



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



MoM ID FC/MOM/AC/969417/2026
Agenda ID FC/AGENDA/AC/111100/2026
Title of Meeting 4th meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) for the year 2026
Meeting Venue Krishna Conference Hall
Meeting Mode Hybrid
Meeting Dates & Time Start Date : 08/05/2026
End Date : 08/05/2026

List of AC Members:

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

Proposals considered during Meeting:

1. Project Name Exploration of Hydrocarbon / Natural Gas through Drilling and Approach Road of location AA-ONO-184-BOA-A
Proposal Number FP/TR/MINOIL/445521/2023
User Agency JAGDEV SINGH NEGI
Forest Land Area (Ha) 0.9642
Division Gomati District Forest Division

Recommendation Deferred

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 08.05.2026 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 decided to 'defer' the proposal with the observation that Nodal Office of the State to remain present in the next meeting of the Advisory Committee

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

Proposal

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

Project

User Agency TEJINDAR PAL SINGH

Forest

Area (Ha) 1.572

Division South District Forest Division

Recommendation

Deferred

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

The Committee decided to 'defer' the proposal with the observation that Nodal Office of the State to remain present in the next meeting of the Advisory Committee

3. Project Name Rehabilitation from Core 1 of RVTR Bundi
Proposal Number FP/RJ/REHAB/446875/2023
User Agency Sanjeev Sharma
Forest Land Area(Ha) 244.9723
Division Bundi Territorial Division
Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

4. Project Name Construction of proposed 400 kV S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-I I SS near Village Kaansingh ki Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Proposal Number FP/RJ/PWR_TRANS/451503/2023

User Agency ADANI RENEWABLE ENERGY HOLDING FOUR LIMITED

Forest Land Area(Ha) 16.5972

Division Jodhpur Territorial Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

5. Project Name

Permission for construction of approach Access to " The Kings Villa" (Banquet Hall)at Vil l: Dugal Kalan Tehsil: Patran Distt: Patiala on Ludhiana-Rohtak Road (NH-52) Km 211-2 12 L/S under Forest division Patiala.

Proposal Number

FP/PB/OTHERS/452423/2023

User Agency

Narinder Kumar

Forest Land Area(Ha)

0.1235

Division

Patiala Division

Recommendation

Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

6. Project Name Permission for construction of approach Access to "THE BRITISH CO-ED HIGH SCHOOL" at Vill: Sanour Tehsil: & Distt: Patiala

Proposal Number FP/PB/OTHERS/433877/2023

User Agency KIRAN HARIKA

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.0156

Division Patiala Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

7. Project Name LAYING OF UNDERGRUND OFC BY BHARTI AIRTEL LIMITED IN PATIALA FOREST DIVISION

Proposal Number FP/PB/OFC/431912/2023

User Agency RAJEEV PANDEY

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.0507

Division Patiala Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

8. Project Name construction of 132 KV D/C (4 Conductor) transmission line from 220/132/33 KV GSS Bamara to RTSS, Garposh (SE Railway) in Sambalpur District in the State of Odisha

Proposal Number FP/OR/PWR_TRANS/449599/2023

User Agency SANTOSH KUMAR MAHANTO

Forest Land Area(Ha) 13.899

Division Bamra WL Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

9. Project Name Diversion of forest land over an area 216.875 ha (including Safety Zone of 4.217 ha) applied under Section-2 (ii) of FC Act, 1980 within the allotted mining lease over 241.100 ha in respect of Gandhalpada Iron Ore Block under Keobjhar Forest Division.

Proposal Number FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445444/2023

User Agency Devraj Tiwari

Forest Land Area (Ha) 216.875

Division Keonjhar Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

10. 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: Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval

11. Project Name 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:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Additional information sought from State Government

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

Proposal Number FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/477051/2024
User Agency Ivaturi Nandikeswara Rao
Forest Land Area(Ha) 160.783
Division Pune Division
Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

13. Project Name 96.00ha Bajna iron Ore mine
Proposal Number FP/MP/MIN/QRY/454396/2023
User Agency SURENDRA KUMAR GUPTA
Forest Land Area(Ha) 96.66
Division Chhatarpur(T) Division
Recommendation Deferred

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Additional information sought from State Government

14. Project Name Diversion of Existing Approach Road of Devadari Iron Ore Mine ML No. 006 (old ML No 2290) over an extent of 1.65 Ha in SM Block, Sandur South Range, Ballari District, Karnataka

Proposal Number FP/KA/MIN/QRY/421301/2023

User Agency Sunil Kumar Singh

Forest Land Area(Ha) 1.6541

Division Bellary Division

Recommendation Deferred

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Additional information sought from State Government

15. Project Name Diversion of Forest Land for Improvement of Water Supply Scheme to Jamakhandi City under AMRUT 2.0 from City Municipal Council, Jamakhandi Taluk, Bagalakote District.

Proposal Number FP/KA/WATER/514888/2024

User Agency Municipal Commissioner

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.2949

Division Bagalkot Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

16. Project Name C/o Road Roni to Karyali KM 00/00 To 05/0130 within the jurisdiction of Theog Forest Division, Distt. Shimla H.P.

Proposal Number FP/HP/ROAD/557607/2025

User Agency RAVI BHATTI

Forest Land Area(Ha) 1.8382

Division Theog Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

17. Project Name Regularization of already constructed link road from Khaprera to Tarnoh Km 0/00 to 0/800 reported earlier under violation to hon'ble high court of H.P.

Proposal Number FP/HP/ROAD/531300/2025

User Agency Pradeep Singh Thakur

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.2966

Division Mandi Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

18. Project Name Forest Land Diversion For access to Warehouse Storage of Non-Agro Produce (Logistic Purpose). M/s Freight Systems India Pvt. Ltd. ,Village Jatauli, Haily Mandi, District Guru gram Haryana.

Proposal Number FP/HR/OTHERS/491668/2024

User Agency GULASHAN VARMA

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.0058

Division Gurgaon Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

19. Project Name Construction of side drain along Bawwa to Bahala road and Bawwa to Garhi road at village Bawwa, Tehsil Kosli, Distt. Rewari.

Proposal Number FP/HR/OTHERS/506674/2024

User Agency Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Bawwa

Forest Land Area(Ha) 0.054

Division Rewari Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

20. Project Name Block VII Cudnem Mineral Block

Proposal Number FP/GA/MIN/QRY/466437/2024

User Agency Sunil Gupta

Forest Land Area(Ha) 5.3612

Division North Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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

Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

21. Project Name DONDI IRON ORE MINE
Proposal Number FP/CG/MIN/QRY/561413/2025
User Agency RISHABH MITTAL
Forest Land Area(Ha) 29.962
Division BALOD DIVISION
Recommendation Deferred

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Additional information sought from State Govt.

22. Project Name Construction of 220 KV DCDS line from 220/132 KV Substation Chhuri to M/s SECL Gevra area - I & II Dipka, SECL Gevra project Distt Korba (RL-16 KM)
Proposal Number FP/CG/TRANS/423052/2023
User Agency INJOR KUMAR SAI
Forest Land Area(Ha) 12.001

Division KATGHORA DIVISION

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

23. Project Name Kente Extension opencast coal Mining & Pit Head coal Washery Project
Proposal Number FP/CG/MIN/QR/479349/2024
User Agency Hem Raj
Forest Land Area(Ha) 1742.6
Division SURGUJA DIVISION
Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval

24. Proj The proposal for establishment of retail out-let dealership of Green India Bio Diesel (A Unit

Project Name of GIBPP Bio Diesel Pvt. Ltd.) Location Proposed Biodiesel Pump Site-B Retail Outlet Dealership MS/HSD Retail outlet Dealership at Location At. Khara Jamui District, Bihar.

Proposal

Proposal Number FP/BR/PetrolPump/451509/2023

Project

User Agency MUKESH SINGH

Forest Land Area (Ha) 0.0225

Division Jamui Division

Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

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

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

26. Project Name Kalai II Hydro Electric Project
Proposal Number FP/AR/HYD/IRRIG/519205/2025
User Agency Harsh Kumar
Forest Land Area(Ha) 869.3503
Division Namsai Forest Division,Namasi
Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

Recommended for grant of Stage-I approval.

27. Project Name Drilling of Exploratory Location DPAB
Proposal Number FP/AS/MINOIL/563169/2025
User Agency LILY P CHAWANG
Forest Land Area(Ha) 1.889
Division Golaghat Division
Recommendation Rejected

Brief Description of Project:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 08.05.2026 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 08.05.2026 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 decided that no further action in the extant proposal are required and proposal may accordingly be closed. Further, the Committee recommended that user agency shall submit a fresh proposal corresponding the new location proposed by them for shifting their drilling operations.

28. Project Name Exploratory Drilling at Location. HZO
Proposal Number FP/AS/MINOIL/449755/2023
User Agency RUPAM JYOTI SUTRADHAR
Forest Land Area(Ha) 4.9
Division Digboi Division
Recommendation Accepted

Brief Description of Project:

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Previous Deliberation Details:

N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 08.05.2026 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	Document
1	Diversion of 233 ha. forest land (197.0272 Ha Reserved Forest, 26.066 Ha Private Forest and 9.9068 Ha Protected Forest) for construction of Saidongar-I Karjat Off-Stream Open	N/A

S.No.	Remarks	Document
	Loop Pumped Storage Project (3000 MW) (Hydro power electricity generation) at Pali, Tal. Kotal Khalati, Saidongar & Dhak Village, Karjat Taluka, Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra in favour of M/s Torrent PSP 3 Private Limited (Proposal No. FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/515850/2024)	
2	Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s GAWAR SCC PL JV for non-forestry use of 0.7076 ha of Reserved forest for Upgradation of Tuirial Playground at Village- Seling, District- Aizawl in the State of Mizoram (Proposal No: FP/MZ/OTHERS/454598/2023) (File No. FC-11/239/2025-FC)	N/A

Other Item Deliberation:

1. Recommendation

Accepted

Brief Description:

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Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

the Committee 'recommended' to accept the newly identified CA land over 252.7597 ha of non-forest land in village Kemase and Dhankal

2. Recommendation

Deferred

Brief Description:

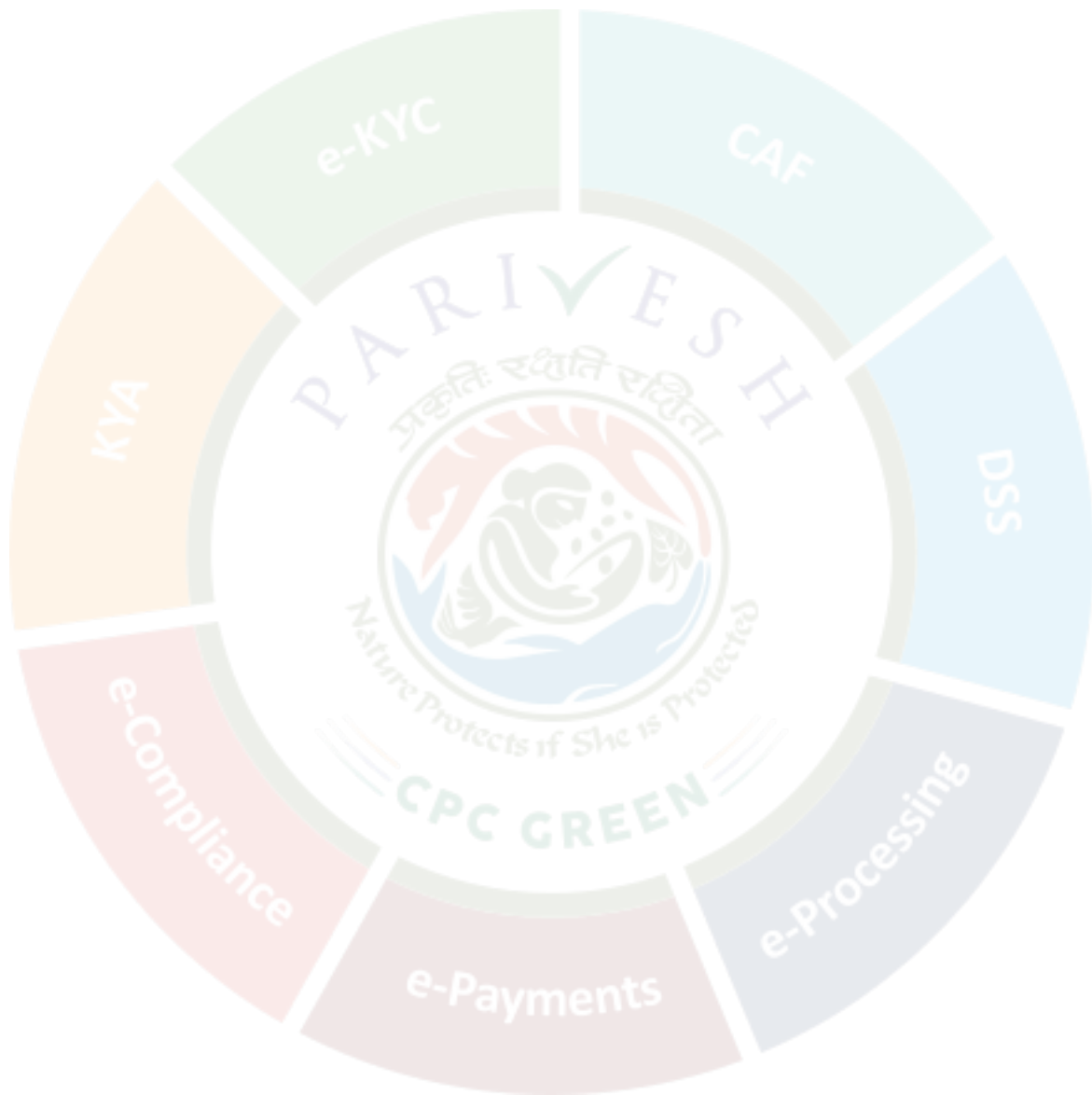
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Current Deliberation Details:

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Recommendation Remark:

The Committee decided that the penal measures stipulated in the in-principle approval shall be complied with by the State Government and a report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of Stage-I approval.



(PARIVESH 2.0)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on 08.05.2026

Agenda No. 1

Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/449755/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Oil India Ltd. for non-forestry use of 4.9 ha Reserved Forest land for Exploration Drilling of Hydrocarbons at location HZO in Upper Dehing Reserved Forest (West Block) under Digboi Division in Village- Lakhpathar Block (A to E), District- Tinsukia in the State of Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/449755/2023)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DIGF (Central), Sub-office, Guwahati under RO, Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 4.9 ha Reserved Forest land for Exploration Drilling of Hydrocarbons at location HZO in Upper Dehing Reserved Forest (West Block) under Digboi Division in Village- Lakhpathar Block (A to E), District- Tinsukia in the State of Assam.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 2.32 ha is required for approach road, 2.37 ha for Plinth (including safety zone), 0.04 ha for boiler, 0.16 ha for Flare (including safety zone) & 0.01 ha for line joining boiler to plinth.
 - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.4 of Eco class I with 135 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
 - iv. DFO, Digboi has mentioned in Part- II that the area has various endangered species including elephants, leopards etc. Further, it is also mentioned in Part- II that the proposed area falls inside Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve. During drilling there could be disturbance to nearby wildlife. Also, there could be increase in man animal conflict owing to the disturbance. PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Assam has recommended the project subject to certain conditions viz. the PP shall resort to minimal tree felling, No adverse impact shall be caused to the wild animals and their habitat, the PP shall take adequate measures against all kinds of pollution like oil & gas leakage or explosion of the well and 2% of the

total project cost shall be deposited as CORPUS fund to be utilized by the CWLW for preparation of Human-Animal Conflict Mitigation and Wild Life Conservation & Management Plan and its implementation.

- 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 2 ha is non-forest land.
- vii. Compensatory Afforestation was proposed over 5.0 ha non-forest land inside compensatory afforestation land bank of 830 ha. of evicted non forest land adjacent to Burahchapory Wildlife Sanctuary under Nagaon Wildlife Division, Nagaon. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- viii. DFO, Digboi Division in Part-II reported no violation of Adhiniyam whereas in his site inspection report it is mentioned that most of the proposed area has been encroached by tea gardens. Further, in response to Ministry's observation on the violation, the State Government has reported eviction of encroachers from an area of 2.98 ha and possession of eviction area by the DFO. A copy of report on eviction of tea gardens over an area of 2.98 ha has been submitted by the State. It is mentioned that possession of the land has been taken over by the DFO.
- 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. whether the proposed area falls in any ESZ or No Development Zone, approved mineral-oil exploration plan, Wildlife management and Mitigation plan, extent of encroachment; KML file of the encroachment inside proposed area and action taken for removal of encroachment, comments from State Government regarding presence of road and cultivation land, status on forest clearance of the existing approach road and impact study of Oil & Gas drilling and production activities in the Dumduma PML on the flora and fauna etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 08.01.2025. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 22.04.2026 and informed following:
 - a) The user agency has mentioned that SC-NBWL Clearance has been applied vide application no.: WL/AS/Others/490994/2024. The SC-NBWL has considered and recommended the proposal on 26.05.2025.

- b) The user agency has mentioned that the project is of exploratory in nature, hence exploration plan is not applicable.
 - c) Copy of approved Wildlife Management & Conflict Mitigation Plan approved by PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Assam for an amount of ₹39.28 Lakhs has been submitted.
 - d) Report on eviction of Tea Gardens at UDRF (West Block) for proposed oil drilling location namely HZO at Lakhipather Range, Digboi Division over an area of 2.98 ha has been submitted by officer In-charge, Lakhipather Range to DFO, Digboi.
 - e) DFO has mentioned that the road is an unused existing forest road. The land cultivated within the proposed area is a cultivated tea garden and an encroachment by the forest villagers which has been evicted on 16.09.2025 by the Lakhipather Range team.
 - f) DFO has mentioned in his reply that the approach road has been included within the total forest land applied for diversion under the proposal.
 - g) DFO has mentioned that the said impact study has been rejected by this office, and Oil India has been directed to prepare a comprehensive long-term plan (10 year) for wildlife and biodiversity management and other mitigation measures for addressing the impact of various projects of Oil India Limited such as pipelines, drilling locations etc. In continuation, this office has requested Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to prepare a comprehensive wildlife management plan which will be supported by the Oil India. Oil India has expressed its consent to the WII in this regard.
- xii. The Regional Office submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhinyam. The DDGF has recommended the proposal with certain conditions as under:
- (1) The comment of CWLW on the proposed area particularly in light of court cases pertaining to protection of Dihing-Patkai Elephant Reserve and surrounding areas, etc. as the proposed development drilling locations are within the Dehing Patkai Elephant reserve area.
 - (2) The user agency shall deposit 2% of the total project cost/ as per Ministry guideline letter FC-11/135/2024-FC dated 26.12.2024 into the account of CAMPA which will be utilized to prepare and implement mitigation plan to mitigate the Human Animal Conflict and precautionary measures to ensure free movement of the elephants in the landscape.
 - (3) The State Govt. shall ensure that under no circumstances, implementation of such mitigating measures envisaged in Human Animal Conflict mitigation and wildlife conservation plan should be delayed beyond a period of 2 years to ensure commencement of rejuvenation of ecosystem services lost from the forest area allowed for non-forestry use of forest land at the earliest possible time.
 - (4) The State Govt. shall submit Human Animal Conflict mitigation plan and Wildlife Conservation Management Plan approved by Chief

Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Assam along with detail cost of its implementation.

- 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 4.9 ha Reserved Forest land for Exploration Drilling of Hydrocarbons at location HZO in Upper Dehing Reserved Forest (West Block) under Digboi Division in Village- Lakhpathar Block (A to E), District- Tinsukia in the State of Assam subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. To avoid avert disasters, the hazardous zone around the bore well, oil pads or pipelines or other ancillary infrastructure including Blow Out Preventer (BOP) should be maintained by the user agency engaged in the mining or transportation of mineral oil as per the norms stipulated in the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, and rules framed thereunder.
 - ii. Recommendations made in the Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas (2022-23 (Safety and Security of Oil Installations of Public Sector Oil companies with specific reference to Baghjan Blow -out incident) shall be strictly adhered to by the user agency to avoid disaster in future.
 - iii. The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department should keep the forest area of optimum width along the boundary of the area proposed for diversion clear of vegetation as a fire control line.
 - iv. Silent transformers to be used during exploration activity to avoid noise pollution on surrounding wildlife.
 - v. A Wildlife Management Plan and Human Animal Conflict mitigation plan shall be prepared at the cost of user agency and a copy of the said plan, approved by the PCCF & CWLW of the State shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval. Cost of the aforesaid plan shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA.
 - vi. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that directions passed in OA No. 19/2014 (Dr. Kashmira Kakati vs. Union of India) shall be abided by the user agency.

Agenda No. 2

Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563169/2025

Subject: Proposal for amendment of conditions stipulated in In-principle approval for diversion of 1.889 ha of Reserved Forest in favour of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. Jorhat for exploration drilling of Hydrocarbon at location DPAB in District- Golaghat in the State of Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/563169/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DIGF (Central), Sub-office, Guwahati under RO, 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 letter No. 3-ASB/121/2022/GHY dated 09.02.2024 inter-alia stipulating following conditions:

Condition No. xix. 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. xxiii. 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 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 was further apprised by the Nodal Officer that the forest area presently proposed for diversion by the user agency is sought to be shifted entirely to a new location in view of the existence of a gas pipeline passing underneath the forest land measuring 1.889 ha, for which Stage-I approval had earlier been granted by the Ministry.
 - vi. The Nodal Officer further informed the Committee that the instant proposal seeking amendment of the approved conditions had been submitted by the State Government in anticipation of obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NoC) from the user agency in whose favour forest land measuring 79.5284 ha had already been diverted. However, since the requisite NoC could not be secured from the concerned user agency, M/s ONGC has proposed relocation of the drilling site to an alternative area situated in close proximity to the already diverted forest land, with the objective of avoiding overlap and interference with the forest land previously diverted for laying of the petroleum pipeline.
 - vii. The Committee after taking cognizance of the development observed that as the drilling location is proposed to be shifted to entirely new area, therefore, the further processing of the extant proposal may not be needed as the user agency is required to submit a fresh proposal for the diversion of forest land proposed at new proposed location.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DIGF (Central), RO, Shillong and Nodal Officer, Government of Assam and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided that no further action in the extant proposal are required and proposal may accordingly be closed. Further, the Committee recommended that user agency shall submit a fresh proposal corresponding the new location proposed by them for shifting their drilling operations.

Agenda No. 3

Proposal No. FP/AR/HYD/IRRIG/519205/2025

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 THDC India Ltd. for non-forestry use of 869.3503 ha. of forest land (Reserved Forest and Others forest land) for construction of Kalai Hydro Electric Project Stage- II (1200 MW) on Lohit river a tributary of Brahmaputra river within

the jurisdiction of Namsai and Anjaw Forest Division, Villages- Chunyu & Mechong, District- Anjaw in the State of Arunachal Pradesh (Online proposal No. FP/AR/HYD/IRRIG/519205/2025)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DIGF (Central), Sub-office, Guwahati under RO, 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 869.3503 ha. of forest land (Reserved Forest and Others forest land) for construction of Kalai Hydro Electric Project Stage- II (1200 MW) on Lohit river a tributary of Brahmaputra river within the jurisdiction of Namsai and Anjaw Forest Division, Villages- Chunyu & Mechong, District- Anjaw in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ii. The user agency has mentioned that Kalai H.E. Project Stage- II is located in the Anjaw District of Arunachal Pradesh. The project envisages utilization of the discharge of the Lohit River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra River to generate about 1200 MW of power or 4852.95 GWh of design Energy (90% dependable year with 95% machine availability). The project is proposed to be developed as a run-of-the-river with a pondage scheme by constructing a 198.00 m high concrete gravity dam (from the deepest foundation level) and an underground powerhouse.
 - iii. Out of 869.350 ha proposed for diversion, submergence area is estimated as 638.456 ha, underground area is 9.6419 ha, quarry area is 6.2368 ha, muck disposal, quarry, infrastructure and other works is 215.0153 ha.
 - iv. It is mentioned that earlier CEA had accorded concurrence to M/s Kalai Power Private Limited (KPPL) vide OM dated 27.03.2015, later on the proposal was transferred to M/s THDC India Limited by Central Electricity Authority vide letter No. CEA-HY-12-32/1/2024-HPA Division dated 23.02.2024.
 - v. The diversion is proposed on Lohit River basin, a tributary of the Brahmaputra River for which Cumulative Impact & Carrying Capacity Study (CIA & CCS) of Lohit river basin has been approved by the Ministry on 13.10.2016.
 - vi. Patch wise details and component wise details has been submitted by the user agency along with the proposal.
 - vii. Density of vegetation in the proposed area is 0.5 having Eco-class I in Namsai Forest Division and vegetation of 0.4 having Eco-class V in

Anjaw Forest Division. 16,848 trees are proposed to be felled in Namsai Forest Division and 16,490 trees are proposed to be felled in Anjaw Forest Division, totally 33,338 trees are proposed to be felled.

- viii. It has been mentioned that proposed project is 11.32 Km from Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary and 26.51 Km from Namdapha National Park. 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.
- ix. Proposal involves rehabilitation of 276 project affected families in 25 villages. The user agency has mentioned that R&R will be undertaken in accordance with the State R&R Plan.
- x. Important wildlife reported in the area include Hollock gibbon, capped langur, assamese macaque, stump tailed macaque, sambar, serow, takin, leopard cat, fishing cat, snake, Wild Goat, Deer, Squirrel, fox, Python, Monitor Lizard, Leopard, Butterflies, Woodpecker, Quail, wild cat, Bear, wild pigeon, Rat, Bat are some of the important species present in and around the area.
- xi. The presence of White Bellied Heron reported in the forest landscape of the area. The Nodal Office informed the Committee that the said species is not spotted in the area proposed for diversion. However, as the presence of White Bellied Heron is reported in the landscape, accordingly, the Committee opined that Wildlife Management Plan for Kalai- II 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 and approved copy shall be submitted along with compliance report of Stage- I approval. Special emphasis on conservation of habitat of White Bellied Heron shall be included in the said report.
- xii. No violation of the Adhinyam have been reported, however, examination of the proposals using DSS tools using Google Satellite Imagery, solid structures, road and cultivation land is visible in proposed area. Further, non-forest work such as construction of road and clearing of ground is also visible in Segment A2. The State Government has mentioned in their reply dated 25.02.2026 has clarified that a pre-1980 road exists measuring 0.59 ha in the area. Except for the existing road, no cultivation land, permanent structures, or other non-forest uses are present in the said segment. The Nodal Officer informed that Committee that said road is present in the area proposed for temporary camp areas. Out of the total 2.6935 ha of forest land proposed for camp area, an area of 2.0459 ha (after excluding the road area) shall be vacated upon completion of construction and may be handed over to the Forest Department after removal of all temporary structures.
- xiii. As per decision Rule- 1 the area falls into the High Conservation Value Zone and as per decision Rule- 2 the are falls into Not-in High Conservation Value Zone. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 75 ha of land is classified as very dense forest, 169 ha as moderately

dense forest, 284 ha as open forest, 7 ha as Scrub, 168 ha as Water and 158 ha as non-forest land without tree cover.

- xiv. Compensatory Afforestation is proposed over degraded forest land double in extent i.e. 2,112.782 ha in 51 patches in Madhya Pradesh State. Initially, the CA was proposed in 1740.10 ha in 40 sites, out of which certain sites were observed with MDF and CDF forests. Subsequently, the State Government has identified additional 11 sites of degraded forest land having an area of 372.682 ha (software calculated area) in the Guna District of Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, total sites proposed for CA are 51 over an area of 2,112.782 ha, out of which 1861.852 ha is suitable for afforestation. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance and site suitability certificates has been furnished by the concerned DFOs.
- xv. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. state Government to re-visit the suitability of areas for raising CA and if needed alternate suitable CA sites may be identified and details of the same needs to be submitted, State Government to explore the possibility of shifting non-site specific activities to non-forest land, approved R&R plan, progress of preparation of CAT plan, approval of State Dam Safety Authority (SDSA) and National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), recommendation made in CIA & CCS study, details of power evacuation plan, details of other projects, if any, located in the down stream and upstream area, muck disposal plan, details of forest land involved in re-alignment of road & alternative arrangements to ensure uninterrupted connectivity, detailed component wise breakup indicating comprehensive details of area proposed for underground project components, status of approval obtained or being obtained from the State Mining Department along with status of Mining Plan and comments on recommending the forest area located in the High Conservation Value Zone & comments on solid structures, road and cultivation land visible and non-forest work is also visible in the area proposed for diversion etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 09.11.2025. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
- xvi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 25.02.2026 and informed following:
 - a) Site specific CA scheme along with additional CA has been submitted by the State Government.
 - b) The proposed camp area, facility area, and associated infrastructure are essential for execution of the Project during the construction phase and for Operation & Maintenance (O&M) after commissioning of the Project. The availability of suitable non-forest land for relocation of these non-site specific facilities was examined in consultation with the District Administration. The Deputy Commissioner, Anjaw, vide letter dated 13.01.2026, has informed that suitable non-forest land is not available in the project vicinity.

- c) As regards preparation and implementation of Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan, the Nodal Office informed that the Department of Land Management, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, issued the NOC on 10.10.2024 for the Kalai-II HEP. The Final Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Report and the SIA Appraisal Report were submitted on 03.09.2025, and the Preliminary Notification under Section 11(1) of the LARR Act, 2013 was issued on 08.09.2025. Property surveys in the villages project-affected commenced on 20.09.2025 and are currently in progress. The preparation of the R&R Plan, in accordance with the State R&R Policy for Project Affected Families (PAFs), is presently under progress.
- d) CAT Plan for Kalai-II HEP prepared by ICFRE, Dehradun has been approved by State Forest Department, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh vide APPCCF (Cons) & Nodal Officer (FCA) letter dated 24.12.2025.
- e) Detailed Project Report of the Project has been concurred by CEA on 27.03.2015 after appraisal from various divisions of CEA, CWC, GSI & CSMRS and the concurrence has been transferred to THDCIL by CEA on 23.02.2024 on the same terms and conditions. The National Committee on Seismic Design Parameters has approved the site specific seismic study report for the project in its 28th meeting held on 09.01.2015.

The Central Government has enacted the Dam Safety Act 2021 to provide for surveillance inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams for prevention of dam failures related disasters & provide institutional mechanism for their safe functioning. Further it is to submit that no specific concurrence or approval from NDSA/SDSA is required either prior to or during the construction stage of the dam under the Dam Safety Act, 2021. However, dam owners are mandated to undertake various statutory obligations as stipulated under the Act during and after the construction of specific dams.

- f) CIA & CCS report of Lohit river basin study has recommended 11 out of 12 Projects for development as covered under the study, including Kalai-II HEP with certain recommendations.
- g) The transmission system for evacuation of power of Kalai-II HEP is the responsibility of PGCIL.
- h) Details of hydel projects proposed in Lohit basin cascade is submitted. Further, it is mentioned that at present there is no project in Lohit basin cascade which is under active construction and Kalai-II HEP would be the 1st project to be developed in the cascade. Since the FRL & TWL of all the projects in the cascade are well defined therefore, there won't be impact on production capacity of projects in the cascade.
- i) Muck Management Plan has been prepared under CEIA report of Kalai- II HEP and copy is submitted.
- j) The road from Chunyu Bridge to Samdul Village and the road from Chunyu Bridge to Hawaii Town are being taken up by BRO and NHIDCL to ensure uninterrupted connectivity for local residents.

Land acquisition for the above has been carried out by respective agencies.

- k) Most of area proposed for underground project components is already accounted for in land zones A4 and A7. The area specifically marked for remaining components of underground structures are part underground area of power house, underground area of tail race tunnel & underground area of adit. Other project components details are Main dam left abutment, Left Bank Diversion Tunnels, Infrastructure, Roads, Muck disposal, Haulage roads (A4), Plunge Pool, DT Outlet, Cofferdam (A5), Main Dam Central Blocks (A6) and Main Dam right abutment, Intakes, Right Bank Diversion Tunnels, Road Tunnel, Portals of Powerhouse Complex, Switch Yard, Civil/HM works area, EM work area (A7).
 - l) Process for obtaining approval of the Mining Plan is under progress with the concerned department of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh. The finalization of the executing agency and the Terms of Reference (ToR) is also under process. NoC has been issued from Department of Geology & Mining, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - m) Although the proposed area falls within the High Conservation Value Zone (HCVZ) under DSS Rule-1, it does not qualify as a high conversion category under Decision Rule-2. In compliance with environmental regulations, THDCIL has proposed compensatory afforestation over 1,738.70 ha in Madhya Pradesh against the diversion of 869.35 ha of forest land, while the ₹53.11 crore Catchment Area Treatment Plan has already been approved and the Wildlife Mitigation Plan is under consideration. The project's Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment, including the Biodiversity Conservation Plan, has also received recommendation for Environmental Clearance from the EAC. Regarding Segment A2, it is clarified that the visible road is a pre-existing road covering 0.59 ha within the 2.6395 ha temporary labour camp area, and no additional non-forest activity is proposed there. Temporary camp facilities will be accommodated within the project land without requiring further forest diversion, and the remaining area will be restored and handed back to the Forest Department after project completion. Accordingly, it is requested that the existing road area of 0.59 ha be excluded from the forest diversion proposal.
- xvii. The Regional Office also submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhiniyam. The DDGF (C), Regional Office, Shillong has recommended the proposal with following condition:
- (i) The mandatory study like EIA, water flow management, etc. are to be conducted by competent authority and strictly implemented.
 - (ii) The State Govt. shall ensure that fishery department shall conduct study to ensure ecosystem services, providing fish passages/ladders and supporting fish hatcheries to ensure fishing livelihoods and fish

- populations are maintained in the river by creating hatcheries and rearing facilities at the project site.
- (iii) Arunachal Pradesh is widely known for its Schedule I & II species that include many highly endangered and endemic species. And this hydropower project will undoubtedly affect the habitats of various wildlife. Moreover, the increased width of the submerged area will adversely affect the migration of wild animals from one bank to the other. As such, necessary Wildlife Mitigation Plan/Biodiversity Conservation Plan should have been incorporated. It is therefore suggested that in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden of Arunachal Pradesh such Mitigation/Biodiversity Conservation Plan should be prepared.
 - (iv) State Govt to ensure that the Wildlife mitigation Plan/ Biodiversity Conservation Plan approved by the CWLW and strict implementation of same along with the approved CAT plan within the time bound period.
 - (v) The proposed quarry sites may need to be examined in accordance with the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in I.A. Nos. 12-13 of 2011 in Deepak Kumar etc. Vs State of Haryana and Others etc. and other applicable relevant regulatory clearances for mining proposals. The Riverbed Material may be allowed to collect only after the proper approval from Ministry.
 - (vi) The details of existing and proposed HEP's including the small HEP's located may need to be taken into consideration along with Cumulative Impact Assessment and Carrying Capacities Study for the Lohit river basin regarding the proposed HEP.
 - (vii) The necessary consent and clearance to be obtained from the State Dam Safety Authority (SDSA) and the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) for the Kalai-II (1200 MW) Hydro Electric Project.
 - (viii) The State Govt and user agency to take preventive measures like concurrent gravel wall, jute coir mate, etc. to avoid landslides and to protect the trees growing on the adjacent area of the proposed site during the tree felling and cutting of hills and submit a copy of future mitigation plan on impact of downstream from this dam due to natural calamities as well as precautionary measures need to be adapted for aquatic life in the downstream.
 - (ix) The State Govt shall ensure that fishery department shall conduct study to ensure ecosystem services, providing fish passages/ladders and supporting fish hatcheries to ensure fishing livelihoods and fish populations are maintained in the river by creating hatcheries and rearing facilities at the project site.
 - (x) The proposed muck dumping locations shall be restored by implementing proper restoration plan with Biological and Engineering measures after completion of dumping activity.
 - (xi) The detailed report on conservation measures on the flora and fauna recorded in the project site, submergence area to be submitted.
- xviii. Land proposed for compensatory afforestation in Madhya Pradesh State was inspected by Regional Office, Bhopal and DDGF (C), Regional Office, Bhopal has recommended all sites proposed for compensatory

afforestation and has suggested to intensify intervention as mentioned in site inspection report.

- xix. The Committee noted that approximately 626.50 ha of forest land is falling under submergence. The representative of the user agency have informed that given the dam height and capacity, the requirement of forest area falling under the submergence is minimum required area to attain the peaking capacity as per norms. The Committee was further informed that all configuration of the dam have been finalized in accordance with the detailed project report is approved by the Central Electricity Authority.
 - xx. Authorities in the State Government as well as the Regional Office have recommended the proposal for diversion of forest land.
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 869.3503 ha. of forest land (Reserved Forest and Others forest land) for construction of Kalai Hydro Electric Project Stage- II (1200 MW) on Lohit river a tributary of Brahmaputra river within the jurisdiction of Namsai and Anjaw Forest Division, Villages- Chunyu & Mechong, District- Anjaw in the State of Arunachal Pradesh subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. The User Agency shall submit duly approved Mining Plans and Mine Closure/Reclamation Plans and other requisite documents for each quarry site along with compliance report of Stage- I approval.
 - ii. Wildlife Management Plan for Kalai- II project shall be 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 and approved copy shall be submitted along with compliance report of Stage- I approval. Special emphasis on conservation of habitat of White Bellied Heron shall be included in the said report. It shall also include a component of long term research and monitoring to be done by WII for impact analysis of the project and the implementation of the Management plan.
 - iii. Cost of implementation of the provisions of the CAT plan shall be borne by the user agency and the same shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA.
 - iv. The user agency shall ensure compliance of norms, prescribed by the National Dam Safety Organisation for the surveillance inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams for prevention of dam failures related disasters & provide institutional mechanism for their safe functioning.
 - v. The user agency shall submit detailed report indicating the various factors and criterion taken into consideration for optimisation of the dam height and area coming under submergence.
 - vi. The muck generated during the construction phase shall be disposed of only at designated sites in accordance with scientifically approved methods and best environmental management practices, so as to

prevent degradation of forest land, obstruction of natural drainage, and adverse ecological impacts.

- vii. The area proposed for dumping shall be reclaimed and handed over to the State Forest Department by the user agency.
- viii. The User Agency shall undertake ecological restoration and reclamation of all temporarily used forest land immediately after completion of construction activities, as per an approved restoration plan. All restored areas shall be handed back to the State Forest Department.

Agenda No. 4

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) Adhinyam, 1980 in favour of Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVN) for non-forestry use of 261.53 ha. of unclassed 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. 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 meetings held on 26.05.2025 and 27.02.2026. Brief summary of the proposal is as under:
 - (i) The proposal is for diversion of 261.53 ha of Unclassed Forest 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.
 - (ii) The diversion is proposed on Dibang Sub-basin in Brahmaputra River Valley for which Cumulative Impact & Carrying Capacity Study (CIA & CCS) of Dibang river has been finalized on 23.09.2016.
 - (iii) No violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 has been reported. The legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion is Unclassed Forest. The vegetation density has been reported as 0.5, corresponding to Eco Class I. A total of 47243 trees are proposed to be felled.

- (iv) Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed in single patch over 523.762 ha degraded forest land double in extent to the forest land being diverted, in Village- Khupi Forest Office Complex, Range- Khupi Forest Range, Tehsil- Jamiri Circle, Tenga RF, Bomdila Forest Division, West Kameng District.
4. The Committee in meeting held on 27.02.2026 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.
5. The State Government on 08.04.2026 submitted reply to queries raised by the Ministry on 22.03.2026 informing following:
- (i) Copy of approved DPR granted by Central Electricity Authority vide letter dated 02.07.2018 has been submitted. Further, a copy of the letter for transferring the approval in favour of M/s SJVN Ltd. vide letter dated 09.11.2023 has also been submitted. An undertaking for strictly adhering 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 has also been submitted by the user agency.
 - (ii) A total of 9 No. of dumping sites of 80.83 ha are required for scientific disposal of muck generated during construction activities of the project. These dumping sites are selected considering topography of the area and are located in close proximity to project components to avoid unnecessary traffic movement leading to pollution load. It is certified that the area required for dumping sites is barest minimum, therefore it is not feasible to further reduce the area. It is further informed that out of total land to be acquired for Attunli HEP, an area of 120.57 ha is estimated to be reclaimed subsequent to Commercial Operation Date (COD) of the project. This area includes 70.81 ha of area to be reclaimed from dumping sites.
6. As per directions of Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 26.05.2025, a Sub-Committee visited the area on 30.10.2025 and submitted its report on 26.12.2025 to the Ministry. The Sub-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.
7. 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.
 8. 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.
 9. 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.
 10. The authorities in the State Government and the Regional Office of the Ministry have recommended the proposal for diversion of forest land.
 11. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 261.53 ha. of unclassed 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 subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:

- (i) The User Agency shall submit duly approved Mining Plans and Mine Closure/Reclamation Plans and other requisite documents for each quarry site along with compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- (ii) 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. Copy of the said report shall be submitted along with compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- (iii) 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 and approved copy shall be submitted along with compliance report of Stage- I approval. It shall also include a component of long term research and monitoring to be done by WII for impact analysis of the project and the implementation of the Management plan.
- (iv) Copy of approved Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) plan shall be submitted along with compliance report of Stage- I approval. Cost of implementation of the provisions of the CAT plan shall be borne by the user agency and the same shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA.
- (v) The user agency shall adhere to safety norms as prescribed by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) during the construction and operational phase of the project.
- (vi) The area proposed for dumping shall be reclaimed and handed over to the State Forest Department by the user agency.
- (vii) 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.

Agenda No. 5

Proposal No. FP/BR/PetrolPump/451509/2023

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 for the diversion of 0.0225 hectares of Protected Forest in favour of Shri Mukesh Kumar Singh, M/s Vishal Petrol Pump for the establishment of Green India Bio Diesel retail outlet and construction of an access path at Khasra No. 1627, Khata No. 185, Thana No. 77 in Village Khaira along the Khaira-Jamui road in Ghanbariya Mouza under Jamui district of Bihar State (Online proposal No. FP/BR/PetrolPump/451509/2023)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, 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 0.0225 hectares of Protected Forest in favour of Shri Mukesh Kumar Singh, M/s Vishal Petrol Pump for the establishment of Green India Bio Diesel retail outlet and construction of an access path at Khasra No. 1627, Khata No. 185, Thana No. 77 in Village Khaira along the Khaira-Jamui road in Ghanbariya Mouza under Jamui district of Bihar State.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.01125 ha is required for entrance path and 0.01125 ha is required for exit path, totaling to 0.0225 ha.
 - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.1 of Eco class III with no tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
 - iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 Km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
 - v. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area falls under Not In- High Conservation value Zone.
 - vi. Planting of 100 trees along the road side from Khaira to Maricha declared as Protected Forest is proposed by the State Government towards compensatory afforestation in the extant proposal.
 - vii. It is mentioned that The forest land involved in the proposal was levelled and used for the construction of approach road of the outlet in 2022. The breaking up of forest land and its encroachment to utilize it for entry/exit purpose was considered violation of Indian Forest Act and an offence against PP (Mr. Mukesh Singh) under Section 33 of Indian Forest Act was registered on 01.12.2022 with offence number 3353 dated 01.12.2022. After thorough investigation, the outlet was sealed. The case is presently under consideration in Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jamui. The DFO has also issued notice dated 08.11.2023 to Director, GIBP Biodiesel Pvt. Ltd. under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

The DFO has requested (vide letter dated 30/12/2023) Conservator of Forests, Bhagalpur too to initiate proceedings against Director, GIBP Biodiesel Pvt. Ltd. Then, he wrote District Magistrate, Jamui (vide letter

3165 dated 27/12/2023) to instruct the District Transport Officer for forfeiting the operation of petrol pump. A provisional NOC was issued by the Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department but it did not explicitly give any permission regarding non-forestry work in forest land. Thus, no action arises against any Govt. Official under 3A & 3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for allowing use of forest land without permission.

- viii. The Regional Office has mentioned in their site inspection report that the road side notified forest was used by user agency for accessing its retail outlet site. During site inspection it was seen that the construction of entire outlet that included Office room, electric & store rooms, public toilet, dispenser pump etc. is almost complete. The officials informed that forest land involved in the proposal has been levelled and has been used for assisting the construction and operation of the outlet during 2022-23. DDGF (C), Regional Office, Ranchi has recommended the proposal subject to following conditions:
- a. The State Government shall impose penal Net Present Value (NPV) and take action against the Road Construction Department for issuing a No Objection Certificate permitting non-forest use of roadside Protected Forest land without obtaining prior approval of the competent authority, under Sections 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and paragraph 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Act.
 - b. The State Government shall address the encroachment of forest land by the User Agency in accordance with the applicable Acts and Rules. Details of the action taken shall be furnished to the Regional Office for record and monitoring.
- ix. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz the State Govt. shall submit the detailed chronology of events (date-wise) along with supporting documents, CA details to be uploaded correctly in Part- II, Detailed violation report along with action taken under 3A/3B, details of any court case is filed and pending against the user agency as on date or otherwise, correct KML file of CA land, details of the additional forest land (if required) to fulfil the requirement of water and electricity and correct KML file of the project clearly showing the forest area proposed for diversion etc. Additional information was requested from the State on 08.01.2026. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
- x. The State Government submitted its reply online on 02.04.2026 and informed following:
- (i) Chronology of events, date-wise has been submitted.
 - (ii) It is mentioned that the present proposal solicits approach access to a new Biodiesel Retails Outlet established road side of Jamui-Kauakol Road, whose road sides are notified as Protected Forest vide Bihar Government's Notification No. 921E dated 28.8.1997. The road side notified forest was used by user agency as

approach road for accessing its retail outlet site. The forest land involved in the proposal was levelled and used for the construction of approach road of the outlet in 2022. The breaking up of forest land and its encroachment to utilize it for entry/exit purpose was considered violation of Indian Forest Act and an offence against PP (Mr. Mukesh Singh) under Section 33 of Indian Forest Act was registered on 01.12.2022 with offence number 3353 dated 01.12.2022.

After thorough investigation, the outlet was sealed. The case is presently under consideration in Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jamui. The DFO has also issued notice dated 08.11.2023 to Director, GIBP Biodiesel Pvt. Ltd. under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The DFO has requested (vide letter dated 30/12/2023) Conservator of Forests, Bhagalpur too to initiate proceedings against Director, GIBP Biodiesel Pvt. Ltd. Then, he wrote District Magistrate, Jamui (vide letter 3165 dated 27/12/2023) to instruct the District Transport Officer for forfeiting the operation of petrol pump. A provisional NOC was issued by the Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department but it did not explicitly give any permission regarding non-forestry work in forest land. Thus, no action arises against any Govt. Official under 3A & 3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for allowing use of forest land without permission.

- (iii) It is mentioned that the forest land involved in the proposal was levelled and used for the construction of approach road of the outlet in 2022. The breaking up of forest land and its encroachment to utilize it for entry/exit purpose was considered violation of Indian Forest Act and an offence against PP (Mr. Mukesh Singh) under Section 33 of Indian Forest Act was registered on 01.12.2022 with offence number 3353 dated 01.12.2022. After thorough investigation and the outlet was sealed. The case is presently under consideration in Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jamui.
- (iv) It is mentioned that Compensatory Afforestation is being done in the form of 100 compensatory trees on road side as the proposal is below 1 hectare. The necessary corrections with the updated KML file are being done in PARIVESH.
- (v) It is mentioned that no additional forest land is required to fulfil the requirement of water and electricity to run the proposed retail outlet.
- (vi) It is mentioned that the forest land in present proposal is only the entry and exit approach roads to the biodiesel retail outlet. The proposal solicits approach access to a new Biodiesel Retail Outlet established road side of Jamui-Kauakol Road, whose road sides are notified as Protected Forest vide Bihar Government's Notification No. 921E dated 28.8.1997. Thus, the area calculation

of the proposed forest land should be only in (0.01125 ha) and out (0.01125 ha) approach road.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for ex-post approval for diversion of 0.0225 hectares of Protected Forest in favour of Shri Mukesh Kumar Singh, M/s Vishal Petrol Pump for the establishment of Green India Bio Diesel retail outlet and construction of an access path at Khasra No. 1627, Khata No. 185, Thana No. 77 in Village Khaira along the Khaira-Jamui road in Ghanbariya Mouza under Jamui district of Bihar State subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. In accordance with the provisions of para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhinyam by the user agency which shall be five times the NPV of forest land used in violation, plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand and till the deposit is made by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.
 - ii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation, as applicable, in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhinyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
 - iii. Penal compensatory afforestation, as applicable by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Ranchi and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
 - iv. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 against the erring officials shall be initiated by State Government for carrying out violation in Protected Forest and a status report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of the in-principle approval.

Agenda No: 6

Proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/QRY/479349/2024

Sub: 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 1742.6 ha Forest land for Kente Extension Opencast Coal Mine & Integrated Washery Project 9 MTPA (Normative)/11 MTPA (Peak) over a mine lease area of 1760 Ha (1742.60 Ha Forest Land + 17.40 Ha Non- Forest Land) allocated to M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) at

Villages Kente, Basan, Chakeri, Parogiya in Udaipur Tehsil under Surguja District of Chhattisgarh State (Proposal No: FP/CG/MIN/QRY/479349/2024)- reg.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. 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 other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Chhattisgarh vide their letter No Van Bhumi 5-29/2025/10-2 dated 25.11.2025 forwarded a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 1742.6 ha Forest land for Kente Extension Opencast Coal Mine & Integrated Washery Project 9 MTPA (Normative)/11 MTPA (Peak) over a mine lease area of 1760 Ha (1742.60 Ha Forest Land + 17.40 Ha Non- Forest Land) allocated to M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) at Villages Kente, Basan, Chakeri, Parogiya in Udaipur Tehsil under Surguja District of Chhattisgarh State.
 - ii. The Government of India, Ministry of Coal allotted Kente Extension Coal Block vide order no. 13016/26/2004-CA-I/CA-III (Pt.)(Vol. 11) dated 31/03/2015 to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RVUNL) to meet the requirement of Coal for their thermal power projects located in the State of Rajasthan. Details of the Projects are mentioned as under: -
Suratgarh, Supercritical TPP, Unit - 7 & 8 (2X660 MW)
Chhabra, Supercritical TPP, Unit - 5 & 6 (2X660 MW)
 - iii. The Kente Extension Coal block is spread over an area of 17.60 sq. km, located in Surguja District of Chhattisgarh State. The total Project Area involves 1760 ha. Land which covers 1742.60 ha of Forest Land, 4.233 ha private land and 13.167 ha of Government land in Udaipur Tehsil, Surguja District of Chhattisgarh State.
 - iv. Further, on allotment of the coal block, user agency had sought approval for prospecting of coal within the forest land of Kente Extension Coal Block and MoEF&CC conveyed its Stage-I approval on 19.12.2017. Subsequent upon submission of Stage-I compliance report by user agency, Government of Chhattisgarh has recommended for approval of Stage-II Clearance. Thereafter, MoEF&CC granted Stage-II approval under section-2 of Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for prospecting of Coal in the forest land of Kente Extension Coal Block in favour of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited on 14.06.2018.
 - v. Thereafter, DFO, Surguja vide letter dated 27.08.2021 has reported that user agency has completed prospecting of coal, complying all terms and conditions stipulated by MoEF&CC and no damage sustained to the

forest while executing the prospecting works and all boreholes were plugged properly and restored to its natural status.

- vi. After completion of the survey, the User Agency (RVUNL) has proposed diversion of 1742.60 ha of forest Land for Kente Extension Open Cast Coal Mine & Integrated Washery Project 9 MTPA (Normative) /11 MTPA (Peak) at Villages Kente, Basen, Chakeri, Parogiya in Udaipur Tehsil, Surguja District, Chhattisgarh over a mining lease area of 1760 Ha.
- vii. The Government of Chhattisgarh by associating the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) Dehradun and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has awarded the Biodiversity Assessment Study to ICFRE Dehradun in consultation with Wildlife Institute of India Dehradun for the whole Hasdeo-Arand Coalfields comprising of Tara, Parsa, Parsa East & Kanta Basan and Kente Extension Coal blocks.
- viii. The Biodiversity Assessment Study has been completed by ICFRE & WII, Dehradun and accordingly, a site-specific wildlife mitigation plan has been prepared by the State Government for wildlife conservation and elephant movement for Kente Extension Coal Block.
- ix. The State Government was asked to provide the updated status of Civil Appeal No. 4395 of 2014 (Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. vs. Sudip Shrivastava) and details of any other court cases pertaining to the project. In response, the State Government submitted that the said appeal was disposed of by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 16.10.2023. It was further stated by the State Government that all directions have been complied with and necessary permissions obtained. No other court cases pertaining to the project are pending as on date.
- x. The subject proposal involves the forest land comprising an area of 1742.6 ha and non forest land of 17.4 ha. A total of 448874 number of trees are proposed to be felled in the phased manner.
- xi. The land proposed for diversion is having the canopy density of 0.6 of Eco Class I for 1742.155 ha and 0.4 for 0.445 ha.
- xii. The instant proposal falls under Inviolable or In high conservation zone (HCV) category as per the DSS Rule-1 & 2.
- xiii. The purpose wise break up of total forest and non-forest land involved in the project is furnished below:

Purpose	Forest land (in ha)	Non forest land (in ha)	Land Use as per Proposal (forest + non forest) (in ha)	Land Use as per Mining Plan (in ha)
MINING				
Excavation Area	1632.722	14.815	1647.537	1647.537
Sub Total (A)	1632.722	14.815	1647.537	1647.537
INFRASTRUCTURE & OB DUMP AREA				
External Dump	46.621	1.445	48.066	48.066
Electric Line & infrastructure area	5.241	0	5.241	5.241
Coal Evacuation Route & Approach Road	6.757	0	6.757	6.757

Purpose	Forest land (in ha)	Non forest land (in ha)	Land Use as per Proposal (forest + non forest) (in ha)	Land Use as per Mining Plan (in ha)
Settling Pond	2.262	0	2.262	2.262
CHP & Washery	8.508	0.81	9.318	9.318
Diversion of Road	4.925	0.005	4.930	4.930
Safety zone	12.35	0.31	12.660	12.660
Rationalization Area	23.214	0.015	23.229	23.229
Total (B)	109.878	2.585	112.463	112.463
Grand Total (A+B)	1742.6	17.4	1760.00	1760.00

- xiv. The State Govt. submitted that the proposal does not forms part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc. However, the proposed Kente Extension Coal Block is 3.625 km away from the Lemru Elephant Reserve.
- xv. The elephant movement has been reported in and around the proposed area though it is not a port of any notified elephant corridor. Many animals like sloth bear, barking deer, jackals, fox, hyena, Indian grey wolf, wild pig etc. have been reported in and around the proposed area.
- xvi. The Regional Office in its SIR informed that for the conservation of elephant movement Lemru Elephant corridor is notified by the government of Chhattisgarh. The proposed kente extension coal block is 3.625 km away from buffer zone of the Lemru Corridor.
- xvii. Since the elephant movement is also reported outside the Lemru Elephant Reserve and near to the proposed site. It is likely that the proposed mine is going to impact the elephant movement in and around the Lemru elephant reserve. The likely conflict is very well documented and addressed in the Wildlife Management Plan duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden. The Wildlife Management Plan also addresses the recommendations of ICFRE study on elephant movement.
- xviii. The State Govt. further stated that the predominate species found in the area are Dalbergia Paniculata, diospyros melanoxylon, Shorea Robusta, Semecarpus Anacardium, Madhuca indica, Diospyrus Melanoxylon, buchanania lanzan, Terminalia Tomentosa, Pterocarpus Marsupium etc. With respect to the faunal diversion, species like Sloth bear (Melurus ursinus), Chousingha (Tetracerus quad ricomis), Elephant (Elephas moximus), Indian pangolin (Manis crassicaudata) etc. have been reported in the region by the State Forest Department. The State Forest Department officials reported that due to mining activities, It is likely that the proposed mine is going to impact the elephant movement in and around the Lemru elephant reserve.
- xix. The land proposed for diversion is prone to the soil erosion. Accordingly, the Regional Office in its SIR recommended that a site-specific Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) plan for surface water management shall be executed by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency. Further, a Soil and Moisture Conservation & Catchment Area Treatment Report has been submitted by the State Government with an financial outlay of ₹ 15013399.00/-.

- xx. The State Govt. further submitted that the Land Acquisition process of Kente Extension Coal Block is completed under the provisions of Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 and relevant notifications has been issued by Ministry of Coal. The User Agency has prepared the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan, for the project affected persons/families.
- xxi. This Ministry vide O.M. dated 10.04.2026 requested the Ministry of Coal to clarify whether the Kente Extension Coal Block, located in the State of Chhattisgarh, qualifies as a captive coal block. In response, the Ministry of Coal vide its O.M. dated 21.04.2026, stated that Kente Extension Coal Block allocated to M/s. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) is a captive coal block.
- xxii. The Ministry of Coal vide its letter dated 04.06.2021 has approved the Mining plan and Mine closure plan for Kente Extension Coal Block of M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidhyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd (RRVUNL).
- xxiii. Initially, the State Govt. has proposed the CA land over an area of 3233.326 ha of the degraded forest land (including the 636 ha of orange forest) and 130.620 ha of private land. As per the DSS analysis, 1054.01 ha land is found to be moderately dense forest and 0.44 ha as Very Dense forest. Accordingly, the Regional Office Nagpur was requested to do the ground truthing along with the additional information.
- xxiv. Accordingly, the State Govt. has indented the additional CA land over an area of 1217 ha and out of which, 1086 ha is found suitable for plantation as per the SIR of the RO Nagpur. As per SIR, the said additional CA is in 45 patches spread across 7 forest divisions. Further, out of the 130.62 ha of private land proposed by the State Govt., 4.0 ha land is found overlapping with the forest boundaries as per the DSS analysis. Accordingly, the State Govt. has now proposed the additional 4.00 ha as NFL for the CA purpose.
- xxv. The Regional Office in its SIR dated 17.04.2026, 21.04.2026 and 29.04.2026 recommended the proposed Compensatory Afforestation subject to the following:
- a. The State Government shall ensure the removal of encroachments observed in certain patches prior to the commencement of CA works.
 - b. A revised CA scheme for the proposed additional area shall be prepared by the State Government, and the corresponding KML files shall be uploaded on the PARIVESH portal for record and future monitoring.
 - c. The State Government shall ensure that any shortfall in achieving the minimum plantation density of 1,000 saplings per hectare in the identified area, if arising due to localised site conditions, is compensated through additional plantation in nearby forest areas, in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) vide Letter No. FC11/11/2025-FC I/97990/2025 dated 17.02.2025
- xxvi. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal subject to the following:

- a. The User Agency shall maintain a safety zone along the boundary within the mining lease area. Furthermore, the User Agency shall provide funds to carry out plantation in degraded forest areas covering an extent of 1.5 times the area of the safety zone.
- b. The Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) plan shall be implemented by the State Government/User Agency as per the provisions of relevant rules and regulations.
- c. Overburden shall be disposed of systematically, and the required gradient shall be maintained to ensure stability and prevent spillage. The User Agency shall explore the possibility of hydroseeding the dump sites using native grasses for stabilisation. This shall be done in consultation and coordination with the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency.
- d. The User Agency shall employ improved controlled blasting techniques alongside other mitigation measures to ensure minimal impact on the ecosystem.
- e. The User Agency shall submit the progressive reclamation plan, restoration schedule, and the schedule for the surrender of forest land, as specified under Standard Condition 2(1) applicable to such projects.
- f. The site-specific Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) plan for surface water management shall be executed by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency.
- g. Considering the significant wildlife presence and the biodiversity assessment study conducted by ICFRE-WII, Dehradun, a site-specific Wildlife Mitigation Plan must be implemented. This plan must be duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and executed at the project's cost to minimise human-wildlife conflict.
- h. Tree felling shall be carried out in a phased manner under the supervision of the State Forest Department.
- i. The State Forest Department shall explore the feasibility of translocating suitable trees through a committee under the Chairmanship of the concerned Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF). This shall be executed wherever feasible at the cost of the User Agency.
- j. The State Government shall ensure the removal of encroachments observed in certain patches prior to the commencement of CA works.
- k. A revised CA scheme for the proposed additional area shall be prepared by the State Government, and the corresponding KML files shall be uploaded on the PARIVESH portal for record and future monitoring.
- l. The State Government shall ensure that any shortfall in achieving the minimum plantation density of 1,000 saplings per hectare in the identified area, if arising due to localised site conditions, is compensated through additional plantation in nearby forest areas, in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) vide Letter No. FC11/11/2025-FC I/97990/2025 dated 17.02.2025.

- xxvii. The State Govt. in its letter dated 20.04.2026, submitted that in the Mining shall be done in the 6 phases and the land requirement and details of tree felling are as under:

Mining Phase	Land Required as per Approved Mining Plan (Ha.)		Phase Wise Affected (Tree Felling & Transplantation) (Nos)	
	Progressive	Cumulative	Tree Felling	25% Tree Transplant of <60cm Girth
Phase1 1 to 5 Years	446.94	446.94	97,837	17,290
Phase2 6 to 10 Years	272.78	719.72	59,712	10,553
Phase3 11 to 15 Years	282.23	1,001.95	61,781	10,918
Phase4 16 to 20 Years	256.30	1,258.25	56,105	9,915
Phase5 21 to 25 Years	139.73	1,397.98	30,587	5,406
Phase6 26 to 33 Years	344.62	1,742.60	75,438	13,332
Final Closure 34 th to 36 th Years	-	-	-	-
Total	1742.60	1742.60	3,81,460	67,414
			4,48,874	

- xxviii. The State Government also submitted year-wise details of phased mining, tree felling, and related activities. Further, it has been proposed that transplantation of 25% of trees (67,414 trees with girth below 60 cm), shall be done initially to reclaimed areas of the adjoining PEKB block and, from the sixth year onwards, within stabilized dumps of KECB, in coordination with the State Forest Department.
- xxix. The State Govt. further submitted that the Kente Extension Coal Block involves diversion of a 7 km PMGSY road. The process of obtaining PMGSY NOC is under process.
- xxx. The State Government submitted that the proposal also involves the diversion of a 6 km electric line within the mining area. Accordingly, the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited has issued an NOC dated 08.01.2026. The CPDCL has stipulated that the line shall be shifted along the periphery of the mining area and, if passing through forest land, prior approval from the Forest Department will be required.
- xxxi. With reference to the feasibility of shifting the 46 ha overburden (OB) dump to the adjacent PEKB mine, the State Government submitted that such shifting is not feasible due to constraints related to stripping ratios, approved Mining Plan, and conditions stipulated under the Environmental Clearance (EC). It has also been stated that no suitable non-forest land is available in the vicinity. Further, based on field inspection and KML analysis, the Regional Office has observed that no suitable alternate non-

forest land is available adjoining the project site. Further, transportation and re-handling of overburden outside the project area for reclamation purposes appears impractical given the scale involved. Shifting the OB dump to another mine may also result in deviation from the approved Mining Plan and EC conditions.

- xxxii. The State Government with reference to the opening of a new mine in the High Conservation Zone submitted that the Kente Extension Coal Block was allotted to RVUNL by the Ministry of Coal on 31.03.2015, followed by execution of the Coal Block Development and Production Agreement on 26.10.2015 for captive use in its thermal power plants. Approval for prospecting in forest land was granted by MoEF&CC (Stage-I on 19.12.2017 and Stage-II on 14.06.2018), and prospecting has since been completed. It was further stated that the coal seams are site-specific, as identified by CMPDIL, and are located beneath the forest land proposed for diversion. Accordingly, no viable alternative non-forest land is available, and the project is confined within the mining lease area.
- xxxiii. The State Government submitted that the User Agency applied to the Water Resources Department, Surguja on 09.01.2026 for obtaining NOC from the Water Resource Department in view of the presence of several nallahs within the proposed forest land. Accordingly, the Water Resource Department has issued the NOC on 23.01.2026. It was further stated that mitigation measures for diversion and conservation of internal water drainage have already been incorporated in the Mining Plan approved by the Ministry of Coal.
- xxxiv. The State Government clarified that the Mining Plan as approved by the Ministry of Coal on 04.06.2021 is in accordance with its prescribed guidelines under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- xxxv. The State Government further submitted that a Biodiversity Assessment Study has been carried out by ICFRE and WII, Dehradun, and a site-specific Wildlife Management Plan, duly approved by the CWLW, Government of Chhattisgarh (07.12.2021), incorporates mitigation measures for protection of RET species. A budgetary provision of ₹16.7325 crore has been approved for implementation of the plan. Further, the User Agency has undertaken to bear any additional cost as per field requirements in accordance with MoEF&CC guidelines dated 26.12.2024.
- xxxvi. The State Government submitted that the Kente Extension Coal Block was allotted to RVUNL by the Ministry of Coal on 31.03.2015, followed by execution of a Coal Mine Development Agreement on 28.07.2016. It was further clarified that the entire project area has been vested under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957, with notifications issued under Sections 9 (25.05.2021) and 11 (30.07.2021), which confer mining rights for the life of the project. Accordingly, a separate mining lease is not required, and the vesting is valid as on date.
- xxxvii. The State Government submitted that the proposed Kente Extension Coal Block is essential to meet the coal requirement of RVUNL's thermal power plants (total installed capacity: 7830 MW), which have an annual coal demand of about 24.05 MT. The existing captive coal blocks (PEKB and PCB) are insufficient, and the additional requirement of ~9 MT is

proposed to be met from KECB. It was further stated that all ancillary activities, including coal transportation, will be confined within the mining lease area or adjoining blocks, minimising impact on surrounding forest land.

- xxxviii. The block is site-specific, as coal seams occur beneath the forest land. Solid waste will be largely managed through internal dumping and backfilling, with reclamation and plantation measures planned. The State Government also highlighted that requisite approvals and compliances for adjoining coal blocks have been obtained, and the project proponent has committed to adhere to environmental safeguards and mine closure obligations.
- xxxix. The State Govt. further submitted that the Kente Extension Coal Block is a greenfield project and not an expansion of any existing mine. It was submitted that prior forest clearances pertain to adjoining coal blocks, namely PEKB (Stage-I: 06.07.2011; Stage-II: 15.03.2012) and PCB (Stage-I: 13.02.2019; Stage-II: 21.10.2021). For the present proposal, diversion of 1742.60 ha of forest land has been sought for the Kente Extension Coal Block, and no prior forest diversion approval exists for this block. Accordingly, a separate Geological Report and Mining Plan have been prepared and approved by CMPDI and the Ministry of Coal.
- xl. The State Government submitted that the Kente Extension Coal Block is a standalone greenfield opencast mining and washery project, allotted to RVUNL on 31.03.2015, with a lease area of 1760 ha. It was clarified that only prospecting approvals (Stage-I dated 19.12.2017 and Stage-II dated 14.06.2018) have been obtained earlier for this block, and no prior mining proposal exists for it. It was further stated that although the adjoining PEKB Coal Block has received forest clearance (Stage-II dated 15.03.2012), it is a separate project, and hence was not included under past proposals for the instant case.
- xli. The Committee observed that this Ministry in the proposal for diversion of 1898.328 ha of forest land for Parsa East and Kete Basan captive coal block open cast mining project in favour of M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited in south Surguja Forest Division in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh, accorded the final approval in two phases. Further, the State Govt. in the instant proposal submitted that the tree felling shall be done in the phased manner.
- xlii. The Committee observed that the lease area of the proposal involves the diversion of the 7 KM PMGSY road. The process of obtaining the No Objection Certificate from the concerned authority is under process.
- xliii. The Committee observed that the Biodiversity Assessment Study has been done by the ICFRE & WII for the region.
- xliv. The Committee also observed that the Regional Office in its SIR recommended that a site-specific Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) plan for surface water management shall be executed by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency. Further, a Soil and Moisture Conservation & Catchment Area Treatment Report has been submitted by the User Agency with an financial outlay of ₹15013399.00/-
- xliv. The Committee further observed that, considering the high biodiversity and conservation value of the forest land proposed for diversion, the grant

of Stage-II/Final approval shall, in terms of Rule 11(10) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, be considered by the Ministry in two phases.

- xlvi. The Committee further observed that the representative of the User Agency agreed to the grant of permission for mining in two phases, in line with the permission accorded in respect of the adjacent mine of the same User Agency. The Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh, also conveyed his consent for the same.
 - xlvii. The Committee observed that the State Govt. has submitted that the tree felling shall be strictly done in a phased manner. The State Govt. has submitted the phase wise details of tree felling.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, the Committee recommended the proposal for '**Stage-1/In-principle**' approval for the diversion of 1742.6 ha Forest land for Kente Extension Opencast Coal Mine & Integrated Washery Project 9 MTPA (Normative)/11 MTPA (Peak) over a mine lease area of 1760 Ha (1742.60 Ha Forest Land + 17.40 Ha Non- Forest Land) allocated to M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) at Villages Kente, Basan, Chakeri, Parogiya in Udaipur Tehsil under Surguja District of Chhattisgarh State with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The Mining shall be done in two phase:
 - a. During phase-I, covering 15 years, the Mining shall be restricted to 1001.95 ha of the forest land.
 - b. During the phase-II, the mining permission for remaining 740.65 ha will be linked to reforestation and biodiversity management in phase-I.
 - c. The User Agency while submitting the application for permission for mining in Phase-II, shall have to submit the entire compliance report for the Phase-I.
 - ii. Permission for mining in phases shall be subject to exhaustion of the coal reserve within the phase-I mining area boundary or completion of a period of 15 years, whichever is earlier.
 - iii. The State Government shall ensure that a site-specific wildlife management plan as per the recommendations of the Biodiversity Assessment Study done by the ICFRE & WII, shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency. It shall also include a component of long term research and monitoring to be done by WII for impact analysis of the project and the implementation of the Management plan. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.
 - iv. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the Soil and Moisture Conservation & Catchment Area Treatment Plan duly approved by the component authority. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.

- v. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall obtain the NOC from the concerned authority for diversion of 7KM PMGSY road.
- vi. The overburden shall be disposed of systematically, and the required gradient shall be maintained to ensure stability and prevent spillage. The User Agency shall explore the possibility of hydroseeding the dump sites using native grasses for stabilisation. This shall be done in consultation and coordination with the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency.
- vii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall employ improved controlled blasting techniques alongside other mitigation measures to ensure minimal impact on the ecosystem.
- viii. The State Govt. shall submit the progressive reclamation plan, restoration schedule, and the schedule for the surrender of forest land before the grant of the Stage-II approval.
- ix. The State Govt. shall ensure that the tree felling shall be strictly done in a phased manner as per the plan submitted by the User Agency.
- x. The State Forest Department shall translocate the 67,414 number of trees which has below 60cm in girth. A committee under the Chairmanship of the concerned Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) shall be made for monitoring the progress of such translocation. This shall be executed wherever feasible at the cost of the User Agency.
- xi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the 636 ha of orange forest land identified for the purpose of compensatory afforestation shall be notified by the State Government as Protected Forests under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant section(s) of the local Forest Act, before handing over the land to the User Agency.

Agenda No: 7

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

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

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. 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 other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
- i. The Govt. of Chhattisgarh vide their letter No. F 5-22/2025/10-2 dated 12.08.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for construction of 220 KV DCDS line from 220/132 KV Substation Chhuri to M/s SECL Gevra area - I & II Dipika, SECL Gevra project Distt Korba (RL-16 KM).
 - ii. The State Govt. submitted that the project is expected to provide direct and indirect benefits to approximately 60 villages and around 3 lakh people. Further, it will support two major coal block projects, namely SECL Gevra and SECL Dipka, which are in the process of expanding their coal production and dispatch capacity through mechanised operations. To meet the increased power demand of these projects, a new 220 kV Double Circuit Double String transmission line is proposed from the nearest substation at Chhuri to the SECL Gevra area.
 - iii. The State Government further submitted that the implementation of the project will enhance coal production and dispatch efficiency, thereby improving power supply, particularly in remote and tail-end areas of Chhattisgarh. It will also facilitate timely and efficient coal transportation in key districts such as Korba, Bilaspur, Raipur, Raigarh, and other power-generating regions. The project aligns with the developmental objectives of the Government of India. The total forest land required for diversion is 12.001 hectares of revenue forest land.
 - iv. The State Govt. submitted that the total land involved in the proposal is 12.001 Ha of forest land (3.133 ha as Unclassed Forest and 8.868 ha as Revenue Forest) and 41.404 Ha of Non forest land.
 - v. The proposed forest land for diversion i.e. 12.001 ha is having the canopy density of 0.4 of Eco Class III.
 - vi. The State Government submitted that the proposed forest area is for construction of 220 KV transmission line with 35 mtrs RoW.
 - vii. The State Govt. submitted that the proposed project does not fall within any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, buffer zone, elephant corridor, wildlife migration route, or notified Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).
 - viii. The Regional Office in its SIR submitted that considering the presence of avifauna such as Indian Myna, Blue Jay (Indian Roller), and Ring Dove in the region, the User Agency, in consultation with the Forest Department and at its own cost, shall implement appropriate mitigation measures, including installation of bird diverters/deflectors, to minimise the risk of bird collisions.
 - ix. The Regional Office in its SIR submitted that the proposed transmission line is aligned parallel to an existing transmission line; therefore, no significant adverse impact is anticipated from the project.
 - x. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal for grant of ex post facto approval for diversion of 12.001 ha of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for construction of a 220 kV DCDS transmission line from 220/132 kV Substation, Chhuri to M/s SECL Gevra Area-I & II, Dipka, SECL

Gevra Project, District Korba, State of Chhattisgarh, subject to the following specific conditions:

- a. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land shall be made free from all encroachments, duly demarcated, and fenced prior to commencement of plantation activities. The State Forest Department shall undertake plantation over the identified degraded forest land at a density of 1000 plants per hectare. In case the required number of plants cannot be accommodated within the identified area, the balance shall be raised in nearby degraded forest areas in accordance with the approved Working Plan prescriptions.
 - b. The State Government shall initiate action under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 against the violators, and levy penalty, including Penal Net Present Value (NPV) and Penal Compensatory Afforestation (CA), as applicable, commensurate with the extent of forest area involved in the violation.
 - c. The User Agency shall, in consultation with the Forest Department and at its own cost, implement appropriate mitigation measures such as installation of bird diverters/deflectors to prevent bird hits.
 - d. The User Agency shall undertake plantation of dwarf species, preferably medicinal plants, under the transmission line corridor at its own cost, in accordance with the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 and relevant consolidated guidelines.
- xi. The State Government submitted that nine transmission line towers had been constructed on site, involving an area of 0.118 hectare of revenue forest land. It was further informed that the work had been carried out with the consent of the landowner after obtaining the Forest Rights Certificate.
 - xii. The CA has been proposed over the degraded forest land of 24.3359 hectares in Survey No. OA 638, Village and Block – Tanera, Range – Pasan, Tehsil – Poundi Uproda, District – Korba.
 - xiii. As per the Satellite imaginary, encroachment of agriculture land is depicted on the CA land. The RO in its SIR submitted that State Government shall ensure that all encroachments are removed from the identified CA land prior to commencement of plantation activities.
 - xiv. As per the Site Inspection Report uploaded by the DFO, it has been stated that at the time of submission of the proposal by the applicant, no tower had been installed in the applied area.
 - xv. The state Government has submitted that the towers were erected mistakenly in revenue forest land as the ownership lie with individuals., no violation of the Act had occurred. Instead of furnishing the Action Taken Report under Sections 3A/3B of the Adhiniyam, the State Government has submitted that the User Agency has provided an undertaking to pay the penal NPV along with simple interest at the rate of 12%.

- xvi. The State Government has submitted that, as per the irrigated rate prescribed for the year 2024–25 for Compensatory Afforestation, the amount works out to ₹2,84,64,163/- at the rate of ₹11,69,680. The corrected copy of the CA scheme has been provided on the PARIVESH portal.
 - xvii. The proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation '*deferred*' the proposal for the want of the following:
 - a. The State Government shall provide details and the current status of the existing transmission line running in parallel to the proposed line, as reported by the RO, Nagpur in its Site Inspection Report. Additionally, the State Government shall submit a detailed justification for establishment of new transmission line in parallel to the existing transmission line.
 - xviii. The State Government submitted that, the transmission lines running parallel to the proposed line pertain to other projects and have no relation to the present proposal. It has further been stated that the proposed 220/132 kV transmission line from Chhuri Substation to M/s SECL Gevra Area-I & II, Dipka, has been planned after due examination of various alternatives and is considered the minimum and essential requirement. Further, Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company Limited, vide letter dated 10.04.2026, has also confirmed the above position. The State Government has additionally submitted maps depicting all existing transmission lines running parallel to the proposed transmission line
 - xix. The Committee observed that the User Agency has committed the violation by constructing the 9 number of towers over an area of 0.118 hectare of revenue forest land without prior approval of the Central Government under the provisions of the VSESA, 1980.
 - xx. The Committee further observed that the revenue forest land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) have encroachments over the few patches. Accordingly, the CA land shall be duly demarcated, and fenced prior to commencement of plantation activities and shall be notified by the State Government as Protected Forests under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant section(s) of the local Forest Act, before handing over the land to the User Agency.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, the Committee decided to recommend the '**Stage-1/In-principle**' approval for diversion of 12.001 Hectares of Forest Land for construction of 220 KV DCDS line from 220/132 KV Substation Chhuri to M/s SECL Gevra area - I & II Dipika, SECL Gevra project Distt Korba (RL-16 KM) in the Chhattisgarh State subject to the 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 penal CA shall be paid by the User agency as per Ministry's guidelines dated 21.01.2026.
- iv. The State Government shall ensure that the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land shall be made free from all encroachments, duly demarcated, and fenced prior to commencement of plantation activities. Further, the CA land shall be notified by the State Government as Protected Forests under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant section(s) of the local Forest Act, before handing over the land to the User Agency.
- v. The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall undertake plantation of dwarf species, preferably medicinal plants, under the transmission line corridor at its own cost, in accordance with the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 and relevant consolidated guidelines.

Agenda No: 8

Proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/QRY/561413/2025

Sub: 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 29.962 ha (25.260 hectares for mining lease area and 4.702 hectares for approach road construction) of Forest land for Dondi Iron Ore Mine under Balod Forest Division, Balod District, Chhattisgarh in favour of M/s Geeta Minerals - reg.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. 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 other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Chhattisgarh vide their letter No LAND/4402/20/2026-FOREST, dated 27.03.2026 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of diversion of 29.962 ha (25.260 hectares for mining lease area and 4.702 hectares for approach road construction) of Forest land for Dondi Iron Ore Mine under Balod Forest Division, Balod District, Chhattisgarh in favour of M/s Geeta Minerals.
 - ii. The State Government submitted that, following detailed geological exploration, the resources and reserves have been estimated under the G-1 and G-2 categories in accordance with the UNFC Classification. The complete Geological Report was submitted to the Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, and the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Chhattisgarh. Based on the satisfactory evaluation of the

Geological Report, the Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, and the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Chhattisgarh, issued a Letter of Intent (LoI) for grant of mining lease in favour of the lessee vide Letter No. 44/69/2025-MRD, Naya Raipur, Atal Nagar, dated 17.09.2025.

- iii. The project has been stated to be site-specific in nature and is proposed to meet the national demand for iron ore, as well as to generate employment through sustainable mining practices. Accordingly, the User Agency has submitted the instant proposal seeking approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- iv. The total Area required for the project is 30.758 ha (Mining Lease area - 25.260 ha and Approach road Forest land 4.702 ha Total Forest land and Non- forest Land 0.796 ha).
- v. As reported by the DFO, the canopy density of the land proposed for diversion is 0.7 of Eco Class III. Total 9453 number of trees are proposed to be felled.
- vi. The user agency has furnished an undertaking that the project does not involve any Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) of any families or individuals.
- vii. The State Government submitted that the component-wise breakup is commensurate with the approved mining plan. As per the approved mining plan, the total mined-out area at the end of the mining lease period will be 10.22 ha, the dump area 1.27 ha, and the area under utility services 0.88 ha. Accordingly, the degraded area is estimated as 12.37 ha and the non-degraded area as 12.89 ha, aggregating to a total lease area of 25.26 ha. Additionally, the proposal includes 4.702 ha of forest land for road construction to facilitate mineral evacuation. The component wise land use plan as submitted by the State Govt. on Part-I of the PARIVESH portal is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)
1.	Mining of Iron ore	25.26	0
2.	Approach Road for Transportation	4.702	0.796
Total		29.962	0.796

- viii. The State Govt. submitted that the area proposed for diversion does not form part of any Protected Areas (PAs) or their Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs), Elephant corridor etc. Further, there is no wildlife sanctuary, National park, Tiger reserve and Tiger corridor is located within 10 KM buffer distance from the forest patches proposed for diversion.
- ix. The proposed diversion area does not fall within any recognised elephant corridor. However, stray movement of elephants has been observed in the area, though such occurrences are infrequent. However, fauna like Leopard, Bear, Hyena is exist in the forest area proposed for diversion.
- x. The State Government submitted that, as per the letter dated 17.04.2026 of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Chhattisgarh, the User Agency has prepared a detailed Wildlife Management Plan. The plan includes mitigation measures for conservation of key species and management of human-wildlife conflict, including habitat improvement,

grassland development, augmentation of food resources for sloth bears, awareness programmes, and procurement of necessary equipment. Approval of the plan is under process.

- xi. The State Govt. submitted that the applied area is a hilly region; the forest area is more sensitive to soil erosion than normal. Accordingly, the Regional Office also in its SIR recommended the implementation of the SMC plan.
- xii. The State Govt. submitted that the Mining Plan has been approved by the Ministry of Mines vide letter dated 10.12.2025. Further, the Lol has been issued by the Mineral Resource Dept. Govt. of Chhattisgarh vide letter dated 17.09.2025.
- xiii. The CA land has been proposed over the 29.962 ha of non forest land in 2 patches, further sub-divided in five patches in Chintalna Village of Sukuma Division.
- xiv. The Regional Office in its SIR submitted that the User Agency has identified a non forest area over an extent of 29.962 ha of non forest area in Sy No 501,508,511,132/1P and 132/2 of Chintalna Village of SUKUMA DIVISION. During the field visit it was noticed that the area is having very good vegetation with canopy density above 0.5.
- xv. The RO further stated that few forest boundary pillars found within the area identified for CA purpose. The kml file has been verified through Decision Support System (DSS) and found that entire area forms part of the Forest Area. However, the User Agency provided documentary evidence regarding status of the land wherein reported that, the area is a non forest area. In view of the above discrepancies, the State Government shall be requested to re-examine and to submit correct legal status of the land identified for CA. In case the legal status of the land is non forest area, the same may be accepted for CA for further consolidation of the recorded forest in the region. In case, the said area is found to be forest, then the User Agency may be informed to identify suitable non forest area for CA purpose. No encroachment was noticed during the field visit on the CA land.
- xvi. The Regional Office in its SIR has recommended the proposal, subject to the following:
 - a) The User Agency and the State Government shall explore the possibility of identifying an alternative alignment for the proposed mine approach road to minimise fragmentation of forest land. In case such realignment is not feasible, the existing forest road proposed for upgradation for heavy vehicle movement shall be designed to ensure seamless wildlife movement through appropriate mitigation structures, at the project cost. Further, soil and moisture conservation works shall be undertaken in such a manner that the seasonal nallah flow in the area is not obstructed.
 - b) The State Government shall ensure that discrepancies, if any, in the legal status of the land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) are resolved, and that compensatory afforestation is carried out as per the VSS 2023 norms. In case the proposed land does not qualify as Non-Forest Land (NFL), a suitable alternative NFL shall be provided by the User Agency, and

- the CA/Crop Improvement Plan shall be prepared in accordance with the VSS 2023 norms.
- c) Tree felling shall be carried out in a phased manner in accordance with the approved mining plan. The progress of mining shall be synchronised with reclamation and restoration activities, and compliance shall be ensured by the State Forest Department.
 - d) The State Government shall endeavour to translocate all feasible trees to an identified site at the cost of the User Agency. A detailed translocation plan shall be prepared, and suitable sites shall be identified in consultation with the User Agency.
 - e) The User Agency shall maintain a safety zone of 7.5 metres in width along the mining area, ensuring that the safety zone falls within the diverted forest land. The User Agency shall provide requisite funds for undertaking plantation and maintenance over degraded forest land equivalent to one and a half times the safety zone area. The State Government shall furnish details such as KML files, scheme details, and maps, and upload the same on the e-Green Watch portal for monitoring purposes.
 - f) The Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP) and Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) Plan, duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Wildlife, shall be implemented by the User Agency and the State Forest Department, as applicable, at the project cost.
 - g) Topsoil shall be properly managed and utilised for green belt development. It shall be spread over dump areas prior to undertaking plantation and re-grassing activities.
 - h) The User Agency shall obtain all statutory approvals under the applicable Acts, Rules, and Regulations
- xvii. The State Government submitted the land proposed for diversion is hilly and prone to soil erosion. Accordingly, the State Government submitted that the User Agency is committed to implementing Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) measures in a comprehensive manner. The proposed mitigation measures include construction of check dams and siltation ponds to control runoff and arrest sediment flow, erection of retaining walls in steep gradient areas to prevent soil erosion, and phased plantation of native species for stabilization of topsoil. A monitoring mechanism will also be put in place to periodically assess the effectiveness of these measures.
- xviii. The State Government submitted that the proposal is justified on account of the site-specific nature and critical importance of the mineral, which occurs only in particular geological formations and is available in substantial quantity only within the proposed forest area, rendering relocation to non-forest land technically unfeasible. It was further stated that the project will generate significant socio-economic benefits, including direct and indirect employment opportunities for local communities, and will contribute to regional development through District

- Mineral Foundation (DMF) and CSR initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure, education, and healthcare.
- xix. Additionally, the State Government submitted that existing mines are inadequate to meet the growing industrial demand, and the proposed mine is necessary to bridge the demand–supply gap and ensure continuous availability of the mineral, while also contributing to State and national revenues through royalty.
 - xx. The State Government submitted that the component-wise breakup of the land proposed for diversion is commensurate with the approved mining plan. As per the approved mining plan, the total mined-out area at the end of the mining period will be 10.22 ha, the dump area 1.27 ha, and the area under utility services 0.88 ha. The degraded area is estimated at 12.37 ha and the non-degraded area at 12.89 ha, aggregating to a total lease area of 25.26 ha. Additionally, the proposal includes 4.702 ha of forest land for road construction to facilitate mineral evacuation. The State Government has also submitted, vide its reply dated 27.04.2026, a map indicating the component-wise activities proposed over the forest land.
 - xxi. With regard to the justification for the proposal falling in the High Conservation Zone, the State Government submitted that the project is of national importance and critical for the industrial supply chain, and is inherently site-specific due to the localized occurrence of the mineral, rendering it technically unavoidable. It was stated that the project has been designed to ensure minimal impact on the forest area, with diversion restricted to the bare minimum required.
 - xxii. Further, the User Agency has committed to enhanced compensatory measures, including intensive Compensatory Afforestation and biodiversity conservation initiatives to offset impacts in the HCV zone. The State Government, vide letter dated 24.04.2026, further clarified that as per DSS Rule I, no water body exists within a 250 m buffer of the area. Of the total 28.29 ha involved, most of the area has canopy density up to 0.6, with only 1.672 ha having density up to 0.7, and the area does not fall within any National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary. With respect to DSS Rule II, it was submitted that about 90% of the area has canopy density up to 0.6, while the remaining area has density between 0.6–0.7, with approximately 315 trees per hectare. The forest comprises mixed species such as teak, bija, tinsa, shisham, khamhar, and other indigenous species. A Wildlife Management Plan has also been prepared by the User Agency.
 - xxiii. The State Government submitted that the land identified for CA is privately owned land, duly acquired by the User Agency in accordance with prescribed procedures, and qualifies as non-forest land. Accordingly, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Balod provided the suitability report of the CA, and is stated to be non-forest land.
 - xxiv. The Committee observed that the Regional Office in its SIR stated that few forest boundary pillars found within the area identified for CA purpose. The kml file has been verified through Decision Support System (DSS) and found that entire area forms part of the Forest Area.
 - xxv. The Committee observed that the applied area is a hilly region, the forest area is more sensitive to soil erosion than normal. Accordingly, the State

Government submitted that the User Agency is committed to implementing Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) measures in a comprehensive manner.

- xxvi. The Committee further observed that the User Agency has prepared a detailed Wildlife Management Plan. The plan includes mitigation measures for conservation of key species and management of human-wildlife conflict, including habitat improvement, grassland development, augmentation of food resources for sloth bears, awareness programmes, and procurement of necessary equipment. Approval of the plan is under process.
- xxvii. The Committee observed that the total mined-out area at the end of the mining period will be 10.22 ha, the dump area 1.27 ha, and the area under utility services 0.88 ha. The degraded area is estimated at 12.37 ha and the non-degraded area at 12.89 ha, aggregating to a total lease area of 25.26 ha.
- xxviii. The Committee also observed that as per the forest boundary data of the Forest Survey of India (FSI) available on the PARIVESH portal, the proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites appear to overlap with recorded forest boundaries.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, the Committee the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for diversion of 29.962 ha (25.260 hectares for mining lease area and 4.702 hectares for approach road construction) of Forest land for Dondi Iron Ore Mine under Balod Forest Division, Balod District, Chhattisgarh in favour of M/s Geeta Minerals for want of following information:

- i. The Regional Office, in its Site Inspection Report (SIR), stated that a few forest boundary pillars were found within the area identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) purpose. Further, the KML file was verified through the Decision Support System (DSS), and it was observed that the entire area forms part of forest land. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure that the land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation is non-forest land and free from all encumbrances. Further, the State Government shall re-examine and furnish the correct legal status of the land identified for CA. In case the legal status of the land is found to be non-forest, supporting documentary evidence in this regard shall also be submitted.
- ii. As per the approved mining plan, the total mined-out area at the end of the mining period will be 10.22 ha, the dump area will be 1.27 ha, and the area under utility services will be 0.88 ha. The degraded area has been estimated at 12.37 ha and the non-degraded area at 12.89 ha, aggregating to a total lease area of 25.26 ha. Accordingly, the State Government shall furnish detailed information regarding the components proposed within the non-degraded area. Further, the State Government shall ensure that the components of the land proposed for diversion are commensurate with the approved mining plan. A comparative statement in this regard shall also be furnished by the State Government.

Agenda No. 9

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

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

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDG, Regional Office, Bengaluru, and Nodal Officer, Government of Goa attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. The State Government of Goa vide online proposal No. FP/GA /MIN /QRY/466437 /2024 submitted the above mentioned proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Vedanta Limited for Diversion of 5.3612 ha of forest area within Block-VII Cudnem Mineral Block-Vedanta Ltd., in Sy. No. 152 (p) of Cudnem Village, of Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District & Division.
 - ii. The auction of Block VII Cudnem Mineral Block was conducted on 26/04/2023 and Vedanta Limited was declared as "Preferred Bidder." The Letter of Intent was issued on 12/07/2023, The extent of Mineral Block is 75.3004 Ha and is located in Cudnem, Onda and Sonus Vonvoliem Villages of Bicholim and Sattari Talukas, North Goa District, Goa State.
 - iii. The proposed production capacity is 0.5 MTPA of Iron Ore. Open cast mechanized mining method will be adopted.
 - iv. The Indian Bureau of Mines vide its letter dated 07/03/2024 has approved the mining plan.
 - v. The Government of Goa, Department of Mines and Geology has issued a letter of intent vide letter dated 12/07/2023 which is valid for three years from date of issuance.
 - vi. It is reported that the forest land of 5.3612 ha is covering major part of the iron ore body. Out of 0.873 MT of total minable reserves 0.510 MT are in forest land. Therefore, without diversion of the said forest land mining activity will not be feasible, mining operations will be carried out as per the mining plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines. The User Agency has submitted that the instant project proposal is a site specific activity and has a positive impact on the economy. Also the project will create employment

and livelihood opportunities to many in the surrounding villages. The land use plan of the forest area proposed diversion is as under: -

Sl. No.	Component Name	Software calculated area
1	Dump	0.148
2	Mining	5.067
3	Safety Zone	0.149
	Total	5.364

- vii. The proposed site of 5.3612 Ha forest land is recorded in the name Government of Goa Daman and Diu and Notified under Section 4 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 vide Govt. Gazette No. 38, Series III dtd. 18/12/2008.
- viii. As per enumeration list of trees in the project site; there are 505 Nos. of trees present at the proposed site of 5.3612 ha. The actual number of trees required to felled area reported as 492
- ix. There are 13 Nos. ficus species present as per the enumeration list; which are recommended for translocation to forest land adjacent to the project site.
- x. Canopy density of the site is above 0.7 for the area and under Eco-Class IV.
- xi. The proposed site is not part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve or Elephant Corridor.
- xii. The proposed site does not fall within Eco-Sensitive Zone of any Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- xiii. The said area has neither any protected archaeological/heritage site nor any strategic defence area.
- xiv. The User Agency had initially identified and uploaded an area of 5.3612 ha. of Non-forest land under Sy. No. 13/1 of Pissurlem village of Sattari taluka, Valpoi
- xv. Subsequently location of CA land has been changed and newly identified CA land is in an extent of 5.3612 ha in Sy. No..41/1 Codli Village of Dharbandora
- xvi. The proposal submitted by the State Government was initially examined and sought certain clarification from the State Government on 18/07/2025. The information sought was namely on whether the instant proposal is in accordance with the order passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dt. 07.02.2018 in S.LP. (c) No. 32138 of 2015, whether any approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 has been granted earlier, action taken report on the breaking of forest land within the proposed area, if any, and component-wise KML.
- xvii. The State Government submitted the reply on 17.12.2025, wherein State Government reported that proposal is a new Mining proposal as per the order passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated. 07.02.2018 in S.LP. (c) No. 32138 of 2015.

- xviii. The Director of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa vide letter no. 03/149 /2023/Major /Mines/1732 dated 26.08.2025 referred the Hon'ble High Court of Goa at Bombay dated 13.02.2025 in WP No. 708 of 2016 which stated as:
- “As a consequence, as no activity was carried out in the said area of 5.3612 hectares, the unconditional and irrevocable bank guarantee of 46.50 lakhs which was furnished by the petitioner in Writ Petition No. 708 of 2016 to the satisfaction of the respondent no. 3 and which was to be kept in force by the petitioners until further orders of this Court shall now stand released. Necessary steps forthwith be taken by the respondent no. 3 in Writ Petition no. 708 of 2016 for release of the bank guarantee which was furnished by the petitioner”.*
- xix. The State Government has stated that Eco-sensitive zone of Mhadei Wild Life Sanctuary is 1 km. The said proposal of forest land diversion is outside the eco sensitive zone of Mhadei Wild Life Sanctuary.
- xx. The Committee was informed that user agency has uploaded the Wildlife Conservation Plan and SMC plan. However, the said plan is not approved by the Competent Authority in the Ministry.
- xxi. The user agency has uploaded the letter issued by the Directorate of Mine and Geology dated 16/12/2025, wherein it is clarified revised CA land identified in 41/1 of Codli village, Dharbhandora Taluk does not fall within any active mining lease.
- xxii. With regards to pending Writ Petition No.998 of 2016, the State Government has forwarded the reply of the Director of Mines and Geology stating that outcome of the pending writ petition W.P. 998 of 2016 may not have any bearing on the extant proposal.
- xxiii. The Regional Office, Bengaluru in its site inspection report recommended the following:
- a) The proposal FP /GA /MIN /QRY/ 466437/2024 seeks diversion of 5.3612 ha of forest land notified under Section 4 of the IFA as Proposed Reserved Forests. The proposal is titled “Diversion of 5.3612 ha forest land for Block VII Cudnem Mineral Block – iron ore mining in the State of Goa.” The User Agency, being the Preferred Bidder, has submitted the application for diversion of forest land. I agree with the recommendations of the inspecting officer.
 - b) The forest land in question is *sub judice*, as Writ Petition No. 998 of 2016, filed by Sociedade Timlo Irmaos against the Union of India and others, is pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay.
 - c) Further, paragraphs 9.3.2.3.2 and 9.3.2.3.6 of Chapter 9 – Impact Assessment in the approved mining plan provide for backfilling with geotextiles, plantation, and reclamation of finalized areas through greenbelt development. However, as pointed out by the inspecting officer, the User Agency is required to submit a comprehensive reclamation plan that integrates soil and water conservation measures along with biological interventions. Since the User Agency has stated in Part I that no topsoil is available in the mineral block, the reclamation

plan should primarily focus on bioremediation techniques. The User Agency is also advised to seek technical guidance from the ICFRE or other reputed research institutions for preparation and implementation of the plan.

- xxiv. The Committee noted that proposal was earlier considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 24/03/2026 and the Committee, after considering the various facts of the proposal desired additional information from the State Government and also requested the Regional Office, Bengaluru to re-visit its site inspection report and furnish the proper recommendation on the proposal including details of whether the matter is sub-judice in the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa.
- xxv. The Decision of the Advisory Committee was communicated to the State Government on 06/04/2026. In response to this, the State Government on 16/04/2026 furnished the reply with reference observations raised by the Advisory Committee/Ministry. Further, Regional Office had also submitted its comments on the site inspection report.
- xxvi. The Committee noted that State Government/Regional Office has submitted the following information:

SI No.	Information sought by the Advisory Committee	Reply submitted by the State Government
1	The State Government should furnish specific comments on Writ Petition (C) No. 998 of 2016 filed by the erstwhile lessee clearly indicating that whether the extant area proposed for diversion falls within the ambit of said petition or otherwise. In case the forest land in question is sub judice the State Government should clearly mention the legal impediments, if any exists in the consideration of the proposal for approval under the Adhiniyam.	The Director of Mines and Geology vide letter 25/02/2026 addressed to Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division has <i>inter alia</i> informed that the preferred bidder is not a party to the any of the said matter. It is also mentioned in the said letter that outcome of the pending writ petition may not have any bearing on the extant proposal.
2	The State Government should furnish its specific comments whether the erstwhile lessee has used the proposed land for non-forestry purpose in violation to Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. If so	The State Government has informed that approx. 0.5 Ha area out of the proposed forest area for diversion is found to be excavated/mined as per the satellite imagery and verified in field. However, the history/timeline images show that the said mining pit existed before the year 2010, as

	detailed action taken report against the violators etc.	per confirmed Google Earth images/timelines available in the public domain. No other records available with North Goa Division to trace when this activity had happened and no action taken reports are available on record.
3	The State Government has submitted the revised KML file of Land use plan for 38.996 ha only instead of entire lease area of 75.30. Therefore, the land use plan of entire lease area including the forest land proposed for diversion should be submitted along with its KML files.	The State Government has submitted revised KML file and land use plan of entire lease are of 75.30 ha including forest land proposed diversion i.e. 5.364 ha.
4	The State Government should re-visit the suitability of revised CA sites in light of observations made by the Regional Office in its inspection report.	The State Government has submitted the CA scheme. The user agency has submitted the undertaking to bear the cost for removal of existing coconut trees in the CA land. The user agency has submitted its no objection certificate of land owners to forest department to use the existing approach road which passes through Sy.36/1,36/2,36/4,36/6 and 41/1 of Codli Village for access to proposed Compensatory Afforestation land under Sy. No.41/1 of Codli village of Dharbandora Taluk for carrying out Compensatory Afforestation activities
5	The Regional Office, Bengaluru shall revisit its site inspection report and furnish the proper recommendation on the proposal including details of whether the matter is sub-judice in the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa.	The Regional Office, Bengaluru has stated that Writ Petition No.998 of 2016 was heard on 24.10.2016 and the Hon; ble Court has given direction as below; <i>The court ruled that an impugned circular dated March 31,2016 should not prevent the petitioners from conducting mining operations in non-forest areas, provided they comply with specific financial conditions and application for forest clearance filed by petitioner</i>

		<p><i>after getting Stage I clearance, Bank Guarantee deposited to encash.</i></p> <p>The counter affidavit was filed on 11.07.2022 on behalf of the MoEF&CC stating that the State Government is the legal custodian of land and the proposal for forest clearance mentioned in the Petition has not been received by Ministry.</p> <p>The matter was last heard on 24.10.2016 and after that matter was not listed for hearing.</p> <p>With regard to CA land Regional Office has stated that a site-specific CA scheme has been uploaded by the state government on 16-04-2026 for the CA Site at Sy. No 41/14 of Codli village, Dharbandora Taluk and the CA site is found suitable.</p>
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- xxvii. The Nodal Officer, Government of Goa informed the committee that Writ Petition No. 998/2016, will not have any bearing on the processing extant proposal for diversion of 5.3612 ha of forest land for Block VII Cudnem Mineral block - Iron Ore Mining in the State of Goa. Since, the matter of 5.3612 ha of forest land in Cudnem Mineral block is a subject matter in Writ petition 708/2016 (which has been already disposed of by the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa) and is not a subject matter in the WP No. 998/2016.
- xxviii. The Nodal Officer, Government of Goa also informed committee that the WP 998/2016 pertaining to the Mining block having Transfer Concession Number (TC No).92/52 and the WP 708/2016 is pertaining to the Mining Block having TC No.14/53. He reiterated that the outcome of WP.998/2016 will not have any bearing on processing of the proposal for diversion of 5.3612 ha forest land for Block VII Cudnem Mineral Block- iron ore mining in the State of Goa.
- xxix. The Nodal Officer, Goa Forest Department also brought to the notice of the committee that extant proposal will be in compliance to the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa Order dated 13th February in WP No.708 of 2016 and WP No.2832 of 2024 (F) wherein directions have been issued by the Hon'ble Court for processing the Forest clearance proposal of Vedanta Ltd who is the successful bidder for Cudnem Mineral Block VII.

- xxx. The Committee also noted that Regional Office, Bengaluru has recommended the proposed CA land identified in Sy. No 41/14 of Codli village, Dharbandora Taluk.
- xxxi. The Nodal Officer Government of Goa informed that committee that the CA land identified in Sy. No 41/14 of Codli village, Dharbandora Taluk is having coconut trees for which user agency has given undertaking to bear the cost of removing the coconut tree from the proposed CA land.
- xxxii. The Committee was of the view that coconut trees can be retained in the proposed CA land and CA plantation can be taken up on the degraded forest land twice in size of the shortfall as the rule 13 of VSES Rule 2023
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Goa. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Goa, the Committee recommended the ***Stage-I/In-principle for diversion of 5.3612 ha*** of forest area within Block-VII Cudnem Mineral Block-Vedanta Ltd., in Sy. No. 152 (p) of Cudnem Village, of Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District & Division, in favour of Vedanta limited subject to general, standard and the following specific conditions:
1. The User Agency is required to submit a comprehensive reclamation plan that integrates soil and water conservation measures along with biological interventions. The reclamation plan should primarily focus on bioremediation techniques. The User Agency shall seek technical guidance from the ICFRE or other reputed research institutions for preparation and implementation of the plan. An approved copy of the plan shall be submitted along with Stage-I compliance report.
 2. The State Government should submit the duly approved wildlife mitigation plan along with Stage-I compliance report.
 3. The approval granted shall be subject to the outcome of Writ Petition No.998 of 2016 filed by Sociedade Timblo Vs Union of India. The State Government shall provide an undertaking in this regard.
 4. Compensatory Afforestation shall be carried out in the NFL land provided. The coconut trees on the CA site shall be retained and balance CA plantation be taken up on the degraded forest land twice in size of the shortfall as per rule 13 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

Agenda No. 10

Proposal No. FP/HR/OTHERS/506674/2024

Subject: - Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.054 Ha. Forest Land in favour of Panchayat Department,

Village Bawwa, Tehsil Kosli, District Rewari for construction of side drain along Bawwa to Bahala road and Bawwa to Garhi road at village Bawwa, Tehsil Kosli, under forest Division and District Rewari, Haryana (Proposal No. FP/HR/OTHERS/506674/2024)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. the corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Haryana attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after through deliberation and discussion observed the following:

- I. The State Government of Haryana vide proposal No. FP/HR/OTHERS/506674/2024 has 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 proposal envisages diversion of 0.054 ha. Forest land for construction of side drain along Bawwa to Bahala road and Bawwa to Garhi road at village Bawwa, Tehsil Kosli, under forest Division and District Rewari, Haryana.
- III. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest.
- IV. The Vegetation density has been reported as 0.3 with Eco class III and 9 trees are proposed to be felled.
- V. The proposal is expected to generate 105 (man-days) employment in construction phase and 9127 (man-days) employment during operational phase.
- VI. The proposal is for construction of side drain. The component-wise details are as under: -

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
1	Construction of side drain along with road.	0.054	0

- VII. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed on 0.16 Ha of Degraded Forest Land in Asalwas village, Survey No. H43W12, Compartment No. Rajiyaki Disty. Km 0-1 L&R Side, Tehsil-Bawal, District-Rewari. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- VIII. DCF, Rewari has mentioned in Part- II that the user agency has violated the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and work has been started

without proper sanction. A FOR No. 5776/108 has been registered against the violator.

- IX. DCF, Rewari has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/ endangered/unique species of flora and fauna.
- X. It is also mentioned in Part-II of the proposal that no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- XI. As per SIR by Regional Office, Chandigarh, the User Agency has submitted the proposal on 19.11.2024. In view of the violation report and facts therein, the violation has been carried out while the FC proposal is under consideration, therefore, the activities carried out are violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and not the violation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Accordingly, the violation need to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- XII. As per SIR by Regional Office, there was a violation of the said proposal for 0.0092 ha by the User Agency due to which the DR was issued vide FOR No. 5776/108 dated 18.12.2024; A Penalty Amount of Rs.44,250/- has been paid by User Agency. The use of forest land has been stopped by the State Forest Department and work has been stopped.
- XIII. The State Government has submitted that no action arises under 3A or 3B of Van (Sanraksham Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- XIV. DDGF(Central), RO, Chandigarh in SIR has stated that the proposal is for diversion of 0.054 ha. in favour of Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Bawwa for construction of side drain along Bawwa to Bahala road and Bawwa to Garhi road at Village Bawwa, Tehsil Kosli, under Forest Division & Distt. Rewari, Haryana and is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Haryana recommended the proposal for grant of '***in-principle***' approval for diversion of 0.054 Ha. Forest Land in favour of Panchayat Department, Village Bawwa, Tehsil Kosli, District Rewari for construction of side drain along Bawwa to Bahala road and Bawwa to Garhi road at village Bawwa, Tehsil Kosli, under forest Division and District Rewari, Haryana subject to general, standard and following specific conditions: -

- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The

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

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

Agenda No. 11

Proposal No. FP/HR/Others/491668/2024

Subject: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.0058 ha. of Forest land in favour of M/s Freight System India Pvt. Ltd, Gurugram for access to the proposed warehouse storage of Non-Agro Produce (Logiostic Purpose) along Hailymandi-Palhawas Road k.m. 0-1 R/side, over the land failing the revenue estate of village Jatauli, Hailymandi District Gurugram by M/s Freight System India Pvt. Ltd. Under forest division & distt. Gurugram, Haryana.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. the corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Haryana attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after through deliberation and discussion observed the following:-
 - i. The State Government of Haryana vide proposal No. FP/HR/Others/491668/2024 has submitted the proposal **on the above subject** seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- ii. The proposal envisages diversion of 0.0058 ha. of Forest land for access to the proposed warehouse storage of Non-Agro Produce (Logiostic Purpose) along Hailymandi-Palhawas Road k.m. 0-1 R/side, over the land falling in the revenue estate of village Jatauli, Hailymandi District Gurugram.
- iii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest. No tree is proposed to be felled in the instant proposal.
- iv. The Vegetation density has been reported as 0.3 with Eco class III.
- v. The proposal is expected to generate 30 (man-days) employment in construction phase and 30 (man-days) employment during operational phase.
- vi. The proposal is for construction of approach access. The component-wise details are as under: -

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
1	Diversion of Forest Land for Approach access to the Proposed Site of Warehouse	0.0058	2.8665

- vii. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed on 0.2 Ha of Degraded Forest Land in Bandhwari village, Survey No. H43X3, Compartment No. Bandhwari sec 4&5, Tehsil-Sohana, District-Gurugram. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- viii. DFO, Gurugram has mentioned in Part- II that the user agency has encroached an area of 180 square metre. A FOR No. 0509/056 Dated-23/08/2024 has been registered against the violators.
- ix. DFO, Gurugram has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna.
- x. It is also mentioned in Part-II of the proposal that no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- xi. The State Government has informed that the area encroached by the user agency (0.018 hectares) exceeds the proposed area (0.0058 hectares) applied for diversion. Following a site inspection, it was confirmed that the user agency had encroached upon 0.018 hectares. However, since the proposal involves the use of only the minimum land required for the road, a proposal for 0.0058 hectares has been submitted. The Advisory Committee observed that the State government shall ensure that the remaining area (0.018ha-0.0058ha) is made free from encroachment.

- xii. As per SIR by Regional Office, there was a violation of 0.018 ha in the instant proposal by the User Agency due to which the DR was issued vide FOR No. 0509/056 dated 23.08.2024; A Penalty Amount of Rs.17,733.15/- has been paid by User Agency.
- xiii. As per SIR of the Regional Office, the violation in the instant proposal has been carried out while the FC proposal is under consideration; therefore, the activities carried out are violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and not the violation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Accordingly, the violation needs to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
- xiv. DDGF(Central), RO, Chandigarh in SIR has stated that the proposal is for diversion of 0.0058 ha. in favour of M/s Freight Systems India Pvt. Ltd. for diversion of forest land for access to warehouse storage of Non-agro Produce (logistic purpose) in Village Jatauli, Haily Mandi, Forest Division & District Gurugram in the state of Haryana and is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Haryana recommended the proposal for grant of *'in-principle'* approval for Diversion of 0.0058 ha. of Forest land in favour of M/s Freight System India Pvt. Ltd, Gurugram for access to the proposed warehouse storage of Non-Agro Produce (Logiostic Purpose) along Hailymandi-Palhawas Road k.m. 0-1 R/side, over the land falling in the revenue estate of village Jatauli, Hailymandi District Gurugram by M/s Freight System India Pvt. Ltd. Under forest division & distt. Gurugram, Haryana subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:
- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
 - ii. Penal compensatory afforestation, if proposed by the State Government, shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.

- iii. The User Agency shall pay five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- iv. The State Government shall initiate action penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The State Govt. shall submit action taken report with respect to 3A/3B violation alongwith Stage-I compliance.
- v. The State Government shall ensure that the remaining area (0.018ha-0.0058ha) is made free from encroachment and submit the supporting document alongwith Stage-I compliance.

Agenda No. 12

Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/531300/2025

Sub: - Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department for regularization of 0.2966 Hectare of Forest land for already constructed link road from Khaprera to Tarnoh 0/00 to 0/800 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble high court of H.P in Villages- Tarnoh & Kathwar, Sub-district- Kotli & Mandi, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/531300/2025)– regarding.

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh and representative of Govt. of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The State Government of Himachal Pradesh vide Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/531300/2025 has 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 proposal envisages regularization of 0.2966 Hectare of Forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department for already constructed link road from Khaprera to Tarnoh 0/00 to 0/800 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble high court of H.P in Villages- Tarnoh &

Kathwar, Sub-district- Kotli & Mandi, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

- iii. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is Charagah Billa Drakhtan and Jungal Mehfuja Gair Mehduda. But the same has not available in online Portal. So, the legal status of Forest land 'Other' has been mentioned against the column in online Part-II.
- iv. The vegetation density of 0 has been reported with Eco class 5. No tree is proposed for felling in the instant proposal.
- v. The proposal is expected to generate 18200 (man-days) permanent employments and 7300 (man-days) temporary employments.
- vi. The component-wise land-use of the proposal is as under: -

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non- Forest Land (ha.)
1.	Road	0.2966	0.073

- vii. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed of degraded forest on 0.5932 ha (CA) Land bearing Survey No. 53A/14 namely DPF Patroun of beat Patons, Block, Sadar, Forest Range Mandi Forest Division, in the CA scheme, 1100 plants are prepared to be planted. Total financial outlay for compensatory afforestation scheme is ₹ 4,38,748/-.
- viii. DFO, has certified that land identified for Compensatory Afforestation is suitable for undertaking plantation and suitable from management point of view, the land is free from all sorts of encumbrances and encroachments.
- ix. The DFO, Mandi has mentioned in his site inspection report that user agency has violated provisions of FCA, 1980. The user agency has already constructed 0.8 Km of road involving 0.2966 ha forest land and 0.073 ha private land. Whereas, user agency has mentioned in Part- I that the proposed road was constructed by local villagers by widening of old path during the year 2001-2002.
- x. The proposal does not form the part of any Protected Area, or Eco-Sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc.
- xi. There is no presence of protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments in the proposed area.
- xii. DFO, has mentioned that there is no presence of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
- xiii. The State Government has clarified that the road was constructed by HPPWD during the period of 2002-2009 by widening and improving an existing village path to provide connectivity to the area. The same has been mentioned by the user agency in Part-I and reported in the list of 2183 cases to the Hon'ble High Court of HP. The existing road is about

0.8 Km in length involving 0.2966 ha. of forest land and 0.073 ha. of Private land.

- xiv. The State Government has informed that the legal status of forest land, which is proposed for diversion is Charagah Billa Drakhtan and Jungal Mehfuja Gair Mehduda. But the same has not available in online Portal. So, that legal status of Forest land 'Other' has been mentioned against the column in online Part-II.
- xv. The State Government has clarified that the violation has already been reported in the case of Hon'ble High Court of H.P. during the year 2012-13 and it appears at S.No.187 of the list of 2183 roads.
- xvi. The State Government has submitted that user agency has informed that the status of 2183 case has been uploaded against additional information details at S.No.1 in online Part-II. Further, user agency has submitted that out of 2183 case 91 no. of cases has been approved and others area under progress.
- xvii. As per Site Inspection Report by the Regional Office, Chandigarh, the proposed site for the said project has already been constructed. In this case the total area worked out 0.2966 ha of forest land and 0.073 ha of private land totalling to 0.3696 ha. This road is already constructed and has been reported as violation and it appears at serial no. 187 in the list of 2183 cases reported as violation to Hon'ble High Court.
- xviii. As per Site Inspection Report by the Regional Office, Chandigarh, the proposal involves violation and work of road has already been completed by the User Agency. In the instant case the forest land has been diverted without submission of the proposal. Accordingly, the proposal needs to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
- xix. As per Site Inspection Report by the Regional Office, Chandigarh, the instant proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as under.

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

- xx. As per recommendation in SIR by RO, Chandigarh, the violation under the instant case needs to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh vide order dated 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009.
- xxi. The DDGF (Central), RO, Chandigarh in the Site Inspection Report stated that the instant proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which

directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009. The proposal is for regularization of already constructed link road from Khaprera to Tarnoh under Mandi Forest Division and same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The committee took note of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as elaborated at (xix) above. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Himachal Pradesh recommended the proposal for grant of '**in-principle**' approval in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department for regularization of 0.2966 Hectare of Forest land for already constructed link road from Khaprera to Tarnoh 0/00 to 0/800 reported earlier under violation to Hon'ble high court of H.P in Villages- Tarnoh & Kathwar, Sub-district- Kotli & Mandi, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-

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

Agenda No. 13

Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/557607/2025

Subject: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 1.8382 ha. of forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department, Shimla for construction of Road Roni to Karyali KM 00/00 to 05/0130, within the jurisdiction of Theog Forest Division, Distt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/557607/2025-regarding.

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh and representative of Govt. of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The State Government of Himachal Pradesh vide Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/557607/2025 has 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 proposal envisages diversion of 1.8382 ha. of forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department, Shimla for construction of Road Roni to Karyali KM 00/00 to 05/0130, within the jurisdiction of Theog Forest Division, Distt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
 - iii. Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is mentioned as Others. Vegetation density of 0.05 has been reported with Eco class VI. 62 trees felling is involved in the instant proposal.
 - iv. The proposal is expected to generate 2500 (No. of days) employment.
 - v. The component-wise land-use of the proposal is as under: -

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non- Forest Land (ha.)
1.	Road already constructed	0.9415	0.7298
2.	Addition area required for c/o road	0.7967	0.61
3.	Forest area required for 2 dumping sites	0.1	0
	Total	1.8382 ha	1.3398 ha

- vi. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed of degraded forest on 3.70 Hectare land bearing Survey No./Compartment No. 58E/8 in D-

40 Narainty, Beat & Block Matiana, Theog Range & Theog Forest Division, Tehsil Theog Distt. Shimla, identified for compensatory afforestation is suitable for undertaking plantation. Total financial outlay for compensatory afforestation scheme is ₹ 13,90,745/-.

- vii. DFO has certified that land identified for Compensatory Afforestation is suitable for undertaking plantation and suitable from management point of view, the land is free from all sorts of encumbrances and encroachments.
- viii. The proposal does not form the part of any Protected Area, or Eco-Sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc.
- ix. There is no presence of protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments in the proposed area.
- x. DFO, Theog has mentioned in part-II that there is no presence of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. The Wildlife present in the area are Crow, sparrow, Lizard, Monkeys, rats and rabbits etc.
- xi. The State Government has submitted that as per direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 along with CWP No. 9797 of 2012 and COPC No.56 of 2009, the Hon'ble High Court has ordered that officials of the MoEF & CC or any other department of the Government of India shall not insist on compliance with furnishing the names, designations, and complete addresses of the officers of the State Government responsible for past violations with regard to 2183 roads identified by committee constituted.
- xii. The State Government has informed that that in the year 1998, Administrative approval and Expenditure Sanction (AA&ES) was accorded for this road by the competent authority. But due to non-availability of budget and also due to non-availability of Land, work could not be taken up by HPPWD authorities. The starting portion of this road was recorded as a Gair Mum kin Rasta of a width of 12 feet (3.60 meters), in the revenue records. Considering this aspect, the people of area started the improvement works on this path on their own Risk and cost. After the construction of path, people of area approached this office for its protection works in the shape of Retaining walls or Breast walls.

Meanwhile, HPPWD started to receive nominal amount of budgets year by year. Since the area is hilly, and considering frequent landslides in monsoon season, department executed the protection work to minimize the risk of land subsidence on large scale.

- xiii. The Advisory Committee noted that the User agency has submitted justification for dumping site on forest land that the possibilities for shifting the dumping site on non-forest land was explored but no such private land is available for dumping purpose. As a matter-of-fact, HP state is a hilly state and most of the land holdings is with forest department. The share of private land holdings is very less as compare to forest land holdings. The same situation persists in this area. Whatever small land holdings they are having and whatever land out of these small land holdings they could have spare, they have already donated for road construction purpose. In nut shell, it is not possible to arrange for private land for dumping purpose.
- xiv. As per SIR by Regional Office, Chandigarh, the total Length of this proposed road is 5.130 km out of which 2.233 km will be constructed on private land and rest of 2.897 km will be constructed through forest land. The construction work including the earth work and layering has been partially completed and remaining road is kachha path. The black topping has not been done in any part of road. The instant case is part of already constructed 2183 road in Himachal Pradesh, wherein, violation has been reported in Hon'ble High Court.
- xv. The instant proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as under.

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

- xvi. As per SIR by Regional Office, the proposal involves violation and work of road has already been completed by the User Agency. In the instant

case the forest land has been diverted without submission of the proposal. Accordingly, the proposal needs to be dealt as per the provisions under the Para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- xvii. DDGF (Central), RO, Chandigarh in SIR has stated that the instant proposal is part of the 2183 road projects for which directions have been passed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 08.08.2013 and 05.09.2013 in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009. The proposal is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The committee took note of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in CWP No. 5600 of 2012 a/w CWP No. 9797/2012 and COPC No. 56/2009 as elaborated at (xii) above. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Himachal Pradesh recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 1.8382 ha. of forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department, Shimla for construction of Road Roni to Karyali KM 00/00 to 05/0130, within the jurisdiction of Theog Forest Division, Distt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh subject to general, standard and following specific conditions: -

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

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

Agenda No. 16

Proposal No. FP/KA/WATER/514888/2024

Proposal seeking ex-post facto approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam 1980 for diversion of 0.2949 Ha of Forest Land for Improvement Water Supply Scheme to Jamakhandi City under AMRUT 2.0 from City Municipal Council, Jamakhandi Taluk, Bagalkote District, Karnataka FP/KA/WATER/514888/2024

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 8.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDG, Regional Office, Bengaluru, and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - (i) The Government of Karnataka had submitted the proposal vide letter No. FEE 126 FLL 2025(e) dated 26.06.2025 seeking *ex post facto* approval of Central Government under section-2 (1) (2) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 for diversion of 0.2949 Ha of Forest Land for Improvement Water Supply Scheme to Jamakhandi City under AMRUT 2.0 from City Municipal Council, Jamakhandi Taluk, Bagalkote District, Karnataka State.
 - (ii) The State Government has reported the violation of 0.0312 ha forest land on which Ground Level Storage Reservoir has been constructed in violation to Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam 1980. However, The

- Regional Office, in its Site Inspection report has reported the violation of 0.0913 ha which includes laying of underground pipeline and pump house.
- (iii) The componentise break up o forest land proposed for diversion area as under;

Sl. No.	Component	Total forest Area (in ha)
1	Existing Ground Level Storage Reservoir	0.0312
2	Existing Pipeline	0.0532
3	Existing Pump	0.0069
4	Proposed Ground Level Reservoir	0.2036
5	Total	0.2949

- (iv) The legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is Reserved Forest
- (v) The forest land proposed for diversion is in Eco class-IV with canopy density of 0.1
- (vi) The number of trees required to felled are 25. The trees species to be felled are *Azadircta indica*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Ailanthus excels* etc.
- (vii) The forest area proposed for diversion does not form the part of protected area
- (viii) It is also reported that no National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary is located within 10Km distance from the Protected Area.
- (ix) As per DSS report, proposed forest area for diversion falls in Not-in High Conservation Value Zone based on Decision Rule1 and Decision Rule
- (x) The Ministry had sought certain clarification from the State Government on 01/08/2025, namely on: action taken against the officers who failed to prevent the use of forest land for non-forestry purpose, action taken against user agency and extraordinary delay in submission of diversion proposal.
- (xi) The State Government vide its letter dated 09/04/2026 submitted the reply wherein it is informed that old structure which constitutes violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was constructed in the year 1992. Mr. Y.S. Majjagi was the Range Forest Officer (RFO) of concerned jurisdictional range (He has retired from service around 15 years back) and Mr. Shiva Prakash was the Divisional Forest Officer at that time. Further, State Government has also stated that Range Forest Officer has filed FIR under the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963.
- (xii) The Regional Office, Bengaluru has conducted the site inspection of the forest area proposed for diversion and noted that forest area under violation is 0.0913 ha which includes laying of underground pipeline and pump house also apart from Ground level reservoir.
- (xiii) The Regional Office, Bengaluru in its site inspection report has recommended the proposal and stated that area under violation is to be considered as 0.0913 ha instead of 0.0312 ha.

- (xiv) The committee noted that as per the site inspection report of Regional Office, Bengaluru, area under violation is 0.0913 ha
- (xv) The Nodal Officer, appraised the committee that since there was confusion with regard to legal status of the land, whether the proposed land is forest land or non-forest land, hence the user agency has undertaken the construction activities. Therefore, penal action may have exempted considering the fact that the project is for public utility for drinking water project.
- (xvi) The Committee noted that since forest land has been diverted for non-forestry purpose without prior approval under the Adhinyam, which amounts to violation of provisions of van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, it amounts to violation of the Adhinyam.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka, the Committee '**recommended**' the **Stage-I/In-principle** approval for diversion of 0.2949 Ha of Forest Land for Improvement Water Supply Scheme to Jamakhandi City under AMRUT 2.0 from City Municipal Council, Jamakhandi Taluk, Bagalkote District, Karnataka, subject to general, standard and following specific conditions: -
- (i) Action under section 3A and 3B shall be initiated by the Regional Office, Bengaluru against those responsible for violation of the Adhinyam.
- (ii) The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation as reported by the Regional Office Bengaluru plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- (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 for penal compensatory afforestation, as applicable, in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhinyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- (iv) Penal compensatory afforestation proposed, as applicable, 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.

Agenda No.17

Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/QRY/421301/2023

Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section of 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of JSW Steel Limited for diversion of Forest Land of Existing Approach Road of Devadari Iron Ore Mine ML No. 006 (old ML No 2290) over an extent of 1.65 Ha in SM Block, Sandur South Range, Ballari District, in the State of Karnataka (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/QRY/421301/2023).

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDG, Regional Office, Bengaluru, and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - (i) The Government of Karnataka vide their letter no. FEE 05 FFM 2025 (e) dated 15.02.2025 (uploaded on the Parivesh portal on 15.02.2025) has submitted the proposal for diversion of 1.65 ha of forest land for existing approach road of Devadari Iron Ore Mine, ML No.006 (Old ML No.2290) in SM Block, Sandur South Range, Ballari District, in the State of Karnataka in favour of M/s JSW limited under section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - (ii) This approach road is connecting to the Devadari Iron Ore Mine ML No. 06 (old ML No 2290) (C-category mine) and for the said mine, the approval was granted by Ministry vide letter no. 8-07/2018-FC dt 13.12.2018 in favour of M/s JSW Steel Limited.
 - (iii) The land use plan of the proposed road is as under: -

Sl. No.	Component	Total forest Area (in ha)
1	Carriage way	0.9896
2	Shoulder-1	0.1324
3	Driange-1	0.2007
4	Carriage-2	0.247
5	Shoulder 2	0.0319
7	Drainage-2	0.0481
8	Culvert	0.0044
	Total	1.6541

- (iv) The committee noted that, Ministry has also accorded the approval for diversion of 5.271 ha of forest land for Downhill Pipe Conveyor in favour of JSW for mineral transportation.
- (v) The committee also noted that justification submitted by the user agency for the proposed road, and challenges faced by the user agency for transportation of mineral from the existing approach road and existing Down Hill Pipe Conveyor Belt (DHPC)
- (vi) It is also mentioned in the proposal that proposed approach road has the suitable profile viz. slope, gradient, contour etc. for the movement of heavy loaded vehicles, which is safe for transportation of minerals.
- (vii) The proposed road of 1.65 ha falls in the broken up area prior to 1980, and was used by the erstwhile lessee. No tree felling is involved in the proposal, thereby minimizing impact on the forest.
- (viii) The legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion is Section-4 notified forest under the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963.
 - (ix) The forest area proposed diversion is not having any tree felling.
 - (x) The forest area proposed for diversion is not forms the part of any Protected area and Eco –sensitive zone.
 - (xi) The user agency has identified Non-Forest land to an extent of 1.65 ha in Sy.421/E/1,421/G,421/H in Kuruvalli Village, Siraguppa Taluk, Ballarai District, for raising the compensatory Afforestation.
 - (xii) The DFO in site suitability certificate has stated that the non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is forms part of Great Bustard landscape. From point of conservation of GIBs it is not advisable to create vegetation dominated trees. Hence, for taking of 1000 trees per ha, degraded forest land of 3.31 ha has been identified in K .Belagal village, Ballari District.
 - (xiii) As per the DSS report, the forest area proposed for diversion is not in High Conservation Value (HCV) zone as per Decision Rule 1 and Decision Rule 2.
 - (xiv) The proposal received from the State Government was initially examined in the Ministry and Ministry on 18/03/2025 had sought certain clarification from State Government viz; compliance of the conditions stipulated for the proposal related top renewal of Mining Lease ML No. 2290 over an extent of 100.54 Ha in Swamymalai Block, Sandur Taluk. Ballari District and approval accorded fir diversion of 5.271 ha of forestland for Existing/Proposed Approach Road, Downhill Pipe Conveyor. Service Roads, Transmission Line Cable and Water Pipeline in S.M. Block. Sandur South Range, Lakshmipura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka, comments of the State Government on the justification submitted by the user agency, crop improvement programme for the proposed CA land identified as per Rule 13 of VSES Rule 2023 and to submit the reason for use of said forest land for non-forestry purpose without prior approval of the Central Government.
 - (xv) The State Government had submitted the reply on the clarification sought by the Ministry, wherein the State Government has submitted the compliance report on the approval granted by the Ministry for renewal of 100.54 ha and for diversion of 5.271 ha. The State Government has also submitted its comments on the justification submitted by the user agency wherein it is stated that main

pipe conveyor is designed to transport only iron-ore fines. Due to this operational limitation, iron-ore lumps cannot be transported through the DHPC,². Further, it is also mentioned that transportation yield from the conveyor system varies seasonally throughout the year. Transportation is significantly hampered during the monsoon season due to the high moisture content in the iron-ore fines. Further, the State Government has also stated that the proposed approach road (1.65 ha road proposal) is an already existing broken-up road that existed prior to the year 1980 and is clearly indicated in Topo Sheet No. 57 A/12.

- (xvi) With regard to crop improvement programme on the proposed CA land, State Government has clarified that the proposed CA land parcels form part of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) landscape in Siruguppa Taluk of Ballari District. From the perspective of GIB conservation, it is not advisable to create thick vegetation dominated by trees. The GIB landscape area needs to be maintained as grassland. Therefore, there is no scope for crop improvement. Accordingly, degraded forest land (DFL) of twice the extent of area to be diverted has been identified in Survey No. 1 of K. Belagal Village, Siruguppa Taluk, Ballari District for raising CA plantation.
- (xvii) Further with regard to use of existing road, the Ministry had sought details of the road being used by the earlier lessee and by the current lessee without prior approval of the Government of India. In reply, the State Government has stated that earlier lessee obtained Forest Clearance vide Government of India (GOI) letter No. 8-75/96-FC dated 09.03.2007. The current lessee, i.e., M/s JSW Steel Limited, has obtained temporary permission from the State Government vide letter No. FEE 12 FFM 2025 (e) dated 16-09-2025.
- (xviii) Regional office, Bengaluru has recommended the proposed diversion of 1.65 ha forest land for the proposed approach road.
- (xix) The Committee was informed that the State Government has issued temporary working permission for usage of the said road on 15.02.2025 and 31.10.2018 based on the Ministry guideline dated 15.11.2001. It was noted that guideline dated 15.11.2001 relied by the State Government for granting working permission is not in vague.
- (xx) Furthermore, the Committee was apprised that matter pertaining to temporary permission for use of forest roads in Karnataka was discussed in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.08.2024. The Committee had opined then that the State Government permitting the use of the forest road for mining does not seem to be appropriate. Moreover, during the pendency of the clarification sought by the State vide their letter dated 30.04.2024 in the said matter, the action of the State Government to permit use of road does not seem to be appropriate.
- (xxi) The committee enquired from the Nodal Officer whether any approval for the existing road has been obtained by the erstwhile lessee or otherwise. The Nodal officer informed that committee that erstwhile lease has obtained the forest diversion approval for the road Clearance vide Government of India (GOI) letter No. 8-75/96-FC dated 09.03.2007. However, no approval for use

of the said road has been obtained for the new lessee. The Committee noted the same.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka, the Committee **deferred** the proposal for want of following clarification from the State Government: -
- The State Government shall provide its comments on the grant of temporary working permission for use of forest roads for mining despite the Ministry guideline dated 15.11.2001 not being in vogue.
 - The State Government is requested to furnish the approval granted to the erstwhile lessee under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, vide Government of India (GOI) letter No. 8-75/96-FC dated 09.03.2007 along with the original sketch map and KML file of the diverted land for which approval had already been obtained by the erstwhile lessee.

Agenda No. 19

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 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and CCF Chhatarpur, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter No. 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 of Eco Class III with 17406 number of trees proposed to be felled.
- iii. The proposed land for diversion is having the presence of the Leopard (*Pantherapardus*), Sloth Bear (*Melursusursinus*), Nilgai (*Boselaphustragocamelus*), Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*), and Chital (*Axis axis*). Further, the Proposed area is situated at a distance of approx. 12 km from Panna Tiger Reserve boundary.
- iv. 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.
- v. With regard to justification for opening new mine in High Conservation Zone, it is submitted by the State Government that the ground verification revealed the area to comprise degraded mixed deciduous forest with canopy density (0.3–0.4) and no unique or threatened flora in the area. 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.
- vi. The State Government submitted that the 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. 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 no cumulative impact on forest land beyond the assessed buffer zone.
- viii. 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.
- ix. 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.
- x. The proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation '*deferred*' the proposal for the want of the following:
- a) 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.
 - b) 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. State Government.
 - c) 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.
- xi. The State Govt. submitted that 102.639 ha of private land has been purchased by the User Agency, duly registered on the name of the User Agency and free from encumbrances, and that all CA land lies outside forest boundaries. A Suitability Certificate (30.05.2025) issued after field verification by DFO/CCF confirms the land as non-forest and suitable for plantation. The State Government further submitted that the apparent overlap in DSS is due to a digitization error, and supporting documents, including revenue records, have been submitted.
- xii. The State Government further submitted that the proposed 96.66 ha for the Bajna Iron Ore Mine is entirely forest land, with no involvement of non-forest land. It has been stated that, in accordance with the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017, only site-specific activities have been proposed within the lease area, duly approved under the Mining Plan by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) on 17.10.2023, and reflected in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The proposal

includes 1.62 ha for overburden/waste dumping and 0.61 ha for mineral storage within the lease area, in conformity with the approved Mining Plan/EMP. No mineral beneficiation activity is included in the present proposal and, if required, shall be undertaken separately on non-forest land.

- xiii. The User Agency has further undertaken that forest land shall be utilized strictly for site-specific activities and to the minimum extent required, as per the approved Mining Plan/EMP.
- xiv. The State Government has submitted that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for Environmental Clearance (EC) for the 96.00 ha Bajna Iron Ore Mine were issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Madhya Pradesh, under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 vide letter dated 27.06.2024, which stipulated preparation and approval of a Wildlife Conservation Plan. Accordingly, a Wildlife Conservation Plan for the 10 km radius of the project area has been prepared and approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh, vide letter dated 14.06.2024. Further, the CWLW, vide letter dated 17.04.2026, has accorded approval to the Wildlife Management Plan with a financial outlay of ₹68.80 lakh for a period of five years, aimed at mitigating impacts on flora and fauna in the project area.
- xv. 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. In this regard, the State Government submitted that all CA sites are adjacent to the forest compartment boundaries. Further, the State Govt. stated that 102.639 ha of private land has been purchased by the User Agency, duly registered on the name of the User Agency and free from encumbrances, and that all CA land lies outside forest boundaries.
- xvi. A Suitability Certificate (30.05.2025) issued after field verification by DFO/CCF confirms the land as non-forest and suitable for plantation. The State Government further submitted that the apparent overlap in DSS is due to a digitization error, and supporting documents, including some revenue records, have been submitted.
- xvii. 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. The CWLW, vide letter dated 17.04.2026, has accorded approval to the Wildlife Management Plan with a financial outlay of ₹68.80 lakh for a period of five years, aimed at mitigating impacts on flora and fauna in the project area. However, the State Govt. has not furnished the comments of the NTCA.
- xviii. The State Government has submitted that the proposed 96.66 ha for the Bajna Iron Ore Mine is entirely forest land, with no involvement of non-forest land. It has been stated that, in accordance with the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017, only site-specific activities have been proposed within the lease area, duly approved under the Mining Plan by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) on 17.10.2023, and reflected in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

- xix. The State Government vide letter dated 21.04.2026 submitted that the proposal includes 1.62 ha for overburden/waste dumping and 0.61 ha for mineral storage within the lease area, in conformity with the approved Mining Plan/EMP. However, as per the land use plan submitted by the User Agency vide dated 09.01.2026, an area of 0.5024 ha for the Temporary soil dump and 0.5608 ha for mineral storage. Accordingly, the Committee observed that the land use plan as submitted by the User Agency over the various occasions is not clear.
 - xx. The Committee further observed that the State Government has not furnished details regarding the manner in which the water and electricity requirements for the proposed mine shall be met by the User Agency.
 - xxi. The Committee also observed that, as per the land use plan submitted by the State Government, an area of 38 ha has been shown as non-degraded forest land. However, the land use plan furnished in this regard lacks clarity.
 - xxii. The Committee further observed that the end use of the iron ore proposed to be extracted has not been clearly specified.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and CCF Chhattarpur, 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 area for diversion 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. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit the comments of NTCA.
 - ii. The land use plans submitted by the State Government on various occasions exhibit variations. Accordingly, the State Government shall furnish the final land use plan for the forest land proposed for diversion. The State Government shall further ensure that the land use plan submitted is commensurate with the approved mining plan. In this regard, the State Government shall also furnish a comparative table indicating the details of the land use plans vis-à-vis the approved mining plan.
 - iii. The State Government submitted that an area of 38 ha has been earmarked as non-degraded land. The State Government shall furnish detailed justification and supporting particulars in this regard.
 - iv. The end use of the iron ore proposed to be extracted has not been clearly specified. Accordingly, the State Government shall furnish detailed information in this regard.
 - v. The State Government has not furnished details regarding the manner in which the water and electricity requirements for the proposed mine shall be met by the User Agency. Further, the State Government shall also furnish details of any additional forest land required, if any for meeting the requirements of electricity, water, and other essential project components.

Agenda No: 20

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

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

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Govt. of Maharashtra vide their letter No FLD-1925/C.R.150/F-10 dated 11.09.2025 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 160.783 ha. forest land for construction of Shirawta Off Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (1800 MW) at Village Khandashi, Rakaswadi, Thoran, Jambhawali, Tal. Maval, Dist. Pune in the State of Maharashtra by M/s Tata Power Company Limited, Pune.
 - ii. The total land requirement is 197.797 ha, comprising 160.783 ha of forest land and 37.014 ha of private land. A new upper reservoir to be constructed and the existing Shirawta reservoir as the lower reservoir. The upper reservoir will be connected to the powerhouse by penstocks, and the lower reservoir will be connected by a tailrace tunnel. The total installed capacity is 1800 MW (5 x 300 MW + 2 x 150 MW), with nonconsumptive recirculation of up to 14.97 MCM per day between the reservoirs.
 - iii. The existing Shirawta reservoir, an operational dam since 1920 across the Kundali River (a tributary of the Shima River in the Krishna basin), will serve as the lower reservoir. Its catchment area is 28.47 sq. km. In addition to inflow and precipitation from its own catchment, the Shirawta reservoir receives water from the Uksan reservoir via a tunnel and diverts water to Walvhan Dam to feed the Khopoli Hydro Power Station (72 MW). The upper reservoir is proposed at top the Jambhawali-Thoran hillock ranges. Both reservoirs will be used cyclically for storage and generation. Initial filling and annual make-up water for losses will be sourced from the existing Shirawta reservoir.
 - iv. The forest land involved in the proposal is having the canopy density of 0.7 (Very Dense Forest) of Eco Class I and 64729 number of trees are proposed to be felled.

- v. The State Govt. reported that the Project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation and therefore, resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required for this project.
- vi. The State Government submitted that the proposed land for diversion does not forms part of any protected area. Further, no Wildlife sanctuary, National park, Tiger reserve and Tiger corridor is located within 10 KM distance from the forest patches proposed for diversion. As per DSS Analysis, As per the DSS, the nearest Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary is located at a distance of 19.98 Km and Karnal Sanctuary is at 34.48 Km away from the proposed forest land for diversion.
- vii. The proposed forest land for diversion is located within the proposed Eco Sensitive Area (ESA) as per draft notification of Kasturirangan Committee.
- viii. The land use plan of the proposal is as under:

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

- ix. The DCF Pune in its SIR recommended that a Wildlife Mitigation Plan is highly necessary, as the project area supports prominent wildlife such as Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), reptiles, and amphibians. The State Government submitted that a detailed Wildlife Management Plan has been prepared outlining various mitigation measures for conservation of wildlife in the project area, including provision for creation of wildlife corridors to facilitate free movement of fauna. The Plan has been duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Maharashtra, vide letter No. 2343 dated 23.09.2025.
- x. The State Government proposed an area of 160.783 ha of non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) from Gut Nos. 4/Mulapur/1 (38.605 ha), 19/Pimpari/82/103 (22.310 ha), 20/Ahirwadi/1 (34.540 ha), and 33/Bhadas Khurd/1 (31.241 ha and 34.087 ha), located at Village Tata Talav, Taluka Mulshi, District Pune. The State Govt. submitted that land is contiguous, suitable for management purposes, free from encroachment and encumbrances, and found acceptable as per the VSES Rules, 2023.
- xi. As the land already has tree cover with a density of 0.4, a Protection and Conservation Plan has been proposed over the entire 160.783 ha with a budgetary provision of ₹7.33 crore. The land is presently in possession

- of Tata Power, and the CA land suitability certificate, management plan, and the State Govt. has submitted Record of Rights.
- xii. The Regional Office in its SIR recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:
- a) The State Government shall implement the site-specific Wildlife and Biodiversity Management Plan approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden at the project cost.
 - b) The State Forest Department shall ensure that gap planting is carried out in the open spaces of the identified non-forest area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation and shall implement a crop improvement plan for the existing vegetation at the cost of the User Agency.
 - c) The State Government shall ensure that muck is dumped only at designated sites in non-forest areas, and that no dumping takes place within forest areas.
 - d) Wherever feasible, the User Agency shall raise plantations of suitable tree species and undertake re-grassing on the bunds of the upper reservoir.
 - e) The User Agency shall implement controlled blasting and other mitigation measures and ensure that blasting material is not stored within forest areas.
- xiii. The State Government submitted that the proposed Pumped Storage Project is site-specific due to suitable topographical and geological conditions, adequate head difference over a short distance, and availability of sufficient water from the existing Shirwata Reservoir as the lower reservoir. Four alternative upper reservoir sites were studied, and Alternative-IV involving an area of 160.78 of forest land was identified as the most feasible option and recommended by the Central Electricity Authority.
- xiv. The State submitted that an existing double-circuit 22 kV overhead line at the dam site will be used for construction power, with a new 22 kV line proposed along the road and penstock corridor, and that no additional forest land is required. For power evacuation, the project will be connected through a proposed 400 kV double-circuit transmission line to the CTU's upcoming 765/400 kV substation near Kalamb, with separate forest diversion proposals to be submitted, if required.
- xv. The State Government submitted that the Shirwata PSP has been granted Environmental Clearance by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), subject to obtaining Stage-I Forest Clearance (Proposal No. IA/MH/RIV/550476/2025). It was stated that during appraisal, MoEF&CC examined the project's location within the Eco Sensitive Area of the Western Ghats and constituted a Sub-committee for site inspection, based on whose recommendations Environmental Clearance was granted.
- xvi. The State further informed that mitigation measures prescribed in the EIA Report, Wildlife Conservation Plan, Muck Management Plan, Compensatory Afforestation Plan, and Environment & Ecology Monitoring Plan will be implemented during construction and operation, and that no significant or irreversible impact on local biodiversity is anticipated with these measures in place.

- xvii. The State Government submitted that a detailed Wildlife Management Plan has been prepared outlining various mitigation measures for conservation of Schedule -I wildlife species in the project area, including provision for creation of wildlife corridors to facilitate free movement of fauna. The Plan has been duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Maharashtra, vide letter No. 2343 dated 23.09.2025.
- xviii. The State Government submitted that the CAT plan is not required to the Shirwata Pumped Storage Project as it is an off-stream, closed-loop system with no defined catchment area, inflowing streams, or natural runoff. The upper reservoir, proposed on a plateau, will be filled only once during commissioning by pumping water from the lower reservoir, and thereafter water will be recirculated between the two reservoirs without dependence on external inflows; hence, no catchment stabilization or soil conservation measures are required.
- xix. The State Govt. submitted that an apparent overlap of 2.76 ha was observed with the forest-compartment boundary in the TRT and Powerhouse area during the DSS analysis. However, detailed verification of cadastral maps, forest compartment maps, and field inspection confirmed that this overlap is due to boundary-layer variation and map-scale generalization in the DSS dataset and does not indicate any additional forest land. The TRT and Powerhouse involve 0.352 ha (Gut No. 326) and 0.230 ha (Gut No. 327) of forest land, and 9.801 ha (Gut No. 441) of non-forest land, all of which are already included in the present proposal. Accordingly, the DFO has certified that the forest area proposed for diversion remains unchanged at 160.783 ha, and the total project area, including non-forest land, remains 197.797 ha.
- xx. The State Government submitted that access to the muck disposal site will be through the existing Jambhawali–Kamshet State Highway and Shirde village road, which is entirely over non-forest land.
- xxi. The State Government submitted that the adjoining land to Patch No. 4 belongs to Tata Power and that adequate right of way will be provided through Survey Nos. 249 and 250 of Village Bhadus Khurd, Taluka Mulshi, District Pune.
- xxii. The State Government further clarified that, with respect to CA Patch No. 3 (Survey No. 20/Ahirwadi/1), satellite imagery indicates an apparent overlap with private land. In this regard, the Dy. Conservator of Forests, Pune, has submitted that the proposed CA land is free from encumbrances and that the issue of overlap, if any, will be resolved prior to the final handover. All land records and survey particulars shall be duly reconciled before handing over the land to the Forest Department.
- xxiii. The land adjoining CA Patch No. 4 (Survey No. 33/Bhadas Khurd/1) belongs to Tata Power Company Limited. Adequate and permanent Right of Way shall be provided to the State Forest Department to access the said CA land through Survey Nos. 249 and 250 of Village Bhadas Khurd, Taluka Mulshi, District Pune. The access route plan along with an undertaking confirming provision of access has already been submitted.
- xxiv. The proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation '*deferred*' the proposal for the want of the following:

- a) The State Government shall submit comments of the concerned division of the Ministry with regard to taking up the Pumped Storage Proposal (PSP)/Hydel proposals in the Eco Sensitive Area.
- xxv. The State Government submitted that the proposed Shirwata Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (1800 MW) falls within the villages of Khandashi, Rakaswadi, Thoran, and Jambhavali in Maval Taluka, Pune District, Maharashtra, which lie in the Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) as per the draft notification dated 31.07.2024. The project is categorized as a regulated activity under the said notification. Further, the Eco-Sensitive Zone Division, MoEF&CC, has further clarified (vide email dated 17.04.2026) that hydropower projects in ESA are permitted subject to compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, including conditions relating to minimum ecological flow (30%), cumulative impact assessment, and maintaining prescribed inter-project distance.
- xxvi. The ESZ Division further stated that considering the importance of Pumped Storage Projects in achieving India's Panchamrit climate goals, the Ministry has constituted a Committee to examine the suggestions of the six states in a holistic manner, keeping in view the conservation aspects of the ecosystem, and the rights, privileges, needs and developmental aspirations of the region. The concerns/suggestions of the State Governments are being deliberated by the Committee with the respective State Governments on merit for finalization of the draft notification.
- xxvii. The Committee observed that the Central Electricity Commission vide its letter dated 01.09.2025 accorded its concurrence to the Detailed Project Report of the proposal.
- xxviii. The Committee further observed that the Water Resource Department has issued NOC vide letter no. 2985 dated 09/05/2025 for availability of water from Shirwata Reservoir to the instant proposal.
- xxix. The Committee further observed that, as per FC Division's O.M. dated 17.05.2022, the project activity in notified ESZ around PA or in notified ESA, shall be regulated and governed by the concerned ESZ/ESA notification. Accordingly, activities prohibited under the ESZ notification can not be undertaken. Whereas, for regulated and other activities; forest clearance will be required, only if forest land is involved and proposed activity is for non-forestry use, as per provisions of the VSESA, 1980 and guideline made thereunder.
- xxx. The Committee further observed that the proposed land for diversion is falling in the Eco Sensitive Area of the Western Ghats. In this regard, the ESZ division vide email dated 04.05.2025 informed this Ministry that the PSP projects are the regulated activity in the ESZ area.
- xxxi. The Committee also observed that another project (FP/MH/HYD/IRRIG/515850/2024) of similar nature is under consideration which is located at a distance of 5.82 Km from the instant project. Accordingly, the State Government submitted that although the Shirwata PSP and Saidongar-1 PSP are located within short aerial distance, they fall in different hydrological basins on opposite sides of the Western Ghats and involve distinct ecological and geomorphological

settings. It was stated that the projects do not exert cumulative or overlapping pressure on the same landscape, nor do they affect any common wildlife habitat or biodiversity corridor. Accordingly, the carrying capacity of the region is considered adequate to sustain both projects independently, subject to implementation of the approved Environmental Management and Biodiversity Conservation Plans.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, the Committee decided to recommend the '**Stage-1/In-principle**' approval for diversion of 160.783 ha. forest land for construction of Shirawta Off Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (1800 MW) at Village Khandashi, Rakaswadi, Thoran, Jambhavali, Tal. Maval, Dist. Pune in the State of Maharashtra by M/s Tata Power Company Limited with general, standard and the following specific conditions:
- i. The State Government shall ensure that muck is dumped only at designated sites in non-forest areas, and that no dumping takes place within forest areas.
 - ii. Wherever feasible, the User Agency shall raise plantations of suitable tree species and undertake re-grassing on the bunds of the upper reservoir.
 - iii. The User Agency shall implement controlled blasting and other mitigation measures and ensure that blasting material is not stored within forest areas.
 - iv. The State Government shall ensure implementation of the Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.
 - v. The State Government shall ensure implementation of the duly approved CAT Plan at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.

Agenda No: 21

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

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 233 ha. forest land for construction of Saidongar-I Karjat Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (3000 MW) (Hydro power electricity generation) at Pali, Tal. Kotal Khalati, Saidongar & Dhak Village, Karjat Taluka, Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra in favour of M/s Torrent PSP 3 Private Limited- Change in CA land (Non Forest Land)- reg.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra were present in the meeting.

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation '*recommended*' the proposal for the grant of the Stage-I approval. Accordingly, after getting the approval of the competent authority, this Ministry vide letter dated 31.12.2025 has accorded the Stage-I approval.
 - ii. The State Govt. submitted that earlier, the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land for the project was initially proposed at Village Nive, Taluka Khed, District Ratnagiri, admeasuring 243.37 Ha, for which the Suitability Certificate was obtained from DFO Chiplun based on consent provided by the landowners at that stage. Subsequently, efforts were undertaken to acquire the said land, and 66.3227 Ha (~27%) was successfully procured. However, despite continuous and sustained efforts over a period of 4-6 months, the remaining land owners withdrew their consent and expressed unwillingness to part with their land. This resulted in a practical impasse, making it infeasible to secure the balance CA land within reasonable timelines.
 - iii. In view of the above constraints, and considering the urgency of complying with Stage-I Forest Clearance conditions, it became necessary to identify alternate CA land. Accordingly, suitable NFL parcels were identified at Village Kemase and Dhankal, Taluka Patan, District Satara. The revised CA land admeasuring 252.7597 Ha has been fully acquired through registered conveyance deeds, which is approximately 8.43% higher than the required forest land diversion area (233 Ha), thereby ensuring adequacy of CA land. The suitability of the revised CA land has been duly verified and certified by the DCF, Satara, the C.A land has canopy density is 0.7 and the Crop Improvement Plan has also been proposed. Further, the said land has been formally transferred in favour of the State Forest Department through a registered Deed of Conveyance is uploaded in Parivesh Portal.
 - iv. Further, the User Agency submitted that the Non-forest land over 252.7597 Ha against 233 Ha has been identified in village Kemase (196.7908 Ha) and village Dhankal (53.9689 Ha) both under Patan Tehsil, Satara District under jurisdiction of Satara Forest Division towards compensatory afforestation towards 233 Ha forest land required for non-forest use In Raigad District.
 - v. The revised CA land has been inspected by the DCF, Satara and issued the site suitability certificate. Further, a crop improvement plan amounting ₹3,86,91,443/- has been prepared by the State Govt.
 - vi. As per the DSS analysis, out of the 252.7597 ha of the newly proposed CA land, 8.98 ha is classified as VDF, 205.14 ha as MDF, 40.19 ha as Open forest and 14.66 ha as non forest.

- vii. This Ministry vide letter dated 22.04.2026 requested the Regional Office Nagpur to conduct the Site Inspection for the newly proposed CA land. Accordingly, the Site Inspection of the land proposed for CA has been done by the Regional Office Nagpur and the SIR has been forwarded to the Ministry vide email dated 27.04.2026.
- viii. The Regional Office in its SIR submitted that the revised CA land has also been transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department through registered Deeds of Transfer No. 2237/2026 and 2238/2026, both dated 20.03.2026, executed at the Sub-Registrar Office, Satara. As reported, the transferred CA land is under process to notify as RF/PF.
- ix. The Patch wise CA details are as under:

Sr. No.	Village	No. of Patches	Area (Ha.)
1	Kemase	1 Patch	198.7908
2	Dhankal	2 Patches	53.9689
	Total	3 Patches	252.75 ha

- x. The Regional Office further submitted that patch inspected at Village Kemase is a largely contiguous block and is found to be adjoining Reserve Forest land in Village Dhankal. The patch lies within the buffer zone of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.
- xi. The RO further submitted that at certain locations in this Kemase patch, small open areas over an extent of 16 ha spread at different locations were noticed. Small isolated patches over an extent of 10 ha where plantation is feasible may be taken up from the funds already been realised from the User Agency as per the provision of the VSS Rules, 2023 and guidelines issued thereunder.
- xii. However, around 6 ha of these openings are associated with steep slopes and rocky outcrops, where there is no scope for conventional plantation. During the field visit it was noticed that, within the identified land, two small patches over an extent of approximately 0.35 ha of the private land have been excluded from the CA area. Upon enquiry, it was informed that, the said land belong to the farmers and the said area was not able to acquire, due to non-availability of the land owners.
- xiii. The two patches located in Village Dhankal are both found to be adjoining Reserve Forest land and lie within the buffer zone of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. The terrain is gentle slopes and the canopy density is above 0.6, similar to the Kemase patch.
- xiv. The Regional Office recommended that change in CA land for acceptance, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The State Forest Department shall implement the approved Crop Improvement Plan in a time-bound manner at the cost of the User Agency, in accordance with applicable rules.
 - b. The transferred CA land shall be notified under the relevant provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or the applicable State Forest Act, and shall thereafter be incorporated into the approved Working Plan with appropriate management prescriptions.
 - c. Periodic progress reports on the implementation of the CA scheme, including crop improvement and gap plantation, shall be

- submitted to the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur, for monitoring purposes.
- xv. The Committee observed that the newly proposed CA land lies inside the buffer zone of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.
 - xvi. The Committee further observed that the proposed AC land is largely contiguous and adjoining existing Reserve Forest, and has canopy density above 0.6, making it suitable for crop improvement-based treatment.
 - xvii. The Committee further observed that the steep slope portion in Survey No. 33 over an extent of 6 ha and which is non-plantable rocky are adequately offset by the additional ~19.7597 ha offered over and above the required CA area. This appears reasonable from the overall management and adequacy perspective.
 - xviii. The Committee further observed that, within the identified land, two small patches of private land admeasuring approximately 0.35 ha have been excluded from the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Nagpur and Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, the Committee '**recommended**' to accept the newly identified CA land over 252.7597 ha of non-forest land in village Kemase and Dhankal subject to the following conditions:

- i. Within the identified land, two small patches of private land admeasuring approximately 0.35 ha have been excluded from the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area. In this regard, the State Government shall ensure that the excluded private landowners do not encroach upon the CA area. Proper fencing and other necessary mitigation measures shall be incorporated and ensured by the State Government in the approved CA scheme.

Agenda No. 23

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 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained to the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
- i. The Govt. of Odisha 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 34th meeting held on 16th 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 23rd 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 260th 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. 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 does 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 SIR 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:
 - a. 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.
 - b. As proposed in the project, 32.567 hectares of the diverted forest area shall be strictly maintained as a green cover.
 - c. 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.
 - 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.

- xv. The proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation '*deferred*' the proposal for the want of the following:
- a) 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.
 - b) 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.
 - c) 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.
 - d) 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.
 - e) 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.
- xvi. The State Government submitted that the project is site-specific nature on grounds of raw material and infrastructure linkages, logistics efficiency, strategic importance to Odisha, provision of over 50% forest land as green belt, approval of SSWLCP, and unviability at alternative locations. It has been further stated that three alternative sites identified by IDCO were evaluated jointly by IDCO, DIPA, and KSL on various parameters, and the Gajamara site was found most suitable. It has been further submitted that the forest land occurs in small scattered patches, and avoiding these would fragment the layout, increase land requirement, and cause greater environmental impact. Further, operational and safety requirements necessitate proximity and

- alignment of units, making the project unviable if confined to non-forest land alone.
- xvii. The State Government submitted that eviction and demolition were carried out in two phases on 18.11.2025 and 19.01.2026, removing all unauthorized structures and encroachments. The action was undertaken by the District Administration with support from IDCO and police.
 - xviii. The State Government further submitted that the project lies outside the ESZ, and the CWLW, Odisha has recommended the proposal (24.12.2025). Occasional seasonal elephant movement has been noted in the broader area; however, no direct sightings have been recorded within the project site since 2022. It was further stated that natural and man-made barriers restrict wildlife movement towards the site. The Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) has been approved (11.03.2026) with mitigation measures, and the recommendation is subject to implementation of these measures by the User Agency.
 - xix. The State Government submitted that assessment of utility infrastructure is ongoing and final alignments for road, power, and water networks are yet to be finalized. Accordingly, the Right of Way and exact forest land involvement cannot be determined at this stage. It has further been stated that efforts are being made to avoid diversion of forest land. The State Government also informed that, for the construction phase, power and water will be sourced from existing grid and groundwater, respectively, and no additional forest land diversion is presently required.
 - xx. The State Government submitted that the alignment of the NHAI road passing through the land proposed for diversion has been revised in consultation with NHAI. The Government of Odisha has approved the modified alignment to keep the road outside the project area, and the matter has been taken up with NHAI for final approval. It has been stated that the revised alignment now excludes the project land, thereby eliminating any overlap with the forest land involved in the proposal.
 - xxi. 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.
 - xxii. 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 Conservation.
 - xxiii. 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.

- xxiv. The Committee observed that industrial projects are generally categorized as non-site-specific in nature. The State Government has submitted justification regarding the site specificity of the proposal; however, the same has not been found to be satisfactory. Further, the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), is in the process of finalizing alignments for road, power, and water networks, and any requirement of such forest clearance will be assessed after completion of land acquisition and finalization of the right of way.
- xxv. The Committee further observed that as per the information submitted by the State Govt., there are various other projects under consideration in the region. Accordingly, the State Govt. shall examine at least three alternatives and submit a proposal with least forest land required for the purpose.
- xxvi. The Committee further observed that the issue pertaining to the overlapping has already been taken up with NHAI Headquarters for resolution, and discussions in this regard are currently under progress. The instant proposal has been accorded the Stage-I approval by the RO Bhubaneswar on 03.02.2026 as per the old alignments. Further, it is also pertinent to mention that as per the new alignment as proposal by the State Govt., the NHAI road still overlaps with North West corner.
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 industrial projects are generally categorized as non-site-specific in nature. The State Government has submitted justification regarding the site specificity of the proposal; however, the same has not been found to be justifiable. Further, the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), is in the process of finalizing alignments for road, power, and water networks, and any requirement of such forest clearance will be assessed after completion of land acquisition and finalization of the right of way. Accordingly, the State Government shall furnish a detailed and comprehensive justification with regard to the site specificity of the proposal.
 - ii. As per the information submitted by the State Government, various other projects are under consideration in the region. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit a holistic proposal after examining at least three alternatives and submit a proposal with the least forest land required for consideration under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - iii. The issue pertaining to the overlapping has already been taken up with NHAI Headquarters for resolution, and discussions in this regard are currently under progress. The instant proposal has been accorded the Stage-I approval by the RO Bhubaneswar on 03.02.2026 as per the old alignments. Further, it is also pertinent to mention that as per the new

alignment proposal by the State Govt., the NHAI road still overlaps with North West corner. Accordingly, the State Govt. shall ensure that the NHAI road lies outside the boundary of the proposed Kalyani Steel lease area.

Agenda No. 25

Proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/QRV/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- reg.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The Government of Odisha 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 discussed and 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 of Eco Class I. 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:

Present Land Use			Total Area in Ha	Proposed Land Use as per approved Modified Mining Plan			Total Area in Ha	Change in Land Use Area in Ha.
Component	Forest Area in Ha	Non-Forest Area in Ha		Component	Forest Area in Ha	Non-Forest Area in Ha		
Area under Mining	9.903	0.00	9.903	Area under Mining	26.733	0.00	26.733	+16.830
Top Soli Stacking	0.000	0.00	0.000	Top Soli Stacking	0.000	0.00	0.000	
Overburden/Waste Dumping	0.996	0.00	0.996	Overburden/Waste Dumping	24.000	0.00	24.000	+23.004
Mineral Storage	4.955	0.00	0.996	Mineral Storage	8.095	0.105	8.200	+3.245
Infrastructure (Workshop, administrative building etc.	1.000	0.00	1.000	Infrastructure (Workshop, administrative building etc.	2.750	0.00	2.750	+1.750
Road	4.148	0.00	4.148	Road	3.256	0.00	2.750	-0.892
Mineral Separation plant	3.514	0.036	3.550	Mineral Separation plant	4.940	0.036	4.976	+1.426

Sub-grade stack	3.158	0.00	3.158	Sub-grade stack	0	0.00	0	-3.158
Parking area	1.120	0.00	1.120	Parking area	0	0.00	0	-1.120
Safety zone area	3.378	0.105	3.483	Safety zone area	2.645	0.00	2.645	-0.838
Other to specify	40.247	0.00	40.247	Other to specify	0	0.00	0	-40.247
Total	72.419	0.141	72.560	Total	72.419	0.141	72.560	46.255

- 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 the following 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:

Locations of Safety Zone maintained at below of width 7.5 meter from ML boundary			
Pillar No.	Average Width of Safety Zone (in Meter)	Area in ha.	Remarks
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
	Total	0.056	

- 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 discussed and 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 SIR 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) Adhiniyam, 1980 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 proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27.02.2026. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation '*deferred*' the proposal for the want of the following:
- 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.
- xv. The State Government submitted that the User Agency, vide letter dated 30.03.2026, has provided details of prior approvals granted by MoEF&CC for change in land use of safety zone areas under cluster mining arrangements. It has been reported that Stage-II approvals were granted in 2020 in respect of both M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Limited and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. for diversion of 0.218 ha each from safety zone to mining purposes within already diverted forest land, specifically for facilitating cluster mining operations.
- xvi. The State Govt. further submitted that the Stage-I approvals have also been granted for additional changes in land use. In respect of M/s Penguin Trading & Agencies Limited, approval for diversion of 6.910 ha forest land (including 1.1594 ha from safety zone) for mining and allied activities was accorded in 2025 under cluster mining arrangements with other lease holders. Similarly, in respect of M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd., Stage-I approval for diversion of 0.938 ha forest land from safety zone to mining purposes was granted in 2025, also under cluster mining

- arrangements. It has thus been submitted that the changes in safety zone land use in the adjoining mines have been duly approved by the competent authority from time to time in the context of cluster mining.
- xvii. The State Government submitted that the User Agency, vide letter dated 30.03.2026, has furnished a comparative land use statement based on the approved Modified Mining Plan. It has been indicated that the total lease area remains unchanged (72.560 ha), with 72.419 ha forest land and 0.141 ha non-forest land. The revised plan shows an increase in area under mining (+16.830 ha), overburden/waste dumping (+23.004 ha), mineral storage (+3.245 ha), infrastructure (+1.750 ha), and mineral separation plant (+1.426 ha). These increases are offset by reduction or rationalization of other components, including sub-grade stack, parking area, safety zone, roads, and miscellaneous areas. It has been submitted that the changes are in accordance with the approved Modified Mining Plan and are necessary for optimized mining operations, with reallocation of land from non-essential or temporary uses to core mining and allied activities.
- xviii. As per the proposed component wise land use plan submitted by the State Govt., the total area involved in the mining is 26.733 ha of forest land and no non forest land involved in the proposal shall be used for the mining purpose.
- xix. 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.
- xx. The Committee observed that in accordance with the Ministry's clarification dated 26.12.2024, the State Government shall submit a separate proposal via PARIVESH 2.0 regarding the change in land use for the 69.041 hectares of forest land previously diverted under the Ministry's letter dated 14.06.2010.
- xxi. The Committee observed that out of the total lease area of 72.560 ha, an area of 72.419 ha is forest land. Out of this, 69.041 ha had been diverted earlier vide approval accorded in 2010, while 3.378 ha was retained as safety zone within the lease area and was not diverted previously. Accordingly, the User Agency has now submitted the proposal for diversion of 3.378 ha of forest land. Out of which 0.733 ha shall be earmarked for mining purpose, whereas the remaining area of 2.645 ha shall continue to be maintained as safety zone.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the proposal for '**Stage-1/In-principle**' approval for the diversion of 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 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, Bhubaneswar, as applicable.
- iii. The penal CA shall be paid by the User agency as per Ministry's guidelines dated 21.01.2026.
- iv. In accordance with the Ministry's clarification dated 26.12.2024, the State Government shall submit a separate proposal via PARIVESH 2.0 regarding the change in land use for the mining area within the 69.041 hectares of forest land previously diverted under the Ministry's letter dated 14.06.2010.
- v. The State Government shall ensure implementation of the Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.

Agenda No. 26

Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445444/2023

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 216.875 ha of Forest land (including 4.217 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) in village Gandhalapada, Barapada and Guali under Barbil Tahasil, Barbil Range of Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District within the Block area of 241.10 ha in favour of Gandhalapada Iron Ore Block by M/s TATA Steel Limited (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445444/2023) -reg.

1. The agenda note for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Nodal Officer, Govt. of Odisha and DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

- i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0036-2025-14973/FE&CC dated 21.06.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH 2.0 portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ii. There are 216.875 ha of forest land out of total lease area of 241.10 ha. About 90% of the mineral (Iron ore) deposit falls in forest area. Considering the demand of iron ore by the growing steel industries and to cater to the captive use of the iron ore in their own steel industry, the exploitation of the ore from the area is essential. Since the occurrence of the ore is site specific, which happens to fall in forest land, the area is required for diversion to for these minerals.
- iii. The Letter of Intent (LoI) for the Gandhalpada Iron Ore Block was issued on 28.10.2021, with a validity of three years, i.e., up to 27.10.2024. Subsequently, the validity of the LoI has been extended for an additional period of two years, effective from 28.10.2024, by the Department of Steel & Mines, Government of Odisha, vide their Letter No. 9136/SMMC1-MRL-0021-2021, Bhubaneswar, dated 23.10.2024. LOI is valid upto 28.10.2026.
- iv. The estimated Geological Resource of iron ore is calculated to be 314.37 million tons as per present bore hole data, explored by GSI in 200 m X 200 m interval (G-2 level), Total number of bore holes taken for estimation of reserve are 72 of which 69 no. are coming in Forest land & 3 in non-forest land. In first five years of mining operation 160 nos, of exploratory drill holes measuring 16,000 m is planned to be drilled for detailed exploration which will be undertaken on execution of Mining Lease. This will prove the resource at G1 level. At ROM capacity of 10 million tons per annum of iron ore, the life of mine has been estimated to be 33 years, which is likely to increase after detailed exploration. As per the Rule 12(3) of MCDR, 2017 the holder of mining lease shall carry out detail exploration (G-1 level) over entire lease area within a period of 5 years from date of opening of the mine.
- v. Out of total 241.100 ha of lease area, 24.225 ha comes under non-Forest land (7.436 ha Govt. non-Forest land, 16.789 ha Private Land) and the rest 216.875 ha is of Revenue Forest land and comes under Keonjhar Forest Division.
- vi. The area is bounded by the Mining Lease area of Nuagaon Iron Ore Mines of M/s. JSW Steel Ltd. in Northeast, Kalamang West (Northern Part) Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Tata Steel Ltd. in South and Nuagaon Iron Ore Mines of M/s. JSW Steel Ltd. in East.
- vii. The average canopy density taken into consideration is 0.5, Eco Class-I considering the proximity of Thakurani RF which has maximum coverage under MDF category as per ORSAC supplied Forest Block wise canopy density maps based on FSI, SFR 2019. The total nos, of trees enumerated over forest land comes to 32,098 /-.
- viii. The component wise break-up of the total forest land proposed for diversion at the end of the mine is given below:

S. NO.	Particular	Area put to use 6 th Phase (ha) (final phase)		
		Forest	Non-Forest	Total
1.	Area under mining	210.478	22.922	233.4

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

- ix. The applied site is the dwelling habitat of Faunal species such as Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*), porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) etc. The proposed site falls under Elephant habitat zone-2. The forest area involved in this lease does not include any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve or Elephant Reserve. The applied area has got the presence of Elephant. The Karo-Karmpada elephant corridor is located at a distance of 4.40 Km from the project site.
- x. No rare or endangered species is available in the applied area for diversion. No archaeological /heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area applied for diversion.
- xi. The compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 222.577 ha of Non-forest land has been identified in village Talabarada of Banspal Tahasil in Keonjhar District. The NFL is in Single Patch. Further, 350.79 ha of Degraded Forest Land (DFL) has been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation. The DFL is in five patches. The site suitability certificate over 222.58 ha non-forest Govt. land has been furnished by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division.
- xii. The Mining plan including Progressive Mine closure plan has been approved by the Regional Controller of Mines, Office of the Regional Controller of Mines, BBSR (IBM) over an area of 216.875 ha in respect of Gandhalapada Iron Ore Block in Keonjhar District in favour of Tata Steel Ltd. vide Letter No. BBS/KJR/IRON/2198/MP/2022-23 dated 23.02.2023.
- xiii. There are about 43 nos. of houses present with in the jungle Kisam land. The user agency has submitted the detailed of the R& R policy to be taken up in the ML area.

- xiv. The proposal apparently does not involve any violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The inspecting team perambulated through the most of the lease area and found that no mining related work by the user agency (except for delineating Pillars erection) has yet been started within the applied area and therefore the proposal does not involve violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. But few forest patches were found subjected to non-forest uses in violation to other forest regulations not attributed to user agency. On the northern corner within the lease, few machines, equipment's, tin-shades etc. were found lying abandoned in the forest area. Few semi-permanent structures too were seen in dilapidated conditions.
- xv. Similarly, few unmetalled kachha pagdandi type narrow roads were also found within the forest. The user agency informed that abandoned machineries belonged to some previous mine operator (in adjacent area) who might have left them while winding up. Few areas were subject to agricultural also.
- xvi. With regard to the non-site specific activities proposed on the forest land, the State Government has reported that only 24.225 ha of non-forest land involved in the instant project and 24.225 ha of non-forest land is insufficient to accommodate all essential mine infrastructures and operational components.
- xvii. The State Government has reported that the water tank observed at the site proposed for diversion has been constructed by Government Agency for community use. The State Government shall assess the alternative available for community for their needs of water resources after removal the said water tank.
- xviii. The State Govt. submitted that in the land identified for CA, the water body has been created by the Forest Department and the cultivation patches are illegal encroachments and will be removed.
- xix. The State Government has reported that 24.315 ha of forest land earmarked for future use has also been explored at the G-2 level.
- xx. Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal for consideration, subject to following additional conditions:
 - a. As the non-forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has dense vegetation, the Forest Department shall undertake crop improvement activities in accordance with Rule 13 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, at the cost of the User Agency.
 - b. The State Government shall ensure that the degraded forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is free from encroachments and that CA is implemented in accordance with the MoEF&CC directive dated 17-02-2025. Any shortfall in the plantation target shall be met on degraded forest land (DFL) at the cost of the User Agency (UA).
- xxi. The proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 22.01.2026. The committee after detailed discussion and deliberation '*deferred*' the proposal for the want of the following information:
 - a) Out of 216.875 ha of total forest area proposed for diversion, mining is proposed over 99.16 ha, which is about 45% of the total forest area. Hence, the majority of the area sought for diversion is meant for non-site-specific activities. The State Government shall explore recasting

the proposal and consider the possibility of shifting the non-site-specific activities to non-forest land.

- b) A Comprehensive Wildlife Management-cum-Conservation Plan shall be prepared in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India, along with a Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan. These plans shall be implemented through the State Forest Department throughout the project life or until the land is reclaimed and surrendered, whichever is earlier.
 - c) The User Agency shall prepare a Mine Reclamation Plan with exact timelines, including surrender of land post mining.
- xxii. The State Government submitted that the approved Mining Plan (under MCDR, 2017) for the total lease area of 241.10 ha indicates that 238.24 ha ($\approx 98\%$) will ultimately be used for mining. Out of the forest land proposed for diversion, 214.760 ha ($\approx 99\%$) will be utilized for mining, and only 2.11 ha for utilities.
- xxiii. The State Govt. further stated that as a virgin mine, only 99.16 ha will be mined during the initial phase (Year 1–5), while the remaining area will be used for temporary operational activities (dumping, storage, roads, etc.), which will be progressively shifted and mined out in subsequent phases. The phase-wise plan indicates that, by the end of mine life, almost the entire forest land will be brought under mining, except for mandatory safety zones and minimal utilities. A water reservoir over 8.63 ha is also proposed at the conceptual stage. Accordingly, it has been submitted that the forest land diversion is predominantly for mining, and the ancillary activities are temporary and operationally essential; hence, shifting them to non-forest land is not feasible.
- xxiv. The State Govt. submitted that the User Agency has already approached WII vide letter dated 12.03.2026 for preparation of the Comprehensive Wildlife Management-cum-Conservation Plan. Meanwhile, a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the Gandhalpada Iron Ore Block, with a financial outlay of ₹5.74 crore, has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife), Odisha.
- xxv. Further, a landscape-level Biodiversity Conservation Plan for the Netrabandha Pahar landscape has been prepared by IIFM, Bhopal, covering multiple mining leases including the project area, with a total outlay of ₹70.24 crore. An amount of ₹5.86 crore has already been deposited by the User Agency towards its implementation. It has been submitted that the project area falls within the said landscape plan, which comprehensively covers wildlife, soil, and moisture conservation measures. Accordingly, the objectives of the Wildlife Management-cum-Conservation Plan are largely addressed.
- xxvi. The State Government submitted that, as per the approved Mining Plan (Chapter 6, Clause 6.2.11), the conceptual land use at the end of mine life indicates that about 229.61 ha of mined-out area will be reclaimed and rehabilitated, 8.63 ha shall come under a water reservoir and 2.86 ha under utility services. No permanent waste dump is envisaged, as temporary dumps will be re-handled and used for backfilling.
- xxvii. The State Govt. submitted that a phased Mine Reclamation Plan with timelines has also been prepared, indicating progressive reclamation over the mine life, covering approximately 229.61 ha with plantation of about 5.74 lakh saplings. The life of the mine is estimated to be about 33 years, based on current reserves, and may increase with further exploration. It has also been

- stated that the Final Mine Closure Plan (FMCP) will be submitted as per MCDR, 2017, and closure will be undertaken only after completion of reclamation and rehabilitation measures.
- xxviii. The Committee observed that approved Mining Plan (under MCDR, 2017) for the total lease area of 241.10 ha indicates that 238.24 ha ($\approx 98\%$) will ultimately be used for mining. Out of the forest land proposed for diversion, 214.760 ha ($\approx 99\%$) will be utilized for mining, and only 2.11 ha for utilities.
- xxix. The Committee observed that the User Agency has already approached WII vide letter dated 12.03.2026 for preparation of the Comprehensive Wildlife Management-cum-Conservation Plan. Meanwhile, a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the Gandhalpada Iron Ore Block, with a financial outlay of ₹5.74 crore, has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife), Odisha.
- xxx. The Committee further observed that a landscape-level Biodiversity Conservation Plan for the Netrabandha Pahar landscape has been prepared by IIFM, Bhopal, covering multiple mining leases including the project area, with a total outlay of ₹70.24 crore. An amount of ₹5.86 crore has already been deposited by the User Agency towards its implementation.
- xxxi. The Committee also observed that the land proposed for diversion is prone to the soil erosion. The State Govt. reported that all soil conservation, slope stabilization, and erosion-control measures prescribed in the approved Mine Plan will be strictly implemented and adhered to throughout the life of the mine.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee recommended the proposal for '**Stage-1/In-principle**' approval for the diversion of 216.875 ha of Forest land (including 4.217 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) in village Gandhalpada, Barapada and Guali under Barbil Tahasil, Barbil Range of Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District within the Block area of 241.10 ha in favour of Gandhalpada Iron Ore Block by M/s TATA Steel Limited with general, standard and the following specific conditions:

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

Agenda No. 27

Proposal No. FP/OR/TRANS/449599/2023

Subject: 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 13.899 ha of Forest land for construction of 132 KV D/C (4

Conductor) Transmission Line from 220/132/33 KV GSS Bamra to RTSS, Garposh (SE Railway) by OPTCL in Bamra Wildlife Division, Dist-Sambalpur reg.

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

- i. The Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0055-2025-26489/FE&CC dated 04.09.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ii. The proposal involves 13.899 ha of revenue forest land as well as 33.726 ha of non forest land.
- iii. The land proposed for diversion is having the canopy density of the 0.2 of Eco Class I. Total 402 number of trees has been proposed for felling.
- iv. The State Govt. submitted that the proposal is formulated to supply power from 220/132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station, Bamra to Railway Traction Sub Station (RTSS), Garposh (South Eastern Railway) in Jharsuguda district, Odisha over a distance of 18.424 KM. The project will supply electric power to the traction substation, which will result in plying locomotives through electric power instead of conventional diesel fuel. The Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), a Govt. of Odisha undertaking organization, is entrusted with this proposal.
- v. The land use plan for the land proposed for diversion is as follows:

Component	Forest Land (Ha)	Non Forest Land (Ha)	Total Land (Ha.)
Transmission Line	13.899	33.726	47.625

- vi. The forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Elephant Corridors, Tiger Reserve etc. However, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Bamra Forest Division, has reported occasional elephant movement in the area throughout different times of the year.
- vii. A violation has been committed by the User Agency under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, as 22 numbers of Transmission Line towers have been constructed over 0.059566 ha of Revenue Forest land without obtaining prior approval of the Government of India, MoEF&CC. However, no stringing of transmission wires has been carried out so far. As per the SIR of the RO, 22 towers were constructed during the period from 2019 to 2021, along with certain towers erected in non-forest land.

- viii. The State Govt. submitted that Late Shri Satyabrata Rout, Ex-DGM, OPTCL, Jharsuguda, was found responsible for the unauthorized use of forest land for non-forestry purposes. It was also informed that 18 numbers of encroachment cases have been booked under the provisions of the OPLE Act, 1972 by the concerned Tahasildar. During the site visit, it was also observed that certain portions of the proposed Revenue Forest land were being used by local villagers for seasonal crop cultivation. However, it was informed that no formal allotment of the said land has been made for cultivation purposes and that such use is temporary in nature.
- ix. Subsequently, the State Government clarified that the Tahasildar, Bamra, vide letter No. 920 dated 15.04.2026, has stated that there is no encroachment in the proposed area. However, observations from Google Earth imagery indicate the presence of cultivated land and a kachha road within the proposed forest area.
- x. Against diversion of 13.899 ha of forest land, 28.786 ha of Revenue Forest land double in extent at village Kadalipal, Khata NO.5, Plot No.74 in Sambalpur District under Bamra (WL) Division has been identified for compensatory afforestation.
- xi. Further, the DFO, Bamra Wildlife Division has prepared a CA scheme for ANR Plantation @ 500 seedlings/ha with SMC measures, fencing using Angle Iron and Chain Link Wire Mesh, watering arrangements and 10 years' maintenance. The proposed CA site is adjacent to Ushakothi RF, approximately 1400 m distance from the boundary of Badama WLS and falls within the notified ESZ of Badama WLS. The identified Revenue Forest land is suitable for undertaking Compensatory Afforestation from both plantation and management perspectives, subject to proper fencing for protection of the plantations. Further, the identified compensatory afforestation land is free from encroachment.
- xii. The Regional has recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- a. The User Agency, in consultation with the State Forest Department, shall ensure adequate ground clearance 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 User Agency shall fence the bases of towers located within the forest area with barbed wire to prevent the electrocution of elephants and other wild animals.
 - d. 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.
- xiii. The State Government submitted that the DFO, Bamra (WL) Division, based on information furnished by the User Agency (DGM (Elect), EHT

- (C) Division, Jharsuguda), has provided the requisite details vide letter No. FC-24/Garposh/161 (4) dated 09.03.2026. As per the submission, the total land requirement for the project, including towers and conductor stringing within the RoW, is 13.899 ha. The area required for construction of 34 towers is 0.083211 ha, out of which 0.059566 ha pertains to violation involving 22 towers already erected. The area required for stringing of conductors is 13.815789 ha.
- xiv. The Committee observed that the DFO, Bamra Forest Division, has reported occasional elephant movement in the area throughout different times of the year.
 - xv. The Committee also observed that the State Government was requested to furnish the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) in view of occasional elephant movement in the area. In response, the State Government has submitted that the DFO (WL), Bamra Division, had requested the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha, vide letters dated 27.10.2025 and subsequently vide letter No. 2830 dated 15.04.2026, to provide the requisite comments.
 - xvi. The Committee further observed that the User Agency has committed the violation over an area of 0.059566 ha of Revenue Forest land without obtaining prior approval of the Government of India, MoEF&CC.
 - xvii. The Committee further observed that the State Government submitted that the Tahasildar, Bamra vide letter No. 2876 dated 22.10.2025, reported that no land has been allotted for cultivation and no permission has been granted for use of any road within the proposed forest area. Subsequently, the State Government clarified that the Tahasildar, Bamra, vide letter No. 920 dated 15.04.2026, has stated that there is no encroachment in the proposed area. However, observations from Google Earth imagery indicate the presence of cultivated land and a kachha road within the proposed forest 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 '**Stage-1/In-principle**' approval for the diversion of 13.899 ha of forest land for construction of 132 KV D/C (4 Conductor) Transmission Line from 220/132/33 KV GSS Bamra to RTSS, Garposh (SE Railway) by OPTCL in Bamra Wildlife Division, Dist-Sambalpur 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, Bhubaneswar, as applicable.
- iii. The penal CA shall be paid by the User agency as per Ministry's guidelines dated 21.01.2026.
- iv. The State Government shall ensure implementation of the Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan including mitigation measures to prevent electrocution of elephant and other wildlife, duly approved by the Chief

Wildlife Warden (CWLW), at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA.

Agenda No. 28

Proposal No. FP/PB/OFC/431912/2023

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 the Manager, Bharti Airtel Ltd. for non-forestry use of 0.0507 ha. of Protected Forest for laying of underground OFC by Bharti Airtel Limited in Patiala forest division, Patiala District in the State of Punjab (FP/PB/OFC/431912/2023)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. the corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Punjab attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after through deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - I. The State Government of Punjab vide proposal No. FP/PB/OFC/431912/2023 has 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 proposal is for seeking approval for diversion of 0.0507 hectare of forest land in favour of M/s. Bharti Airtel Limited Mohali for laying Optical Fibre Cable through trenchless hdd method Village Gajewas. (Total length = 12528 meters and mh 6 nos.) width = 0.04 mtr., depth = 1.65 mtr., Teshil Samana, District and Forest Division, Patiala, Punjab.
 - III. The Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest.
 - IV. The Vegetation density has been reported as 0 with Eco class III. No tree felling is involved in the proposal.
 - V. The proposal is expected to generate 40 (man-dys) employment in construction phase and 30 (man-days) employment during operational phase.
 - VI. The proposal is for laying of OFC cable. The component-wise details are as under: -

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
1	laying of OFC cable.	0.507	0.0

- VII. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 0.1 ha degraded forest land in Site Name- New choa link RD BML RD 376 to 420 B/s Samana, Compartment/ Khasra No. New choa link RD BML RD 376 to 420 B/s Samana, Survey No. h43k4, Village- Nirmalkot, Range- Samana, Division- Patiala. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- VIII. DFO, Patiala has mentioned in Part- II that violation of IFA, 1927 has been done by Sh. Sanjeev Varma over an area of 0.0103 ha. in the year 2023 and Forest Range Officer, Samana issued a damage report and the work has been stopped. It is also mentioned that as per report of Range Officer, the violation falls under IFA, 1927 and FCA, 1980. Departmental action for negligence has been initiated against concerned staff under punishment and appeal rules, 1970. Further, it is also mentioned that action under IFA, 1927 has been taken by concerned beat incharge and directions has been issued to RO for filing court case under IFA, 1927 and FCA, 1980 against user agency.
- IX. The proposal does not form the part of any Protected Area, or Eco-Sensitive Zones, and Wildlife Corridors, etc.
- X. DFO, Patiala has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/ endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
- XI. The State Government has informed that the User Agency has submitted an Undertaking stating that this strip along this road is declared as protected forest. There is no other approach road falling in the non-forest area, therefore it is necessary for User Agency to use protected forest land for ingress and egress of the road which is declared as Protected Forest. Total forest land proposed for diversion is only 0.0507 hectare.
- XII. As Part- II of the proposal, it is mentioned that violation was done in the year 2023, however, as per violation report, damage report was drawn on 25.01.2025. The forest land involved in violation is mentioned as 0.0103 ha.
- XIII. As per fresh Site Inspection Report carried by DFO, Patiala, it has been reported that in this case the User Agency has violated the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- XIV. As per Site Inspection by RO, Chandigarh, it was observed that the User Agency had carried out breakage on 0.0103 ha of Protected Forest land out of the total 0.0507 ha without prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- XV. The violation occurred in 2023 and was stopped at that time; however, no action was taken by the Forest Department then. A damage report was subsequently issued on 25.01.2025, and thereafter the User Agency applied

on Parivesh 2.0 on 11.04.2025 for approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- XVI. As per SIR by RO, Chandigarh, the User Agency had carried out breakage on 0.0103 ha of Protected Forest land, the case pertains to post-facto approval of 0.0103 ha and fresh approval for 0.0404 ha under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- XVII. The DDGF (Central), RO, Chandigarh in the Site Inspection Report has recommended the proposal for consideration as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Punjab recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval in favour of the Manager, Bharti Airtel Ltd. for non-forestry use of 0.0507 ha. of Protected Forest for laying of underground OFC by Bharti Airtel Limited in Patiala forest division, Patiala District in the State of Punjab to general, standard and following specific conditions: -

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

Agenda No. 29

Proposal No. FP/PB/OTHERS/433877/2023

Sub:- Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 0.0156 ha of Protected Forest in favour of Kiran Hrika, British Co-Ed High School, Sanour Road, Patiala for construction of approach Access to "The British Co-Ed High School" at Village- Sanour Tehsil & District- Patiala on Sanour Distributary RD Patiala-Sanour road to Patiala-Pehowa road B/S under Patiala Forest division, in the State of Punjab (Proposal No. FP/PB/OTHERS/433877/2023).

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh and the Nodal Officer (FCA), Rajasthan attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The State Government of Punjab vide proposal No. FP/PB/OTHERS/433877/2023 has 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 proposal envisages diversion of 0.0156 ha of Protected Forest land in favour of Kiran Hrika, British Co-Ed High School, Sanour Road, Patiala for construction of approach Access to "The British CO-ED High School" at Village- Sanour Tehsil & District- Patiala on Sanour Distributary RD Patiala-Sanour road to Patiala-Pehowa road B/S under Patiala Forest division, in the State of Punjab.
 - iii. The Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest.
 - iv. The Vegetation density has been reported as 0.7 with Eco Class 3 with 1 tree proposed to be felled.
 - v. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has been proposed over 0.1 ha degraded forest land in Compartment/ Khasra No. Rajindergarh Minor Rd 0 to toll Both Sides, Survey No. h43k6, Village- Rajindergarh, Tehsil- Fatehgarh Sahib, Range- Sirhind, Division- Patiala Division, District- Fatehgarh Sahib. CA

- scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vi. DFO, Patiala has mentioned in Part- II that violation over an area of 0.0817 has been done by Kiran Hrika, Principal, British Co-Ed High School, Sanour Road, Patiala in the year 2022. DFO, Patiala has mentioned in his violation report that action under Indian Forest Act, 1927 has been taken by the concerned beat in-charge against user agency. FRO, Patiala issued a damage report against the user agency and court case filed under IFA, 1927. Further, it is also mentioned that Departmental action for negligence has been initiated against concerned staff.
 - vii. The proposed site is 0.9 Km from Bir Motibagh Wildlife Sanctuary and does not fall within any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, or Eco-Sensitive Zone, etc.
 - viii. DFO, Patiala has reported that no rare/endangered/unique species of flora or fauna are found in the area.
 - ix. The State Government has informed that in this case, apart from the school approach access, the UA wants to use the sports ground situated on opposite side of the adjoining road. To do so, they want to construct a pulia over the irrigation dept. drain (sua). Since the strips on both sides of the drain are Protected Forest they need two diversions and hence they have applied in "Others" category.
 - x. The Advisory Committee noted that the State Government has informed that a case has been registered against the user agency under the IFA, 1927. However, the present status of Court case has not been submitted by the State Government.
 - xi. The Advisory Committee noted that the State Government has informed that the user agency has committed a violation over an area of 0.0817 hectare, whereas as per the NOCs issued by the Mandi Board and the Irrigation Department, the User Agency requires only 0.0156 hectare of forest land. Accordingly, they have applied for diversion of only 0.0156 hectare, and the remaining 0.0661 hectare forest area has been restored to the department. However, supporting documents regarding restoration of 0.0661 hectare forest area have not been submitted by the State Government
 - xii. The Advisory Committee noted that the State Government has informed that the distance of this project from the Bir Moti Bagh Wildlife Sanctuary is 900 meters, and the Eco-Sensitive Zone of Bir Moti Bagh is 100 meters. As per the notification, the project falls outside the Eco-Sensitive Zone. The State Government has not submitted supporting documents regarding ESZ of Bir Moti Bagh.
 - xiii. According to DSS, total area of proposed CA land is 0.1 ha (as per software calculated), while KML file has been submitted for 9.021 ha. In this regard, State Government has informed that proposed CA site has also been proposed in 30 other cases, apart from this one. The details of the same are attached in the reply submitted by the State Government. Therefore, the total KML area is 9.0201 hectares. Plantation will be carried out on patches at the site as per field availability across all 31 cases.

- xiv. As per site inspection by Regional Office, it was observed that the User Agency had carried out breakage on the entire 0.0156 ha of Protected Forest land without prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. Although the year of commencement of works is mentioned as 2022 in Para 8 of Part II, during inspection the User Agency informed that the school has been operational since 2005 and that the approach access in front of Gate Nos. 1 to 4 was constructed at that time. Therefore, the information filled in Para 8 of Part II regarding the "period of works start" is incorrect.
- xv. As per site inspection by Regional Office, the User Agency constructed a small bridge in 2022 measuring 424.37 sq. ft. area between two roads and over a small water passage to provide access to the playground area on the opposite side of the road. This work was stopped by the Forest Department, after which the User Agency applied on Parivesh 2.0 on 24.01.2024 for approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
- xvi. As per site inspection by Regional Office, it was informed by forest officials during inspection that action under the IFA, 1927 has been taken, and a damage report was issued on 13.05.2022. Further, a court case has also been filed. As the approach access was constructed in 2005 and the bridge in 2022, and as the approach access is still in use, the case pertains to post-facto approval of entire 0.0156 ha under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
- xvii. DDGF (Central), RO, Chandigarh in Site Inspection Report has recommended the proposal for consideration as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Punjab recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for non-forestry use of 0.0156 ha of Protected Forest in favour of Kiran Hrika, British Co-Ed High School, Sanour Road, Patiala for construction of approach Access to "The British Co-Ed High School" at Village- Sanour Tehsil & District- Patiala on Sanour Distributary RD Patiala-Sanour road to Patiala-Pehowa road B/S under Patiala Forest division, in the State of Punjab subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- (i) The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged

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

- (ii) Penal compensatory afforestation, if proposed by the State Government, shall be verified by Regional Office, Chandigarh and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
- (iii) The User Agency shall pay five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- (iv) The State Government shall initiate action /penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The State Govt. shall submit action taken report with respect to 3A/3B violation alongwith Stage-I compliance.
- (v) The State Government shall submit action taken report against the user agency along with Stage-I compliance.
- (vi) The State Govt. shall submit supporting documents regarding restoration of 0.0661 hectare forest area along with Stage-I compliance.
- (vii) The State Govt. shall submit supporting documents regarding ESZ of Bir Moti Bagh.
- (viii) The User Agency shall obtain the requisite wildlife clearance and comply with all conditions stipulated therein, if applicable.
- (ix) The State Government shall consider the period of violation from 2005, given that the approach access for the school was constructed in 2005 and has remained in continuous use since then. The bridge has been constructed in 2022 and thus its violation may be considered from thereon.

Agenda No. 30

Proposal No. FP/PB/OTHERS/452423/2023

Subject: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.1235 ha of forest land in favour of the King Villa, Dugal Kalan, District Patiala, Punjab for permission for construction of approach Access to " The Kings Villa" (Banquet Hall) at Vill: Dugal Kalan Tehsil: Patran Distt: Patiala

**on Ludhiana-Rohtak Road (NH-52) Km 211-212 L/S under Forest division Patiala.
(Online Proposal No.: FP/PB/OTHERS/452423/2023.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. the corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Punjab attended the meeting.
 2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
 3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after through deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The State Government of Punjab vide proposal No. FP/PB/OTHERS/452423/2023 has submitted above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrashan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - ii. The proposal envisages diversion of 0.1235 ha of forest land permission for construction of approach Access to "The Kings Villa" (Banquet Hall) at Vill: Dugal Kalan Tehsil: Patran Distt: Patiala on Ludhiana-Rohtak Road (NH-52) Km 211-212 L/S under Forest division Patiala
 - iii. The Vegetation density of 0.9 has been reported with Eco class 3. Total number of trees proposed to be felled in the instant proposal is 51.
 - iv. The Component wise breakup of the area has been submitted along with the proposal.
- | Sl. No. | Component | Forest Land (ha.) | Non-Forest Land (ha.) |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) | Ludhiana-Rohtak Road Km 211-212 L/S | 0.1235 ha | 1.4669 ha |
- v. The proposal is expected to generate 28105 man-days employments during construction phase and 28105 man-days employment during operation phase.
 - vi. The CA has been proposed on 0.51 Ha. of degraded forest land in New Choa Link RD BML RD 376 to 420 Both Sides, Tehasil Patran, Patiala Forest Division. The land identified for plantation is suitable from management point of view and is free from all sorts encumbrances and encroachments. The total financial outlay for CA has been indicated as ₹ 3,55,677/-
 - vii. DFO, Patiala has mentioned in Part-II that there was no other viable option for approach access through forest area.
 - viii. DFO, Patiala has mentioned in Part-II that there is no presence of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. No Wildlife present in the area.

- ix. There is no Protected Archeological/Heritage site/Defense establishment in the proposed area for diversion as per part II filled by the DFO.
- x. DFO, Patiala has mentioned that the requirement of forest land is unavoidable and barest minimum.
- xi. The State Government has informed that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking stating that a No Objection Certificate (NoC) was issued to them by the NHAI department on 13.08.2022. Subsequently, the validity of the said NoC was extended and a fresh NoC was issued on 24.06.2024, which remained valid up to 07.08.2025. During this period, compliance with the conditions stipulated by NHAI was required to be ensured. However, due to non-receipt of the NoC from the Forest Department, the stipulated conditions could not be complied with. Therefore, the User Agency has now stated that it shall apply for the final NoC from the NHAI department only after obtaining the requisite NoC from the Forest Department.
- xii. As per letter dated 28.7.2023 of MoRTH, the existing guidelines dated 26.06.2020 stipulate that the Oil /Gas Company/Owner of the property may construct or develop the Fuel Station / private property along with its access as per approved drawings at their own cost within 12 months from the date of issue of Provisional permission for access. Further, guideline dated 02.09.2021 stipulate that Regional Officer of the Ministry/NHAI/NHIDCL may grant two-year time extension to the validity of provisional permission for access based on justifications for delay submitted by applicant and fulfilment of other conditions stipulated in the circular dated 26.06.2020, powers to extension of time beyond 2 years' rests with Minister of RT&H.
- xiii. The State Government has informed that the user agency had applied for this case on the portal on .15.11.2023As per the report of the DFO, Patiala the user agency used an unpaved (katcha) path on .16.02.2024In this regard, the Concerned Forest Guard took action on the spot and booked an area of 5.74 square meters under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927and the Forest conservation Act, 1980Subsequently, the Forest Range officer, Samana filed a case against the user agency in the Hon'ble court under the Indian Forest Act, 1927and the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 .The State Government also informed that further necessary action against the user agency will be taken after the decision of the Hon'ble Court.
- xiv. As per SIR by RO, Chandigarh, during inspection, it was observed that the User Agency had carried out breakage of Protected Forest land in 0.0016 ha area in front of their property for construction of approach access without prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. As per the violation report of the DFO, the user agency applied for approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 on 16.11.2023. Further, the damage report issued on 16.02.2024 thus the same is violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. It was informed by forest officials during inspection that action under the IFA, 1927 has been taken, and a damage report was issued. Further,

court case has been filed against the user agency. As the approach access was constructed after applied online on Parivesh 2.0, the case pertains to post-facto approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

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

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and official from the Government of Punjab recommended the proposal for grant of *'in-principle'* approval for diversion of 0.1235 ha of forest land in favour of the King Villa, Dugal Kalan, District Patiala, Punjab for permission for construction of approach Access to "The Kings Villa" (Banquet Hall) at Vill: Dugal Kalan Tehsil: Patran Distt: Patiala on Ludhiana-Rohtak Road (NH-52) Km 211-212 L/S under Forest division Patiala subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-

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

Agenda No. 31

Proposal No. FP/RJ/TRANS/451503/2023

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 16.5972 ha of roadside protected forest in favour of Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited, Ahmedabad for construction of proposed 400 kv S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-II SS near Village Kaansingki Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan (Online Proposal No FP/RJ/TRANS/451503/2023).

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in . The IGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Gandhinagar and the Nodal Officer (FCA), Rajasthan attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The State Government of Rajasthan vide proposal No. FP/RJ/TRANS/451503/2023 has 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 Govt. of Rajasthan vide letter No.1(126)Forest/2024 dated 30.12.2024 submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 16.5972 ha of roadside protected forest for construction of proposed 400 kV S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-II SS near Village Kaansinghki Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The instant proposal electronically received in the Ministry on 01.01.2025.

- iii. The total forest area under the proposal is 16.5972 Ha (16.3663 Ha- Others (Oran Land) and 0.2309Ha- Protected Forests) of forest land which is located in Jodhpur Territorial Division, District: - Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- iv. The proposed forest area is others and Protected Forests with canopy density of 0.1 (Eco Class-IV) and 76 nos of trees (5 species) have been proposed to be felled.
- v. The Government of Rajasthan constituted a State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) with a view to encourage competition in private sector participation for development of transmission projects in State. To achieve the target, Various Solar, Wind, Wind-Solar Hybrid policies have been enunciated by Central and State Governments. Rajasthan is the leading front runner state, implementing large capacity renewable projects under these policies. Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. has awarded project of “6000 MW Solar PV Power Plant linked with 1500MW (Per Annum) Solar PV Manufacturing Plant” to Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited (AREH4L) formerly known as Adani Green Energy Four Limited vide LOA dated 10.12.2019.
- vi. Under this project AREH4L has planned to develop 500 MW Solar Park in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. To evacuate the power and connect the Solar PV plant to ISTS, AREH4L has proposed to develop 400 kV S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-II SS near Village Kaansinghi Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur,Rajasthan.
- vii. The Component wise break-up of the proposed forest land is as under:

SI No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)
1.	Construction of Transmission Line	16.5972	33.1568

- viii. As per Part-II details of the proposal, there is no violation, However, as per Part-I details submitted by the user agency there is a violation in the proposal. The draft notification for declaration of Oran land in Phalodi dist. as deemed forest

was released on 01.02.24 by PCCF (Working Plan & Forest Management), Rajasthan, whereas the proposal for diversion of forest land was submitted by company in Nov 2023. The user agency is not aware that the said Oran land of Village Gurha comes under the preview of FCA & hence undertook construction of 14 tower finds in the said area admeasuring 0.3126 ha. Violation happened over Oran land that is now considered as deemed forest. The land is not under jurisdiction of forest department. The period of work started in 2024 and completed in 2024. The User Agency is responsible for violation.

- ix. The State Govt. has informed that the Violation of FCA Act has taken place on Oran Land and was self-reported by User Agency. As per Hon'ble Supreme Court Orders, current legal status of Oran lands is that FCA Act is implemented on these lands even though they do not come under the purview of Rajasthan Forest Act. Hence, Forest Department- Division Jodhpur has not done any unlawful activity. No forest staff stands guilty because Oran lands are not part of forest jurisdiction till now. The notification related to Orans was released on 01-02-2024 and the diversion proposal was submitted before that. Hence, there is no action due against unlawful activity w.r.t forest department Rajasthan. However, Violation of Van (SarakshanEvamSavardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 has taken place over an area of 0.3126 Ha. This has been reported by User Agency and suitable penalty can be applied by Central Government as per rules. No Violation of Indian Forest Act, 1927 has taken place.
- x. The Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over the 47.5 Ha Protected Forest land, Village: Lohavat Vishnavas, Tehsil: Lohavat, District Jodhpur in the State of Rajasthan.
- xi. DFO in Part-II of the proposal has certified that the proposed transmission line falls inside the potential area of Great Indian Bustard.
- xii. There is no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
- xiii. There is no protected archaeological/ heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- xiv. The State Government has informed that the oran land that is part of the instant proposal has not been notified /recorded as forest land but in Compliance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 03.07.2018, the oran land of the state of Rajasthan is being treated as forest for the purpose of the VSSA 1980.

- xv. The State Government has informed that a notice has been issued by DCF Jodhpur against User Agency for violation.
- xvi. The Regional Office, Gandhinagar has submitted Site Inspection Report of changed CA land. RO concluded that the proposed site is suitable for undertaking Compensatory Afforestation activities. The removal of invasive P. juliflora and the plantation of native species will improve the ecological condition and enhance biodiversity. It is recommended that the plantation activities be undertaken with proper protection, maintenance, and periodic monitoring to ensure successful establishment of the afforestation programme. Accordingly, the site is recommended for raising compensatory afforestation as it is found to be suitable from the point of view of raising plantation and also management of the area by the SFD.
- xvii. The RO, Gandhinagar of the Ministry carried out the Site Inspection report. As per SIR, the Proposal for diversion of entire 16.5972 ha. (0.2309 ha which is not correct) of roadside protected forest for construction of proposed 400 kV S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-II SS near Village Kaansinghki Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan for 16.5972 ha forest land where work of transmission line is completed and line charged on 07.09.2024 has been with general, standard and specific conditions mentioned in SIR. Clear recommendation on the instant proposal has not been submitted the DDGF(C), RO, Gandhinagar due to some typing error.
- xviii. The Regional office, Gandhinagar in their Site inspection report mentioned that the DFO submitted the Inspection Report on 28.08.2024 where he had stated that the work of the project has been paused by the Agency whereas on Site Inspection it was seen that User Agency charged the line after completing the construction work without prior approval from the Ministry in violation of provisions of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xix. The proposal discussed in Advisory Committee meeting held on 30th July, 2025. After going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal with the following recommendations:-
- xx. The State government should clarify whether the extant land is identified as "forest" as per the dictionary meaning by the expert committee constituted by the state government as per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated

12.12.1996 in WP(C) 202/1995. Further, the state shall also clarify whether the said land is included in the consolidated list of forest land under Rule 16(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 for determination of the applicability of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

(a.) The State Government shall submit the notification of the extant Oran lands vide notification dated 01.02.2024 as deemed forest.

(b.) The State Govt. shall submit the chronology of events in respect of the proposal.

(c.) RO, Gandhinagar shall carry out the inspection of newly proposed CA site and submit the complete Site Inspection Report along-with recommendations.

xxiv Regarding the observation of Advisory Committee, the State Government has informed the following-

“The land is an 'Oran' land. As per latest Hon'ble Supreme Court orders, FCA 1980 is to be implemented in all lands recorded as 'Orans' irrespective of they being in 'deemed forest list not. There is an exercise of notifying Oran lands is also going on in Rajasthan. Hence, as per current legal position, only FCA is applicable in the concerned land. Rajasthan Forests Act is still not implemented in these lands.”

xxv. The proposal was again examined in Advisory Committee meeting held on 26.09.2025 The Committee deferred the proposal with the following observations:-

(a) The State Government shall clearly bring whether the Oran land that is part of the instant proposal has been notified/recorded as forest land. A copy of the Government notification shall be submitted before the Advisory Committee.

(b) As per the earlier SIR of the RO Gandhinagar, the work of Transmission line is complete and the line has been charged on 07.09.2024. The State Government shall submit detailed action taken report along with supporting documents against the violations.

(c) The site inspection of newly proposed CA site along with recommendations shall be submitted by RO, Gandhinagar.

- xxi. Regarding the above observation of Advisory Committee, the State Government informed that the oran land that is part of the instant proposal has not been notified /recorded as forest land but in Compliance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 03.07.2018, the oran land of the state of Rajasthan is being treated as forest for the purpose of the VSSA 1980. The State Government has issued a notice dated 13.03.2026 to the User Agency for carrying out non-forestry activities on 'oran' land without obtaining proper approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, and has sought clarification in this regard.
- xxii. The Regional Office, Gandhinagar has submitted Site Inspection Report of changed CA land and recommended the site for raising compensatory afforestation as it is found to be suitable from the point of view of raising plantation and also management of the area by the SFD.
- xxvi. The ADG(WL) mentioned that unless Oran land is notified as a forest land as per orders of said orders of the Hon'ble Courts as mentioned in the reply of the State government, treating Oran land by default as a 'forest land' under the purview of VSES Adhiniyam 1980 will be legally incongruent proposition in the court of law. At present an Oran land which is 'identified' as forest land under dictionary meaning by the expert committee constituted by the State government in light of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12.12.1996 and submitted before the court through affidavit may be treated as a forest land for diversion under the said Adhiniyam. Therefore, any prior approval by the central government for diversion of the forest land on an Oran land which is neither notified as forest land nor identified by the expert committee constituted for this purpose shall be ab initio ultra vires. In view of the facts submitted by the State government diversion of only notified forest land in the matter should be considered and not the Oran land which appears to be neither notified as forest land nor identified as a forest under dictionary meaning by the expert committee and filed before the Hon'ble SC. The Committee noted the same.
- xxvii. The Advisory Committee observed that the State Government shall clearly bring whether the Oran land that is part of the instant proposal has been notified/recorded as forest land. Until then, the instant proposal will be considered over the Protected Forest area of 0.2309ha for the applicability of

VSES Adhinyam 1980. If the Oran land mentioned in the proposal is notified/recorded as forest land, then, the State Government may submit the proposal for diversion under VSESA, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the IGF (Central), Regional Office, Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Rajasthan recommended the proposal for grant of *'in-principle'* approval for diversion of 0.2309ha of protected forest in favour of Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited, Ahmedabad for construction of proposed 400 kv S/C on D/C Transmission line from Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited SS at Badi Sid to Power Grid Corporation India Limited Bhadla-II SS near Village Kaansingki Sid, Taluka Bap, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan subject to general, standard and following specific conditions:-
- i. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and furnish details of the Net Present Value (NPV) or penal compensatory afforestation, as may be charged from the user agency, along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
 - ii. Penal compensatory afforestation, if proposed by the State Government, shall be verified by Regional Office, Gandhinagar and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.
 - iii. The User Agency shall pay five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
 - iv. The State Government shall initiate action /penal proceedings against the erring officials in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. The State Govt. shall submit action taken report with respect to 3A/3B violation alongwith Stage-I compliance.
 - v. The State Government shall submit action taken report against the user agency alongwith Stage-I compliance.
 - vi. The State Government shall ensure that CA shall be carried out in respect of diverted forest land (0.2309 ha) in the identified CA site (Lohavat Vishnavas village), submitted with the instant proposal. The State Govt. shall upload the

KML file and CA scheme in respect of diverted forest land (0.2309 ha) on PARIVESH 2.0 alongwith compliance of Stage-1 approval.

Agenda No. 32

Proposal No. FP/RJ/REHAB/446875/2023

Sub: - Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Up Van Snraksh & Up Kshetr Nideshak, Cor Ramgar Visdhari Tiger Resrve Bundi for non-forestry use of 244.9723 ha. of Protected Forest land for Rehabilitation from Protected Area, Bundi District in the State of Rajasthan (Online Proposal No: FP/RJ/REHAB/446875/2023).

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in . The IGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Gandhinagar and the Nodal Officer (FCA), Rajasthan attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The user agency submitted the instant proposal on PARIVESH for non-forestry use of 244.9723 ha. of Protected Forest land for rehabilitation from Core 1 of RamgarhVisdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR) Bundi to Kesarpura Village, Bundi District.
 - ii. The proposed forest area is others and Protected Forests with canopy density of 0.1 (Eco Class-III) and 45 nos of trees (5 species) have been proposed to be felled.
 - iii. The proposed area is outside the buffer area of Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger reserve. Approximate distance 600 meter of RVTR Core. The State Govt. has confirmed that the part of proposed forest land is falling under the proposed Eco-Sensitive Zone boundary of RVTR.
 - iv. The proposed land use plan of the proposal is as under:-

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)
(i)	Agriculture Purpose	200

(ii)	Residential Purpose	6
(iii)	Road Network	6
(iv)	Land for Community Assets	7
(v)	Land for Pasture Development for Cattle Grazing	25.9723
	Total	244.9723

- v. The User agency has informed that the total number of villagers are 392 & total numbers of families 98 which will be relocated/rehabilitated from RVTR core to kesarpura forest block. The details are as follows: -

Village	Families	Population
Gulkhedi	30	120
Dhundhla ji ka Bada	25	100
Bhimganj	43	172
Total	98	392

- vi. The State Govt. informed that the Khatedar land 161.6853 ha + Gair Khatedar land 11.1521 ha + Rajasthan Govt land 54.6681 ha + Siwaychak land 173.2101 ha thus comprising 400.7156 Ha will become inviolate thereby including in the core area of RVTR and will be notified under 4 or 29 of Rajasthan Forest Act 1953.
- vii. The area which will be vacated from core area are irrigated agriculture land and some of the areas has been infested by Prosopis juliflora. By relocating this lands, a large continuous patch of grassland can be developed in this areas for herbivore populations.
- viii. The State Govt. has uploaded the KML file of villages proposed to be relocated from the core of RVTR.

No	Village	KML Area (Ha)
1.	GULKHERI	707.59
2	BARA DHUNDLAJI	1279.71
3	BHIMGANJ	204.12
	Total	2191.42

- ix. The State Govt. informed that the instant proposal fulfils the conditions that have been prescribed in Para 12.8 under Chapter-12 of the Handbook for the proposals involving relocation of villages from the Protected Areas.

- x. The State Govt. has informed that that suitable non-forest land is not available within the vicinity of the protected area from where the relocation can be proposed.
- xi. The State Govt. also informed that User agency has informed that the area being vacated is a part of core/critical tiger habitat.
- xii. With regard to encroachment in the proposed forest land for diversion, the State Government has informed that any existing encroachment on the diverted forest land, if found, will be removed.
- xiii. FC Division vide letter dated 12th March, 2026 has sought comments of NTCA on the above proposal.
- xiv. NTCA vide letter dated 13th March, 2026 informed that the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has already issued the Protocol/ Guidelines for Voluntary Village Relocation from Notified Core/Critical Tiger Habitats of Tiger Reserves which includes different packages for the Voluntary Village Relocation (copy enclosed). Further, vide order dated 17.11.2025 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in I.A. No. 20650 of 2023 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 has also given directions regarding Voluntary Village Relocation from tiger reserves. In view of the above, it is requested that necessary action may kindly be taken in the matter in accordance with the aforesaid guidelines and the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court with respect to the relocation of villages from the tiger reserves.
- xv. Regional Office, Gandhinagar in the Site Inspection Report observed that the RVTR serve as vital reservoirs of rich forests and diverse wildlife and play a crucial role in the conservation of biodiversity at a landscape level. However, villages situated deep within this TR often remain relatively disconnected from the mainstream of development and consequently face limited access to essential infrastructure, public services and basic amenities. At the same time, the continued presence of human and domestic animal habitations within the boundaries of TR cause habitat fragmentation and gradual ecological degradation leading to conflict situation. In this context, the creation of inviolate spaces for wildlife, particularly within the Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)/Core Area of the Tiger Reserves, would significantly strengthen habitat protection and ecological integrity. In this regard, relocation of human habitations from the core area of the Tiger Reserve is considered a progressive and conservation-oriented measure that contributes to the long-term protection of wildlife habitats and also helps in reducing incidents of human-wildlife conflict. In the instant proposal the extent of area diverted/ de-notified in found to be less than the extent of non-forest land adding to the RVTR. Keeping in view of all the factors having bearing on the conservation of forests, wildlife and overall improvement in the livelihood of the human beings/ villagers, the proposal for relocation is recommended, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions: -

(a) Approval for relocation shall be obtained from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) as per the applicable guidelines.

(b) The area vacated from Gulkheri, Bhimganj and Dhundhla Ji Ka Bada villages shall be immediately taken over by the State Forest Department (SFD) and notified as part of RVTR and managed in accordance with the approved management plan of the Tiger Reserve so as to restore and strengthen the habitat for wildlife.

(c) The land records in respect of the vacated areas from three villages shall be duly mutated in the name of the Forest Department to ensure proper legal status and long-term protection of the habitat.

(d) Revenue patta shall be given to the villagers in respect of the area allocated to them in the diverted forest land as per the approved rehabilitation package.

xvi. The State Government was requested to clarify whether the instant proposal for relocation is in accordance with the NTCA guidelines for voluntary village relocation from notified Core/Critical Tiger Habitats of Tiger Reserves and the directions contained in the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 17.11.2025 in I.A. No. 20650 of 2023 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995.

xvii. The State Government has submitted that the instant proposal for relocation has been prepared strictly in accordance with the guidelines issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for voluntary village relocation from notified Core/Critical Tiger Habitats of Tiger Reserves. All due procedures, including obtaining free and informed consent of the affected families, preparation of micro-plans, and provision of admissible compensation and rehabilitation packages, have been duly followed. It is further submitted by the user agency that the proposal is in conformity with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court as contained in its order dated 17.11.2025 in I.A. No. 20650 of 2023 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995. The State Government has ensured that the relocation process is voluntary in nature, transparent, and carried out in compliance with all applicable legal and procedural requirements. Accordingly, the proposal meets the prescribed norms and may be considered for approval.

5. Decision of the Advisory Committee: The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the IGF (Central), Regional Office, Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Rajasthan recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for non-forestry use of 244.9723 ha. of Protected Forest land in favour of Up Van Snraksh & Up Kshetr Nideshak, Cor Ramgar Visdhari Tiger Resrve Bundi for Rehabilitation from Protected Area, Bundi District in the State of Rajasthan subject to general, standard and following specific conditions: -

(i) The state government shall ensure that the villages which are being relocated from the RVTR and their area will become inviolate and no family/person will be left for further relocation.

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

- (iii) The land identified for relocation/ Rehabilitation does not result in fragmentation of the forest /wildlife Habitat.
- (iv) The relocation shall be undertaken solely as a process of consolidation of the wildlife Habitat.
- (v) The relocation shall be undertaken only along the fringes of the forest such that all facilities to the resettled families can be provided without recourse to further diversion of forest land for providing infrastructure.
- (vi) The legal status of forest land, diverted under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for relocation/rehabilitation of villages from National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves will cease to be a forest land in accordance with Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 28th January, 2019.

Agenda No. 33

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

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o M/s Jubilant Oil and Gas Pvt Ltd. for non-forestry use of 1.572 ha of Reserved Forest for construction of drill site, waste pit, drill site accommodation, TSR camp for location DEV-37B in Village- Baramura Deotamura RF, District- South Tripura in the State of Tripura (Online Proposal No. FP/TR/MIN/QRY/403782/2022)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DIGF, Regional Office, MoEFCC, Shillong 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 1.572 ha of Reserved Forest for construction of drill site, waste pit, drill site accommodation, TSR camp for location DEV-37B in Village- Baramura Deotamura RF, District- South Tripura in the State of Tripura.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.4317 ha is required for internal road, 0.36 ha for drilling platform, 0.1273 ha for open space in drill site for safety & security and 0.653 ha for other works.

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.5 of Eco class I with 381 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. Wildlife reported in the area include wild elephants, small birds and reptiles. Comments of PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden has been submitted wherein it is mentioned that DFO, South has recommended fencing of the project area with chain-link mesh fencing over 1 Km around the drilling site and destruction-prone area. So, the User Agency, while carrying out proposed works, should give special emphasis on conserving the wildlife. A lump sum of 2% of the project cost proportional to forest area to be deposited for implementation of the wildlife management plan and 0.5% of project cost is proportional to forest area to be deposited for implementation of the soil and moisture conservation plan as per MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, notification dated, 16th January 2023.
- 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, the area falls under Not-Inviolate or Not In- High Conservation value Zone, however, as per decision Rule- 2, the proposed area falls in High Conservation Value. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 2 ha is moderately dense forest.
- vii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 3.144 ha degraded forest land in Uttar Debipur Village, Kalaganrai PRF Block, Compt. No. 2, Survey No. 1, Range- Bagafa, Tehsil- Santirbazar, Division- South District, District- South Tripura. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- viii. No violation of the Adhinyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- ix. The life of mineral oil reservoir is 20 years, the mining lease was granted on 24.09.2020 for 20 years w.e.f. 24.09.2020 to 23.09.2040. One borehole of 17.5" (17.5 inches) diameter will be drilled at the proposed site.
- x. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. revised CA site suitability certificate, correct CA scheme to be uploaded on Part- II, CA details to be uploaded correctly in Part- II, Certificate for non availability of suitable non-forest land for raising CA, comments on soil conservation measures needs to be implemented in the area, comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden on presence of elephants in the area proposed for diversion, comments from State Government as the proposed area falls in High Conservation Value Zone, State Government to re-confirm the number of trees existing in the area and trees actually required to be felled, KML files of the area proposed for diversion, conspicuously depicting the various project components, State Government to identify new CA having canopy density below 0.4 and submit CA details and submit KML file of

compartment boundary of area proposed for diversion and area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation etc. Additional information was requested from the State on 01.08.2025. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.

- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 27.03.2026 and informed following:
- a) Revised suitability certificate submitted by DFO, South Tripura has been submitted by the State Government. DFO has mentioned that land proposed for CA is free from encroachment and encumbrances and is suitable for raising CA and suitable from management point of view.
 - b) Necessary correction has been made in Part- II of Form A and revised CA scheme with 10 years maintenance has been submitted for an amount of ₹10,38,624/-.
 - c) Necessary correction has been made in point No. 10.1.1 in Part- II of Form A and revised CA scheme with 10 years maintenance has been submitted for an amount of ₹10,38,624/-.
 - d) Certificate for non availability of suitable non-forest land in South Tripura for raising CA issued by Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura has been submitted.
 - e) DFO, South Tripura has mentioned that there is steep slope on three sides of the area proposed for diversion. The soil is loose and the site is prone to soil erosion. There is need for check dams, contour trenches, bunds etc. in the surrounding area to mitigate soil erosion. Further, it is mentioned that specific recommendation of DFO, South Tripura for soil conservation has been submitted wherein it is mentioned that user agency should deposit fund of ₹30 Lakhs for construction of soil moisture conservation works in the surrounding area of the proposed site. Further, soil & moisture conservation plan @ 0.5% of the total project cost amounting to ₹12.50 Lakhs is also submitted.
 - f) Comments of PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden has been submitted wherein it is mentioned that DFO, South has recommended fencing of the project area with chain-link mesh fencing over 1 Km around the drilling site and destruction-prone area. So, the User Agency, while carrying out proposed works, should give special emphasis on conserving the wildlife. A lump sum of 2% of the project cost proportional to forest area to be deposited for implementation of the wildlife management plan and 0.5% of project cost is proportional to forest area to be deposited for implementation of the soil and moisture conservation plan as per MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, notification dated, 16th January 2023. An amount of ₹50 Lakhs @ 2% of the project has been estimated for preparation and implementation of Wildlife Management Plan.
 - g) It is mentioned that the proposed diversion area has been inspected by the District Forest Officer, South Tripura. District on 20.12.2025 and based on the findings of the inspection, it has been observed

that the said area does not fall under High Conservation Zone. Furthermore, the inspection revealed that a total of 381 (three hundred eighty one) nos, trees comprising various species and classes are located within the proposed diversion area.

- h) It is mentioned that DFO, South Tripura has re-verified the proposed site which to be diverted and found that there are 381 trees to be felled for implementation of the project. Accordingly, the DFO has rectified the Part- II of Form-A.
 - i) Project layout map has been submitted.
 - j) Site inspection report of Conservator of Forests has been submitted wherein it is mentioned that density of vegetation falls under open degraded forest with canopy cover less than 10%. The plot is covered with woody shrubs, mikania etc. so in some part, the plot may be visible as moderately dense in DSS. The selected land is suitable for CA plantation. Based on field inspection, the land selected for CA plantation is certified for raising CA.
 - k) KML file of compartment boundary of area proposed for diversion and area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation is submitted.
 - xii. The Regional Office submitted its inspection report reporting no violation of the Adhinyam. 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.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DIGF (Central), RO, Shillong and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee observed that Nodal Officer of the State was not present in the meeting. Accordingly, the Committee decided to '*defer*' the proposal with the observation that Nodal Office of the State to remain present in the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Agenda No. 34

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

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

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 08.05.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DIGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Shillong 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. After detailed discussion and deliberation with the DIGF (Central), RO, Shillong and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observation:
 - (i) The area proposed for diversion reveals signs of encroachment as it was earlier reported to be used for rubber plantation in the past. The State Government shall therefore, inform the status of removal of encroachment from the reserved forest and measures proposed to prevent such encroachment in future.
 - i. The above decision of the Committee was communicated to the State Government on 08.02.2026. The State Government on 25.03.2026 submitted reply to queries raised by the Ministry on 08.02.2026 informing following:
 - a. Removal of encroachment from the proposed area for diversion has been completed and the Forest Department has taken over the possession of the land. It is further informed that the existing rubber trees will be felled once the fund for tree extraction is received from the concerned user agency.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DIGF (Central), RO, Shillong and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee observed that Nodal Officer of the State did not attend the meeting. Accordingly, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the observation that Nodal Office of the State to remain present in the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

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

(Confirmed through email)
Shri Nityanand Srivastava
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed through email)
Dr. Mehraj AS
Deputy Commissioner (NRM)
(Member)

(Confirmed through email)
Shri Manoj Pant
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed on file)
Shri Santosh Tiwari
Additional Director General of Forests
(FC)

(Confirmed through email)
Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey
Additional Director General of Forests
(WL)

(Member)

(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)