs to be drafted for their conservation and protection.
- xxiv. The above decision of the Advisory Committee was conveyed to the RO Bhubaneswar and State Govt. The State Nodal Officer vide letter No.11499/9F(Airport)-357/2023 dated 27.05.2025 has replied the observations of the Advisory Committee which has also been analysed by the RO. The detailed reply are as below:

- a) In view of the sporadic nesting of the Schedule I species Olive Ridley turtles along the Puri coast near the proposed project site, as reported by the DFO, Puri (WL) Division and endorsed by the PCCF(WL) & CWLW, a site-specific Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be formulated with detailed mitigation measures—such as establishment and strengthening of protection camps, hatchery units, nest monitoring, and turtle protection initiatives—with financial support from the project proponent, and shall be implemented after obtaining approval from the PCCF(WL) & CWLW, prior to the final forest clearance of the project.

"In response to concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed project site to dolphin habitats along the Puri coast, it is confirmed that dolphins, particularly the Bottlenose species, have been sighted in the Brahmagiri (WL) Range as per the annual dolphin census conducted by the Forest Department, with notable counts in recent years. In compliance with the recommendation of the Appraisal Committee, a detailed study on dolphin habitats is being undertaken by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Regional Office, Gopalpur, as requested by the Commerce and Transport Department vide letter no. TRN-AV-GEN-0001-2021/3787/T dated 18.03.2025. The findings of this study, along with the recommended conservation measures, will be incorporated into the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project.

- b) In response to concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed project to the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) over Chilika Lake, it is submitted that the airspace in this region is already being used by regular commercial flight operations between major cities such as Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Vizag, with no reported adverse impacts on migratory bird movements. Furthermore, the Chief Conservator of Forests (WL-III), based on the assessment of DFO (WL), Puri Division, has reported that the proposed project is expected to have minimal impact on bird migration and wildlife in general. However, in line with the recommendations of the Appraisal Committee, a detailed study and impact analysis on migratory birds along the CAF is being undertaken by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Regional Office, Gopalpur, as requested by the project authority. The outcomes and recommended conservation measures from this study will be duly incorporated into the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project.
- c) In response to the observation that the proposal has not been presented as an integrated project, it is clarified that the six-lane expressway connecting Bhubaneswar to Puri is a separate infrastructure initiative and does not form part of the present airport project proposal, as it will be executed by a different agency.

Therefore, its exclusion from the Forest Diversion Proposal (FDP) for the airport project is appropriate. Additionally, there is an existing road connecting the proposed airport site to the Nabakalebara Road near Sipasarubali in Puri town, which will be suitably upgraded to serve as the approach road. Hence, no new approach road is proposed, and its exclusion from the current FDP is also justified."

- d) In response to the suggestion that the airport could be located in alternative areas such as Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, or Berhampur to avoid environmental impacts, it is clarified that the selection of the Puri site was based on a detailed assessment conducted by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and approved by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Government of India, as reflected in the pre-feasibility report. The justification for the location has already been submitted by the PCCF (Nodal) vide letter no. 19133 dated 25.09.2023, in compliance with MoEF&CC communication dated 18.09.2023.
- e) Regarding environmental concerns, all anticipated impacts will be mitigated through measures prescribed under the Environmental Clearance (EC), Forest Clearance conditions, and findings from expert studies by agencies such as the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). It is important to note that the majority of trees to be felled—approximately 9151 out of 12,213—comprise planted species such as Cashew, Jhaun (Casuarina), Acacia, and Noni (Great Morinda), which are largely in moribund condition due to biotic pressure and lack of natural regeneration, as reported by the DFO (WL), Puri Division.
- f) The trees are located on 353.833 hectares of non-forest land, which is not recorded as forest in the DLC report. The tree density is approximately 35 trees per hectare, and the phenological characteristics of cashew trees can visually exaggerate canopy coverage despite relatively low density. Hence, in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Godavarman case (WP 202/1995) and definitions under the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the area does not qualify as deemed forest.
- g) Accordingly, the proposed airport site at Brahmagiri has been appropriately selected with due consideration to ecological, regulatory, and connectivity factors, and necessary environmental safeguards are being integrated into the project planning."
- h) In response to concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed airport site to INS Chilika naval base, it is confirmed that a No Objection Certificate (NOC) has already been obtained from the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, vide letter no. 2(11)/2022/D(IAF) dated 01.01.2025. The NOC ensures that the

project has been duly evaluated and found acceptable from the defence and strategic standpoint. A copy of the NOC is enclosed with the reply."

- i) In response to the observation regarding the alleged violation of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 due to the construction of a 1400-meter boundary wall extending to the sea line, it is clarified that the said boundary wall was a temporary structure constructed by the contractor of IDCO solely to prevent encroachment on the project site, which is prone to unauthorized occupation. The wall was linear in nature and only partially enclosed the area, leaving other sides open. As reported by the DFO (Wildlife), Puri Division, the structure has already been dismantled, and no damage to vegetation occurred during its construction or removal. A detailed report from the DFO has been submitted and enclosed with the reply.
  - j) Furthermore, the DFO (WL), Puri has also submitted a report to the Collector, Puri, under intimation to the concerned Tehsildar, requesting necessary action under the relevant provisions of Revenue Law, as the DLC land in question is classified as revenue land. The communication is documented under letter no. 2000/3F-18/2025 dated 12.03.2025. The temporary boundary wall was constructed in good faith for safeguarding government land and does not constitute a permanent structure or wilful violation of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980."
- xxv. In response to the recommendation for a detailed one-year study on the habitat and migration routes of Olive Ridley turtles and Irrawaddy dolphins along the Puri coast, the State Government submitted that extensive research on the migration and nesting behaviour of Olive Ridley turtles in the Odisha coastal region has already been conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). A notable study by Dr. Bivash Pandav and Dr. B.C. Choudhury of WII, detailing migration patterns and nesting activities, has been enclosed with the reply. Additionally, specific nesting data from the Brahmagiri Wildlife Range of Puri Division over the past several years has been provided.
- xxvi. With regard to the presence of Irrawaddy dolphins in the project area, as per the Dolphin census data from the past six years, there has been no recorded presence of Irrawaddy dolphins in the coastal waters adjacent to the Brahmagiri Wildlife Range, where the project is proposed.
- xxvii. Nonetheless, in accordance with the recommendation, a comprehensive study is being undertaken by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Regional Office, Gopalpur. This study—initiated at the request of the project authority (Commerce and Transport Department)—will assess the habitat, migration routes, threats, and conservation requirements for both Olive Ridley turtles and Irrawaddy dolphins along the Puri coast. The

findings and conservation measures from this study will be integrated into the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project."

- xxviii. Further, it is submitted that the observations of the Advisory Committee were communicated to the RO and the file was also sent to them. Accordingly, the EDS was raised by RO and the State has replied to the RO. The RO after the examination of the reply of the State Govt. following have been observed. After the examination of the above, the DIGF (Central), RO Bhubaneswar has mentioned the following observations:
- a) The presence of Dolphins and Olive Ridley turtles has been acknowledged in the compliance report by the State Govt. which was not mentioned in the original proposal submitted by the State govt. on this proposal. Although the presence of dolphins and olive ridley turtles has been acknowledged there needs to be long term study before suggesting mitigation measures and impact of this project on the habitat of these scheduled species needs to be studied in depth. Such study reports were not found attached with the compliance, though, it has been mentioned that studies have been initiated.
  - b) BNHS has conducted certain study on bird migration in Chilika lake and on the Central Asian flyway. Such a study report should be collated and whether there is any impact of the project on the migratory birds.
  - c) Eventhough, a six lane road is being constructed by another agency, the environmental impact of the six lane road as well as the airport project on the pristine and delicate marine ecosystem and fragile coast line of Puri should have been studied in entirety.
  - d) Regarding the proposed airport project has not been presented as an integrated project, as the six-lane coastal expressway linking Bhubaneswar and Puri—being executed by a separate agency—is not part of the current proposal, nor is a new approach road included, the State Govt. has mentioned that an existing road connecting the site to the Nabakalebara road near Sipasarubali in Puri town will be suitably developed to serve as the airport's access route.
  - e) The planted trees of Cashew, Jhaun (Casuarina) and others to the tune of 12213 are planted and developed as coastal shelterbelts and bio-shields which stand formidable against the cyclones that are repeated in the Puri coast. Eventhough, these are plantation vegetation removal these trees will result in exposing the area to vagaries of climate eventualities and frequent cyclones that may affect life and property of nearby villages. A detailed study on removal of such coastal shelterbelts and ecological evaluation of the ecosystem services should have been undertaken before

proposing cutting down huge numbers of trees in the coastal shelter belt.

- f) Contrary to the compliance, report which says that "the trees are in the non-forest land in scattered patches, and considering the density of trees/Ha., it may not be taken as forest for application of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and in the light of definition of forest in 202 Godavarman Cases". The DSS analysis report in PARIVESH web portal shows MDF of 89 ha and Open Forest of 83.01 ha total 171.01 ha of vegetated area over non-forest land having the nature and character of forest which should have been included in the diversion proposal.
  - g) The DDGF (Central) has mentioned that with reference to observations of DIGF above, the EDS reply on the observations of the AC has been furnished by the State. The DIG's observations are largely reiterations of the AC's observations, along with a few additional suggestions, which may be taken into consideration by the competent authority while examining the EDS reply.
- xxix. The IGF(FC) informed that as per information submitted by the state the Olive Ridley Turtle nesting sites are sporadic in nature. The Committee observed that, a precautionary approach should be taken and the matter may be referred to WII to address the concerns raised. The ADG(FC) mentioned that the Advisory committee which is a highly competent body, might scrutinise the concerns, before referring to WII. However, the Committee opined that WII is an expert organization in the relevant domain and it would be proper to seek their opinion before taking a decision on the matter.
- xxx. The Proposal was again considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24.06.2025 and the Committee deferred the proposal for the want of the following:
- a) Keeping in view the concerns raised with regard to the migration routes, threats, and conservation requirements of Olive Ridley turtles, Irrawaddy dolphins along the Puri coast and migratory birds coming to Chilka Lake, the state shall seek the comments/recommendations of WII on the subject matter. The conservation measures and mitigation activities so identified will be integrated into a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation/ Management Plan for the project which shall be approved by the CWLW, Odisha. A copy of the approved plan shall be submitted.
  - b) As per RO in its SIR, the planted trees of Cashew, Jhaun (Casuarina) and others to the tune of 12,213 are planted and developed as coastal shelterbelts and bio shields which stand formidable against the cyclones that are repeated in the Puri coast. Even though these are plantations, the removal of the vegetation/ trees will result in exposing the area to vagaries of climate

eventualities and frequent cyclones that may affect life and property of nearby villages. The State Government shall provide detailed justification on the matter and submit a mitigation plan for climate eventualities.

c) The Regional Office has mentioned that the DSS analysis report in PARIVESH web portal shows MDF of 89 ha and Open Forest of 83.01 ha and total 171.01 ha of vegetated area over non-forest land having the nature and character of forest which should have been included in the diversion proposal. The State shall give report in the matter.

- xxxii. The State Government vide its letter dated 07.02.2026 submitted the reply to the Ministry on the observations raised by the Advisory Committee.
- xxxiii. The State Government submitted that in light of concerns regarding the migration routes, threats, and conservation needs of Olive Ridley turtles, Irrawaddy dolphins along the Puri coast, and migratory birds visiting Chilika Lake, the Government of Odisha sought recommendations from Wildlife Institute of India, incorporated its 10-point suggestions following a July 2025 field inspection into the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation/Management Plan, and obtained approval from the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha on 17.01.2026.
- xxxiii. The State Govt. submitted that the 12,213 trees over 353.882 ha of non-forest land comprise mainly planted Cashew, Casuarina and Acacia species, with no natural regeneration. The trees are scattered (average density ~35 trees/ha), about 5 m in height, and largely top-broken; over 50% being Cashew, many are ground-leaning and do not function as an effective multi-layered coastal shelterbelt. To mitigate potential impacts of tree felling, a coastal shelterbelt plantation over 20 ha with Casuarina and other wind-resistant species (₹232.5614 lakhs) has been approved under the SSWLC Plan for habitat management. Additional plantation in nearby coastal villages will be undertaken by the User Agency in consultation with the Forest Department to strengthen the marine ecosystem and reduce cyclone-related vulnerabilities, as incorporated in the approved SSWLC Plan and stipulated under the conditional EC clearance (Condition No. 3.1.6.1.4). It is submitted that these measures will adequately address climate and cyclone-related concerns.
- xxxiv. The State Government further submitted that although 12,213 scattered, low-density (35 trees/ha) planted Cashew, Casuarina, and Acacia trees over 353.882 ha of non-forest land—many top-broken and functionally ineffective as shelterbelts—are proposed to be felled, the approved Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan provides for compensatory afforestation and development of a 20 ha coastal shelterbelt plantation of wind-resistant species, along with additional village-level coastal plantations by the User Agency in consultation with the Forest

Department, to mitigate cyclone impacts and climate vulnerabilities in nearby areas.

xxxv. With reference to the DSS analysis on the PARIVESH portal indicating 171.01 ha (89 ha MDF and 83.01 ha Open Forest) over non-forest land, the State Government submitted that the issue was duly clarified by the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act), Bhubaneswar vide letter dated 27.05.2025, stating that the 12,213 trees over 353.882 ha of non-forest Government and private land are predominantly planted Cashew, Acacia, and Casuarina species, scattered with an average density of 35 trees per hectare (less than 0.1 canopy density), many being old and top-broken, and that the apparent canopy spread—largely due to the phenology of approximately 6,004 Cashew trees—led to satellite-based classification under ISFR 2021 (based on 2019 imagery), but as per field verification, actual density, and ecological characteristics, the land does not qualify as “deemed forest” under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

xxxvi. The Committee observed that the WII has submitted the following recommendations:

**Keeping interests of wildlife and wetland ecosystems integrity as paramount:** *The planned greenfield airport proposal may be rejected as it is quite near to the existing Bhubaneshwar Airport (65 km) and is in close proximity to the Chilka Ramsar Site (16 km) a wetland of International Importance. Existing evidence indicates a high risk of bird strikes near Ramsar Sites, as seen in the Muan International Airport, located 9 km from the Muan Tideland (Ramsar Site), which reported 179 human casualties on December 29, 2024, due to a collision with a flock of migratory Baikal Teals, and another incident at Bahir Dar International Airport, just 4 km from Lake Tana (Ramsar Site).*

**Balancing state's development requirement with wildlife conservation values:** *If in any case the project is unavoidable and should this proposal be approved, then mitigation measures and other important recommendations derived from impact assessment studies as highlighted earlier (i to x) must be binding on the user agency, coupled with regular and transparent monitoring mechanism of such compliance conditions. In a best-case scenario, all such studies must be commissioned at earlier stages, prior to the grant of statutory clearances*

xxxvii. The Committee further observed that the ZSI has submitted the following interim report to the Ministry:

a) *Already a stretch of 6-7 KM of stretch is disturbed by the tourism activities and there is negligible chance of sporadic nesting at the tourism beach. Further, in other area and the sporadic nesting can be managed by the Airport Light Management, which will be proposed after the completion of the study.*

*b) There is no significant nesting/breeding ground and roosting ground reported in the proposed project area and if any also found to be at a lower scale in the proposed project area*

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 '***In-principle***' approval for the diversion of 27.887 ha. of DLC forest land for construction of Shree Jagannath International Airport under Puri Forest Division in Puri District, Odisha with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall implement mitigation measures and other important recommendations derived from the impact assessment studies and Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan developed as per the recommendations made by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

#### **Agenda No. 39**

#### **Proposal No. FP/OR/TRANS/414722/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 12.2765 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV LILO line from existing 220 KV TTPS-Joda DC line to existing 220/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Ranki, Keonjhar under Keonjhar Forest Division by OPTC. (Proposal No. FP/OR/TRANS/414722/2023)– reg.**

1. The State Government vide letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0024-6296/FE&CC dated 30.03.2024 submitted the above-mentioned proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 to Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
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 the 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 State Government vide letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0024-6296/FE&CC dated 30.03.2024 submitted the above-mentioned proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 to Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.

- ii. The State Government informed that recently there are many mining based industries coming in the district of Keonjhar, particularly in Joda & Barbil command area of OPTCL. Subsequently, there is high demand for power in these areas. To meet this rising demand of power, OPTCL is constructing this 220KV transmission line which will connect to 400/220KV PGCIL Grid S/s at Naranpur, Keonjhar.
- iii. In order to reduce voltage fluctuation problem and to improve stability of the system particularly in Joda & Barbil area as well as in the district H.Q. of Keonjhar district of the State Odisha, it is felt essential to go for construction of a new 220 KV LILO line from existing 220KV TTPS-JODA D/C line to existing 220/33KV GIS S/s at Ranki, Keonjhar. This will help in minimizing power interruption, improvement in voltage profile and to meet the future load demand in this area besides minimizing losses in the existing system.
- iv. The construction of the above mentioned line is essential to provide an alternate source for 220/33KV Gas Insulated Sub-station at Ranki & 220/132/33KV Grid sub-station, Joda and to meet the future load growth in Keonjhar district. Accordingly, the User Agency has applied for the proposal for diversion of 12.2765 ha forest land for construction of 220 KV LILO Line from existing 220 KV TTPS-JODA DC line to existing 220/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Ranki, Keonjhar.
- v. The proposed 12.2765 ha of forest land (7.8410 ha Revenue Forest and 4.4355 ha DLC/DPF) for diversion is having the canopy density of 0.3 and Eco-class I forest type. The number of trees proposed to be felled is 263.
- vi. The details of the land-use plan of the proposal is as under:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Forest Land (Ha)</b>	<b>Non-Forest land (Ha)</b>	<b>Total Land (Ha)</b>
Transmission Line	12.2765	28.424	40.7005

- vii. The State Government has submitted that the violation has been committed by the User Agency under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 to the extent that 14 Nos. of Transmission Line towers have been constructed by the User Agency over the Revenue Forest land and DLC forest land over 0.1623 ha without prior approval from the GoI, MoEF&CC. It was informed that the 14 towers were constructed in the year 2021 along with other towers in non-forest land. After issuing a memo by the concerned Tahasilders, constructed towers have been removed and land has been vacated by the User Agency. During the site visit, removal of towers within the proposed forest land has been observed except the base of the towers.
- viii. Tahasildar, Banspal and Keonjhar, at the request of the concerned DFO, booked an encroachment case against OPTCL and conducted an inquiry. Pursuant to the inquiry, a penalty was imposed for the encroachment,

which was paid by OPTCL. It was further informed that OPTCL has initiated disciplinary action against the erring officer, Shri Nirmal Kumar Naik, Ex-SDO, EHT (C) Sub-Division, Turumunga, under Clause 29(3) of the GRIDCO Officers' Service Regulations, as adopted by OPTCL, for gross misconduct, including failure to discharge duties with utmost integrity, honesty, devotion, and diligence, and for violation of rules unbecoming of a Company official.

- ix. Further, the DFO, Keonjhar has reported that as per letter No.3036 dated 30.11.2023 of the ADM, Keonjhar, the concerned Tahasildars i.e. Tahasildar, Banspal and the Tahasildar, Keonjhar have booked the Encroachment Case against the OPTCL and conducted the enquiry and imposed the fine for the aforesaid encroachment. The user Agency, GM (EI-ECT, EHT, Const) Division, OPTCL has paid Rs.4,430/- towards the fine imposed by the Tahasildar, Banspal and Rs.11,500/- towards the fine imposed by Tahasildar, Keonjhar.
- x. Subsequently, the Tahasildar, Banspal has intimated to the ADM, Keonjhar vide his Memo No.359 dated 09.02.2024 regarding removal of electric transmission towers from the above encroached land. Similarly, the Tahasildar, Keonjhar has also intimated vide his letter No.916 dated 09.02.2024 regarding demolition of towers from the said encroached land and get it free from the encroachment.
- xi. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division at present the aforesaid encroached land over 0.1623 ha are free from encroachment. However, the DFO, Keonjhar has stated that the above case may be considered in view of the larger interest of the public.
- xii. The State Government submitted that the proposed area for diversion does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, or Elephant Corridor. No rare or unique species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Wildlife species recorded in the area include elephant, leopard, bear, barking deer, hyena, and porcupine. The Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar, has reported occasional movement of wild elephants in the proposed forest area, particularly along the Judiaghathi–Ranki stretch.
- xiii. The State Government submitted that in lieu of 12.2765 ha of forest land proposed for diversions, State Govt. has identified 12.2765 ha of Non-forest land in Village Ketanga under Patna Tahasil of Keonjhar District for raising Compensatory Afforestation.
- xiv. **Recommendations of Regional Office Bhubaneswar:** Based on the State Government's recommendation and considering the nature of the project as a public utility, the proposal is recommended subject to the following conditions:
  - a) The User Agency, in consultation with the State Forest Department, shall ensure that adequate ground clearance is maintained at all

locations to facilitate the safe movement of wild elephants beneath the transmission line.

- b) The User Agency shall install bird deflectors on the upper conductor of the transmission line at suitable intervals to prevent bird collisions.
  - c) The base of the towers located within the forest area shall be fenced with barbed wire to prevent the electrocution of elephants and other wild animals.
  - d) The State Government shall take action for 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 relevant Consolidated Guidelines.
- xv. The Committee observed that a total of 18 towers is proposed within the forest land falling under the Right of Way (Row) of the transmission line. However, the separate land requirement for these towers was not furnished by the User Agency during the site visit of the RO Bhubaneswar.
  - xvi. The Committee further observed that the Tahasildar, Banspal, vide Memo No. 359 dated 09.02.2024, intimated the Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Keonjhar, regarding removal of the electric transmission towers from the encroached land. Similarly, the Tahasildar, Keonjhar, vide Letter No. 916 dated 09.02.2024, informed about demolition of the transmission towers from the said encroached land to restore it free from encroachment.
  - xvii. The Committee further observed that as reported by the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Division, the aforesaid encroached land measuring 0.1623 ha is presently free from encroachment. However, the DFO has submitted that the matter may be considered in view of the larger public interest.
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 '***In-principle***' approval for the diversion of 12.2765 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV LILO line from existing 220 KV TTPS-Joda DC line to existing 220/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Ranki, Keonjhar under Keonjhar Forest Division by OPTCL with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
  - ii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Nagpur, as applicable.

- iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- iv. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- v. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency, in consultation with the State Forest Department, shall ensure maintenance of adequate ground clearance at all locations to facilitate the safe movement of wild elephants beneath the transmission line.
- vi. The State Government shall ensure that the base of the towers located within the forest area shall be fenced with barbed wire to prevent the electrocution of elephants and other wild animals.

#### **Agenda No. 40**

##### **Proposal No: FP/OR/MIN/QRY/512746/2024**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking ex-post facto approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 8.846 ha of forest land for mining purpose in respect of Kalasahi Manganese Mines under Keonjhar Forest Division by M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd (FACOR) (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/512746/2024) - reg.**

1. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0057-2025-26818/FE&CC dated 09.09.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
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 Van (Sanraksan 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 State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0057-2025-26818/FE&CC dated 09.09.2025 submitted above subject proposal

on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- ii. The State Government submitted that through application dated 25/09/1975, M/s FACOR Ltd. applied to the State Govt. (Odisha) seeking grant of a mining lease for manganese ore over an area of 23.674 ha in village Katasahi, Keonjhar District, Odisha. The lease involved some forest areas too.
- iii. The Hon'ble High court of Odisha in their order dated 05/11/1993 (in M/s FACOR Ltd V/s State of Odisha & others) & dated 14/03/1996 did direct the state govt. to consider grant of the mining lease in favour of M/s FACOR Ltd over the non-forest land included in the applied area.
- iv. Therefore, the State Government granted mining lease for 20 years over 14.123 ha non-forest land vide its letter dated 08/09/1997 excluding 9.551 ha forest area from the original applied area of 23.674 ha.
- v. This area (of 14.123 ha) was revised to 13.674 ha vide State Govt's letter dated 04/05/1998. Revised lease was granted on 01/08/1998 for 20 Years. Mining lease was valid upto 31/07/2018, which was extended upto 31/07/2048 as per amended MMDR Act.
- vi. Mining operation continued till 2009, and was stopped by Dy. Director Mines, Joda for want of Environment Clearance (EC). While trying to revive the mining operation, user agency was informed by the Tehsildar, Keonjhar (in 2016) that out of total 13.674 ha of lease area, 8.725 ha was classified as forest land as per Sabik records (i.e. status as on 25/10/1980).
- vii. Latest land schedule certificate from tehsildar (dated 11/09/2024) indicates presence of 8.846 ha of Sabik forest in the lease of 13.674 ha. Therefore, the user agency has applied for the present forest diversion proposal to seek ex-post facto diversion of 8.846 ha forest land within mining lease and already utilized for mining till 2009.
- viii. The Steel & Mines Department Government of Odisha vide Proceeding Order dtd. 17.08.2015 declared the mining lease as lapsed due to discontinuation of mining operation for more than two years from the year 2009. Considering the livelihood of the people working directly and indirectly in addition to the stockholders, FACOR challenged the said order before the Revision Authority, New Delhi. Thereafter, Revisional Authority set aside the lapsing order dt. 17.08.2015 vide a common order dt. 11.05.2016 and remanded to State Govt. for suitable reconsideration in-line with the Hon'ble Apex court's direction on the provision of lapsing, expeditiously.
- ix. The APCCF (FD&NO, FCA) has reported that Government of Odisha vide Proceeding Order dtd. 23.08.2023, declared the Mining lease to be subsisting and not to have lapsed in terms of Rule 20(6) of Mineral subject

to the conditions that the Petitioner shall commence production and dispatch by obtaining all Statutory Clearance.

- x. As reported by APCCF (FD&NO, FCA), during the year 2016, Tahsildar Barbil intimated DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division and FACOR that out of total lease area of 13.674 ha., 8.725 ha. was classified as forest land as per Sabik Records as on 25.10.1980 and subsequently Tahsildar Barbil vide his letter no 384/RK dated 11.09.2024 has issued Land schedule certificate that 8.846 ha. is coming under Forest Kisam as per Sabik record as on 25.10.1980.
- xi. After receiving of ORSAC vetted DGPS Surveyed map, Land Suitability certificate with respect to Compensatory Afforestation, tree enumeration list duly countersigned by all concerned and other relevant documents required in lieu of diversion of Forest Area of 8.846 ha. The user agency has submitted the application for diversion of Forest Land over 8.846 ha. (Sabik Forest as on 25.10.1980) in respect of Katasahi Manganese Mines over an area of 13.674 Ha. in Katasahi village of Keonjhar District, of M/s. FACOR Ltd.
- xii. The proposed 8.846 ha of Sabik Forest land is having the canopy density of 0.5 with forest types of Eco-class I. The number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is 515.
- xiii. The details of the land-use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sl. No	Purpose	Proposed land use pattern (in ha)				Non-Forest (Private) in ha	Total (in ha)
		PRF	DLC	Sabik Forest	Total Forest		
1	Mining	0	0	3.4658	3.4658	1.334	4.800
2	Dumping	0	0	1.2804	1.2804	0.000	1.280
3	Road	0	0	0.0230	0.0230	0.243	0.266
4	Top soil	0	0	0.0000	0.0000	0.095	0.950
5	Stack	0	0	0.7505	0.7505	0.041	0.792
6	Mineral & Reject	0	0	0.0156	0.0156	0.264	0.279
7	Office & other infrastructure	0	0	1.5570	1.5570	1.892	3.449
	Sub-Total	0	0	7.0923	7.0923	3.869	10.9513
8	Safety Zone along boundary	0	0	1.7540	1.7540	0.959	2.713
	Grand Total	0	0	8.8463	8.8463	4.828	13.6643

- xiv. The State Government submitted that the lease deed was executed on 01.08.1998 by the Collector, Keonjhar in favour of M/s Ferro Alloys

Corporation Ltd. At the time of execution of the lease deed, the area was recorded as non-forest kism in the revenue records. Mining operations commenced in the year 2001-02, but were discontinued in 2008-09 pursuant to the directive of the Deputy Director of Mines, Joda Circle, on account of non-availability of Environmental Clearance. Subsequent to this order, the lease has remained non-operational, and no mining activity has taken place thereafter. Further, the DFO in its SIR submitted that it was noticed that mining operation has been carried out over 4.14 ha Sabik forest land without obtaining the Forest Clearance from the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi under section 2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. As per Google Time Series data, the aforesaid mining operation was done before 2015.

- xv. The State Government submitted that DFO, Keonjhar has requested the Collector, Keonjhar vide letter No 3907 dated 08.04.2025 to take legal action against User Agency under Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment (OPLE) Act for the above violations.
- xvi. The DFO, Keonjhar Division reported that the 4.14 ha of area in question had been broken prior to 2015, and specifically before the year 2009, and therefore does not constitute a violation of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. This has been reported vide his office Memo No. 7116 dated 10.07.2025.
- xvii. The State Government submitted that proposed area does not form part of any part of any national park, Wildlife sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor and also does not involve any eco-sensitive zone or any protected area, but the Karo-Karpada Elephant Corridor is located at a distance of around 7.5 Km from the project site.
- xviii. The State Government submitted that the Hon'ble High court of Odisha in their order dated 05/11/993 (in M/s FACOR Ltd Vs State of Odisha & others) & dated 14/03/1996 directed the state govt. to consider grant of the mining lease in favour of M/s FACOR Ltd over the non-forest land included in the applied area. Therefore, the State Government granted mining lease for 20 years over 14.123 ha non-forest land vide its letter dated 08/09/1997 excluding 9.551 ha forest area from the original applied area of 23.674 ha.
- xix. The State Government has proposed the 9.1126 Ha of NFL in a single patch for undertaking CA.
- xx. The State Govt. submitted that the mine is well-connected by an existing road network, ensuring smooth and efficient logistics. Further, for water requirements, the user agency has already obtained permission from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), New Delhi, vide NOC No. CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2023/19644 dated 06.12.2023. The electricity requirements shall be fulfilled by diesel-operated mining machineries will be deployed.

- xxi. The Regional Office Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- a) The State Government shall take action against 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 relevant Consolidated Guidelines. The State Government shall enquire into the procedural lapse that led to mining in the forest area and take necessary measures to prevent its recurrence.
  - b) All ancillary activities that are non-site-specific, such as overburden dumping, ore stacking, mineral reject storage, road construction, etc., shall be shifted to the non-forest area of the lease. The non-mineral bearing forest patches within the lease shall be retained as green cover.
  - c) The User Agency shall bear the cost of preparation and implementation of a site-specific Wildlife Management Plan and a Catchment Area Treatment Plan to mitigate the impact of mining on the surrounding flora and fauna, as well as on the seasonal stream flowing near the lease area.
  - d) The User Agency, in consultation with the State Government, shall also explore the possibility of maintaining a wider green belt of 20 m along the lease boundary adjoining the seasonal river, in addition to the mandatory safety zone for the project.
  - e) The User Agency shall maintain a green belt/safety zone not only along the lease boundary, but also around inhabited areas, including school premises, located within the lease area where the User Agency intends to maintain status quo.
  - f) The State Government shall assess and confirm the suitability of the proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) non-forest land from a management perspective, considering its location within a predominantly agricultural region.
  - g) The User Agency shall submit the progressive reclamation plan, restoration schedule, and the schedule for surrender of forest land, as specified under Standard Condition 2(1) of the standard conditions applicable to such projects
- xxii. The Committee observed that the lease area has been under mining till 2009 without statutory clearances related with forest and environment regulations. It was observed that around 4-5 ha of forest land in the lease is already broken for mining without prior approval of the central government. User agency apprised that at the time of lease execution, the status of the land was informed to be non-forest and therefore, the violation is unintentional. The forest land is under jurisdiction of state revenue department.

- xxiii. The Committee observed that the proposed forest land will be utilized for 1.28 ha of overburden dumping, 1.557 ha for office infrastructure, and 0.75 ha for mineral stacking due to certain constraints. The total mining lease area is 13.674 ha and is highly irregular in shape, and is further divided into two separate blocks, thereby significantly restricting the space available for essential mining operations, including dumping and infrastructure development. The non-forest land within the lease measures only 4.828 ha, which is insufficient to accommodate all mining-related activities. Moreover, as mandated under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, a safety zone of 2.713 ha is required to be maintained within the lease area, further reducing the usable area.
  - xxiv. The Committee observed that in accordance with MoEF guidelines of 2015, any land recorded as forest kism in the Sabik revenue records (pre-1980), specifically prior to 25.10.1980, requires Forest Clearance under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, irrespective of its subsequent classification.
  - xxv. The Committee further observed that the Karo-Karmpada Elephant Corridor is located at a distance of around 7.5 Km from the project site.
  - xxvi. The Committee observed that there is a presence of the seasonal stream near the lease area.
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 '***In-principle***' approval for the diversion of 8.846 ha of forest land for mining purpose in respect of Kalasahi Manganese Mines under Keonjhar Forest Division by M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd (FACOR) with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
  - ii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 shall be initiated by the State Forest Department, as applicable.
  - iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhinyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be

deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.

- iv. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval
- v. The Karo-Karmpada Elephant Corridor is located at a distance of around 7.5 Km from the project site. Accordingly, the State Government shall implement the site-specific Wildlife Management Plan duly approved by the CWLW at the cost of the User Agency.
- vi. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency bears the cost of preparation and implementation of a duly approved Catchment Area Treatment Plan by the competent authority to mitigate the impact of mining on surrounding flora, fauna, and the seasonal stream near the lease area.

#### **Agenda No. 41**

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

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 107.596 ha (including 0.99 ha forest land diverted earlier) of forest land for construction of Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project (600 MW) at mukhiguda in Kalahandi District under Kalahandi: (South) forest Division by M/s Odisha Hydropower Corporation Ltd (OHPCL) (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/HYD/IRRIG/500690/2024) -reg.**

1. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0027-2025-11482/FE&CC dated 20.05.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
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) Adhinyam, 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 State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0027-2025-11482/FE&CC dated 20.05.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

- ii. The Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd. (OHPC), a Government of Odisha undertaking, proposes to establish the Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project (UIPSP) of 600 MW (4×150 MW) — a new pumped storage power project to be located adjacent to the existing Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project (UIHEP). The existing Upper Indravati Hydroelectric Project (UIHEP) is a major multipurpose project (Construction started in the year 1978 & operation started in the year 1999) on the Indravati River, covering the districts of Kalahandi, Koraput, and Nabarangpur in south-western Odisha.
- iii. The project site is situated near Mukhiguda village in Kalahandi District and comprises a powerhouse with an installed capacity of 4×150 MW. The project diverts the water of the Indravati River in its upper reaches into the Mahanadi valley for power generation and irrigation purposes. The proposed Pumped Storage Project is based on a mature and proven technology capable of addressing grid balancing challenges and facilitating the integration of variable renewable energy sources. Under the present proposal, the existing reservoir of the UIHEP will serve as the Upper Reservoir, while a new Lower Reservoir will be constructed. The lower reservoir will store water to be pumped back to the upper reservoir in a closed-cycle operation. The project will include an underground powerhouse located near the lower reservoir, equipped with four vertical-axis reversible hydroelectric units of 150 MW capacity each.
- iv. The existing Upper Indravati Project envisages diversion of water of the Indravati river in its upper reaches for power generation and irrigation. The project involves construction of 4 dams across the Indravati and its tributaries, 8 dykes and 2 interlinking channels to form a single reservoir, tunnel, a power house with installation of 4 units of 150 MW each, 9 km tail race channel etc.
- v. The proposed land for diversion i.e. 107.596 ha (106.822 ha Revenue Forest and 0.774 ha RF) is having the canopy density of the 0.6 and forest type of Eco Class III. Total 8,279 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- vi. The land-use plan of the proposal is as under:

Sr. No.	COMPONENT TYPE	PROJECT COMPONENTS	Area in ha.					
			RF	Forest Block	Revenue Forest	Total forest	Non forest (in ha)	Total (in ha)
1.		AREA FOR PROPOSED ROAD	0.000	10.518	0.000	10.518	0.000	10.518
2.		DRAIN, CONSTRUCTION	0.000	4.502	0.000	4.502	0.000	4.502

		FACILITY, EMERGEN CY ESCAPE, CAT etc.							
3.	Grand Activity Compo nents	MAT, POT HEAD YARD, DISTRIBUTI ON SUB- STATION, etc.	0.000	10.900	0.000	10.900	0.000	10.900	
4.		ADDITIONAL HRT & FEC	0.000	0.247	0.000	0.247	0.000	0.247	
5.		BORROW AREA	0.774	0.058	0.000	0.832	5.290	6.122	
6.		CONSTRUC TION FACILITY	0.000	1.038	0.378	1.416	5.035	6.451	
7.		MUCK DISPOSAL	0.000	7.000	0.000	7.000	1.210	8.210	
8.		LABOUR COLONY	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.020	1.020	
9.		LOWER RESERVOIR	0.000	21.139	2.191	23.330	23.288	46.618	
10.		MUCK DISPOAL	0.000	4.036	0.000	4.036	6.958	10.994	
11.		PROPOSED ROAD	0.000	1.473	0.000	1.473	1.530	3.003	
12.		ROCK QUARRY	0.000	13.349	0.000	13.349	0.000	13.349	
13.		PLANTATIO N/GREEN BELT	0.000	9.306	0.000	9.306	0.000	9.306	
<b>Sub-Total (A)</b>			<b>0.774</b>	<b>83.556</b>	<b>2.569</b>	<b>86.909</b>	<b>44.331</b>	<b>131.24 0</b>	
14.		Under Ground Compo nents	HEAD RACE TUNNEL	0.000	2.751	0.000	2.751	0.000	2.751
15.	PH,TC, DRAFT TUBE & OTHERS STRUCTURE S		0.000	4.569	0.000	4.569	0.000	4.569	
16.	POWER INTAKE		0.000	0.798	0.000	0.798	0.000	0.798	
17.	PS,BVC,FEC ,SS AREA		0.000	11.772	0.000	11.772	0.000	11.772	

18.		TRT	0.000	0.797	0.000	0.797	0.000	0.797
		<b>Sub-Total(B)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>20.687</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>20.687</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>20.687</b>
		<b>TOTAL (A+B)</b>	<b>0.774</b>	<b>104.25</b>	<b>2.569</b>	<b>107.59</b>	<b>44.331</b>	<b>151.92</b>
				<b>3</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>

- vii. The DFO in Site Inspection report mentioned that one permanent black topped road from Mukhiguda to Mahulpatna under the Water Resources Department is existing within the applied forest area. Besides, some temporary roads, transmission lines, few encroachments like temporary brick making unit, labour shed, temporary habitation, one RCC building, check dam over a permanent nala, seasonal cultivation are existing within the applied forest area. The said encroachments are located over revenue forest land.
- viii. Further, the State Government has reported that the Project Proponent, i.e., Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC), has not violated any legal clause of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Based on field verification and satellite imagery analysis, it has been observed that the encroachments existed prior to the submission of the forest diversion proposal by the Project Proponent.
- ix. The said encroachments are located over revenue forest land. In this regard, the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi South Division, has intimated the Tehsildar, Jaipatna vide Letter No. 6101, dated 10.10.2025, to initiate appropriate action against the encroachment under the provisions of the Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment (OPLE) Act, 1972 and the same is intimated to the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act), vide Memo No.6326, dated.24.10.2025.
- x. The State Government submitted that there is a presence of the movement of wild animals like Leopard, Sloth bear, Wild boar, Langur, Porcupine, Pangolin in the applied area. Accordingly, the DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division has forwarded the Site Specific Wildlife Management plan to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, for examination and approval vide his Memo No. 6094, dated 10.10.2025.
- xi. The State Government has reported that OHPC already has a 600 MW Hydro Electric Project at Mukhiguda, Kalahandi District on the Indrāvati reservoir. Upper Indrāvati PSP will utilize the existing Upper Indrāvati reservoir. The CAT plan has already been approved in the past for the same reservoir of "Upper Indrāvati Multipurpose Project".
- xii. With regard to the lower reservoir, the State Government has stated that it is a confined storage pond of 4 MCM capacity with embankments and has no independent catchment area contributing runoff. The system operates in a closed-loop cycle, wherein water is drawn from the upper reservoir during peak hours for power generation and pumped back during off-peak hours. As there is no natural inflow or catchment contributing sediment

load to the lower reservoir, preparation of a separate CAT Plan for the lower reservoir is not considered necessary.

- xiii. The State Government further submitted that the Upper Indravati PSP will be made functional using the existing reservoir of Upper Indravati Hydro Electric Project. Hence, there will not be any new dam construction. Only one new intake point on the reservoir near existing intake point will be constructed for drawl of water away from existing dam.
- xiv. The State Government further submitted that Soil and Moisture Conservation Works has been included in the proposed CA scheme.
- xv. The State Government has submitted that the CA land has been proposed over an area of 112.007 Ha of Non Forest Land in two Patches (40.47 and 71.537 Ha) in village Dengafarsi village under Thuamul Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandi district in Kalahandi South Forest division. Further, 63 ha Degraded Forest Land in Kandul Reserved Forest under Patnagarh Forest Range of Bolangir Forest Division and 58 ha Degraded Forest Land in Pipalpani PRF under Khariar Range of Khariar Forest Division have been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation.
- xvi. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal subject to the following:
  - a) Out of the total proposed forest area of 107.596 hectares, 34.323 hectares (for borrow areas, construction facilities, muck disposal, and rock quarry) are proposed for temporary use. This area shall be biologically reclaimed and handed back to the State Forest Department (SFD) upon completion of the activities within a defined time frame. The User Agency (UA) shall submit a definite timeline for this purpose, and the State Government shall ensure its implementation.
  - b) The State Government shall ensure compliance with all provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021, and adhere to the stipulations of the State Dam Safety Authority/National Dam Safety Authority regarding the addition of a new intake point to the existing upper reservoir.
  - c) The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site shall be made free from all encroachments and properly fenced before the commencement of any plantation activity, at the cost of the User Agency.
  - d) The State Forest Department shall implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.
  - e) The State Government shall take necessary action to remove encroachments from the proposed diversion site, as detailed in Point No. 9 of the Site Inspection Report, in accordance with the existing rules.

- f) The User Agency shall re-examine the cost-benefit ratio, taking into account all relevant parameters in monetary terms, and resubmit the same.
  - g) The User Agency shall carry out the required soil and moisture conservation works and stabilisation measures at the proposed road construction site, and the State Government shall ensure compliance.
  - h) While the User Agency has stated that a separate Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan is not required for the lower reservoir, the State Government shall assess its necessity, impose additional CAT measures if required, and ensure implementation at the cost of the User Agency.
- xvii. The proposal was considered in the AC meeting held on 02.12.2025 and the committee after detailed discussion and deliberation *deferred* the proposal for the want of the following:
- i. The State Government shall revisit the non-site-specific components like contractor colony and the dumping site proposed over the forest land and shift them to non-forest land.
  - ii. The state shall ensure that the component wise breakup given in the proposal is commensurate with the approved layout as per the DPR/approval of the CEA/competent authority. The details in this regard shall be submitted.
  - iii. The State Government has reported that in order to accommodate the balance seedlings. 58 ha and 63.00 ha of degraded forest land have been identified. In this regard the Additional degraded forest land (DFL) is required only when the non-forest area is not fit for raising the compensatory afforestation of a specified density. The state shall examine the matter and do the needful accordingly.
  - iv. The user agency has stated that a separate CAT plan is not required for the lower reservoir. In this regard, the Regional Office in the site inspection report has recommended that the state government shall assess the necessity of the CAT Plan. The State is accordingly requested to furnish comments and justification for the same.
- xviii. The State Government has furnished the point wise reply to the observations of the AC vide its letter dated 03.02.2026 and 19.02.2026.
- xix. The State Government has submitted the detailed justification for proposing of 11.036 ha of forest land proposed for muck disposal.
- xx. The State Govt. further submitted that Post-construction, the 11.036 ha of forest land will be handed back to the Forest Department with adequate restoration measures to facilitate ecological regeneration. The Divisional

Forest Officer has inspected the site and confirmed that the forest loss is minimal, supporting the proposed temporary use of the area

- xxi. The Committee observed that there is a presence of the movement of wild animals like Leopard, Sloth bear, Wild boar, Langur, Porcupine, Pangolin in the applied area. Accordingly, the DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division has forwarded the Site Specific Wildlife Management plan to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, for examination and approval vide his Memo No. 6094, dated 10.10.2025.
  - xxii. The Committee observed that Upper Indravati PSP will be made functional using the existing reservoir of Upper Indravati Hydro Electric Project. Hence, there will not be any new dam construction. Only one new intake point on the reservoir near existing intake point will be constructed for drawl of water away from existing dam.
  - xxiii. The Committee further observed that the lower reservoir, has confined storage pond of 4 MCM capacity with embankments and has no independent catchment area contributing runoff. The system operates in a closed-loop cycle, wherein water is drawn from the upper reservoir during peak hours for power generation and pumped back during off-peak hours. As, there is no natural inflow or catchment contributing sediment load to the lower reservoir, preparation of a separate CAT Plan for the lower reservoir is not considered necessary.
  - xxiv. The Committee further observed that the original proposal is for 107.596 ha. As per the directions of the Advisory Committee, the area requirement was re-examined by the OHPC and it is finalised that, out of 107.596 ha of forest land 98.290 ha. shall be used for project construction work/ activities and 9.306 ha. of forest land meant for contractor's colony shall be developed as a "green belt" by adequate plantation.
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 '***In-principle***' approval for the diversion of 107.596 ha of forest land for construction of Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project (600 MW) at mukhiguda in Kalahandi District under Kalahand: (South) forest Division by M/s Odisha Hydropower Corporation Ltd (OHPCL) with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. There is a presence of the movement of wild animals like Leopard, Sloth bear, Wild boar, Langur, Porcupine, Pangolin in the forest land proposed for diversion. Accordingly, the State Government shall implement the site-specific Wildlife Management Plan duly approved by the CWLW at the cost of the User Agency.

- ii. The State Government shall ensure that out of 107.596 ha of forest land 98.290 ha. shall be used for project construction work/ activities and 9.306 ha. of forest land meant for contractor's colony shall be developed as a "green belt" by adequate plantation.
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure that post-construction, an area of 11.036 ha of forest land earmarked for muck disposal shall be handed back to the Forest Department with adequate restoration measures to facilitate ecological regeneration.

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

#### **Proposal. No. FP/AS/MIN/QRY/562031/2025**

**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 21.0 Ha of reserved forest land for opencast Jagiroad Stone Mining Area No. F (6) in the Nagaon Forest Division in District Morigaon in Assam by M/s Dipan Deka, Range Officer, Forest Division, Nagaon (Proposal No. FP/AS/MIN/QRY/562031/2025)- reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (C), Regional Office, Shillong, and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee noted that the instant proposal was considered in its earlier meeting held on 22.01.2026, wherein the Committee, had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam. The Committee, after considering the various facts of the case '**deferred**' the proposal for obtaining the following information from the State Government:
  - i. The State Government shall provide its comments as to whether the extant mine is in consonance with the provisions of the District Survey Report prepared by the State Government for the Morigaon District.
  - ii. There are mining leases approved in the area in the past which were observed with unexplained broken up areas which appears to be broken without the prior approval of the Central Government. The State Government, therefore, clearly bring out the fact that whether the mining operation were carried out within the forest area approved under the Adhiniyam or otherwise.
  - iii. The canopy density of the area proposed for diversion is 0.7 while the number of project affected trees have been reported only 284 which appears to be underestimated. Accordingly, the State Government shall re-visit the number of

- project affected trees and canopy density reported and the same shall be informed to the Ministry.
- iv. The area proposed for mining has been reported to be susceptible soil erosion, especially along the slopes of hilly area, the State Government shall therefore submit the details of mitigation measures proposed to minimise the soil erosion and protection of nearby waterbodies from the proposed mining activities.
  - v. Analysis of the CA land using DSS tools and Google Satellite Imagery revealed the signs of settlement, cultivation land and kachha road are visible in the proposed CA site. The State Government may re-visit the suitability of CA land and inform the Ministry accordingly.
  - vi. The State Government may provide a justification on submission of the proposal by the State Forest Department while the lease is subsequently will be assigned to mine developers for carrying out the mining operations.
4. The decision of the Committee was communicated to the State Government on 08.02.2026. The State Government submitted its reply online on 25.02.2026 and informed following:
- i. Concerned mine is duly included in DSR of Morigaon District as per recommendations made by the SEIAA, Assam in its meeting held on 22.09.2025.
  - ii. Said broken area is not part of proposed mining area and it is substantial away from present mine. The proposed mine is a separate mine, without any previous operation. The details of broken up area in the other mines of the area along with justification is worked by the State and a report on the same, including violation of the Adhinyam, if any observed, shall be submitted separately by the State
  - iii. As regards to tree estimation in the area, the Divisional Forest officer has confirmed after re-visiting the area that canopy density of the area is on higher side due to shrubs and bamboo culms present in the area. The details of shrubs and bamboos has been included and updated in the proposal.
  - iv. Soil and Moisture conservation mitigation measures, required in the area will be prepared and submitted along with compliance of In-principle approval. Concerned mitigation plan will include all suitable measures to maintain proper health of nearby wetlands.
  - v. Concerned CA site has been freed from all encroachment in Nov, 2025 and suitable for plantation now. Also, proposed CA site is in compliance of State Govt. Notification of degraded land. E-670293/25 dtd. 26.12.2025.
  - vi. In accordance with the guideline of the State Forest Department, it was decided that to avoid delays, better revenue augmentation through e-auction after receiving such clearances, the statutory clearance may be pursued by the Forest Department. Accordingly, the proposal was submitted by the State Forest Department. Further, the applicability of compensatory measures viz. compensatory afforestation, net present value and other compensatory afforestation will be similar to private entities. Hence, after obtaining approval and

its subsequent transfer to lessee will not impact the regime of compensatory afforestation and other mitigation measures.

5. The Nodal Officer, further informed the following:
  - i. District Level Committees have been constituted across the State for preparation, monitoring and oversight of the District Survey Reports (DSRs). The Committee, headed by the District Commissioner and comprising officers from the Water Resources Department, Revenue and Land Department, Directorate of Geology and Mining, and Assam Pollution Control Board, prepares the DSRs. The DSRs are recommended by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee and subsequently approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority.
  - ii. The approved DSRs provide a comprehensive scientific assessment of minor mineral resources, including stone and sand, covering reserve estimation, annual production capacity, replenishment characteristics, environmentally sensitive areas and No-Go zones. Mining operations in the State are regulated in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the respective approved DSRs to ensure sustainable mining.
  - iii. The Nodal Officer has also referred to the order dated 23.07.2024 of the Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 86/2024 (*Pradeep Singh Shekhawat vs. Union of India & Ors.*), wherein it was noted that as per the *Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining*, preparation of a District Survey Report is mandatory prior to auction/e-auction or grant of mining lease/Letter of Intent by the State authorities.
  - iv. An I.A. No. 218391/2024 in W.P. (C) No. 202/1995 has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court alleging illegal mining (stone quarrying) in certain districts of Assam. In this regard, the State Government has constituted a Committee, and a report has been submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. There is no court case or other litigation pending in respect of the extant mine. However, any binding directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its final decision in the aforesaid I.A. shall be duly complied with by the user agency in respect of the extant mining lease.
6. The Nodal Officer further submitted that Committee that many developmental projects area being implemented in the State and more developmental projects have been proposed. To cater to the requirement of construction material for these projects, stone quarries are essential for the State.
7. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussions and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval subject to fulfilment of general, standard and following additional conditions:
  - i. A site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared by the State Government, for the conservation and protection of wildlife in the area. The

said plan will be approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State and a copy of the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval. The cost of preparation and implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan shall be borne by the user agency and deposited into the account of State CAMPA through PARIVESH Portal.

- ii. A plan on the soil and moisture conservation mitigation measures, required in the area will be prepared and submitted along with compliance of In-principle approval. The cost of preparation and implementation of the soil and moisture conservation plan shall be borne by the user agency and deposited into the account of State CAMPA through PARIVESH Portal.
- iii. There are mining leases approved in the area in the past which were observed to be broken without the prior approval of the Central Government. The State Government, therefore, clearly bring out the fact that whether the mining operation were carried out within the forest area approved under the Adhinyam or otherwise. A detailed report on the same shall be submitted separately by the State Government to the Ministry and its Regional Office.
- iv. The State Government shall ensure that the extant mine is in conformity with, and within the mining potential assessed in, the approved District Survey Report prepared by the State Government. A copy of the DSR report will be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval.
- v. An I.A. No. 218391/2024 in W.P. (C) No. 202/1995 has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court alleging illegal mining (stone quarrying) in certain districts of Assam. Any binding directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its final decision in the aforesaid I.A. shall be duly complied with by the user agency in respect of the extant mining lease.

**(Confirmed through E-mail)**

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

**(Confirmed through E-mail)**

Shri Nityanand Srivastava  
(non-official Member)

**(Confirmed through E-mail)**

Shri Manoj Pant  
(non-official Member)

**(Confirmed on file)**

Shri Santosh Tiwari

Additional Director General of Forests (FC)  
(Member)

**(Confirmed through E-mail)**

Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey

Additional Director General of Forests (WL)  
(Member)

**(Confirmed on file)**

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

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