



Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Minutes of Meeting for Regional Empowered Committee
Regional Offices



MoM ID FC/MOM/REC/558219/2026
Agenda ID FC/AGENDA/REC/469913/2026
Title of Meeting 96 REC meeting of RO Bangalore
Meeting Venue RO Bangalore
Meeting Mode Hybrid
Meeting Dates & Time Start Date : 26/03/2026
End Date : 26/03/2026

List of REC Members:

S.No.	Name	Designation	Email ID
1	Shri S Senthil Kumar	IRO HEAD	jk08*****@nic.in
2	Shri Pawan Kumar Sharma	REC Member	pawa*****@yahoo.com
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4	Dr. Rohit Kumar Pradhan	REC Member	rkp2**@gmail.com
5	Smt Yasodha K	Deputy Inspector General of Forest, IRO	agmu***@ifs.nic.in

Proposals considered during Meeting:

1. Project Name Establishment of Beena Vaidya Super Speciality Hospital, Medical college and allied Institutes in Bailur Village, Bhatkal Taluk

Proposal Number FP/KA/OTHERS/531662/2025

User Agency PUSHPALATHA MANKALA VAIDYA

Forest Land Area(Ha) 11.8373

Division Honavar Division

Recommendation Deferred

Brief Description of Project:

The detailed MoM is attached

Previous Deliberation Details:

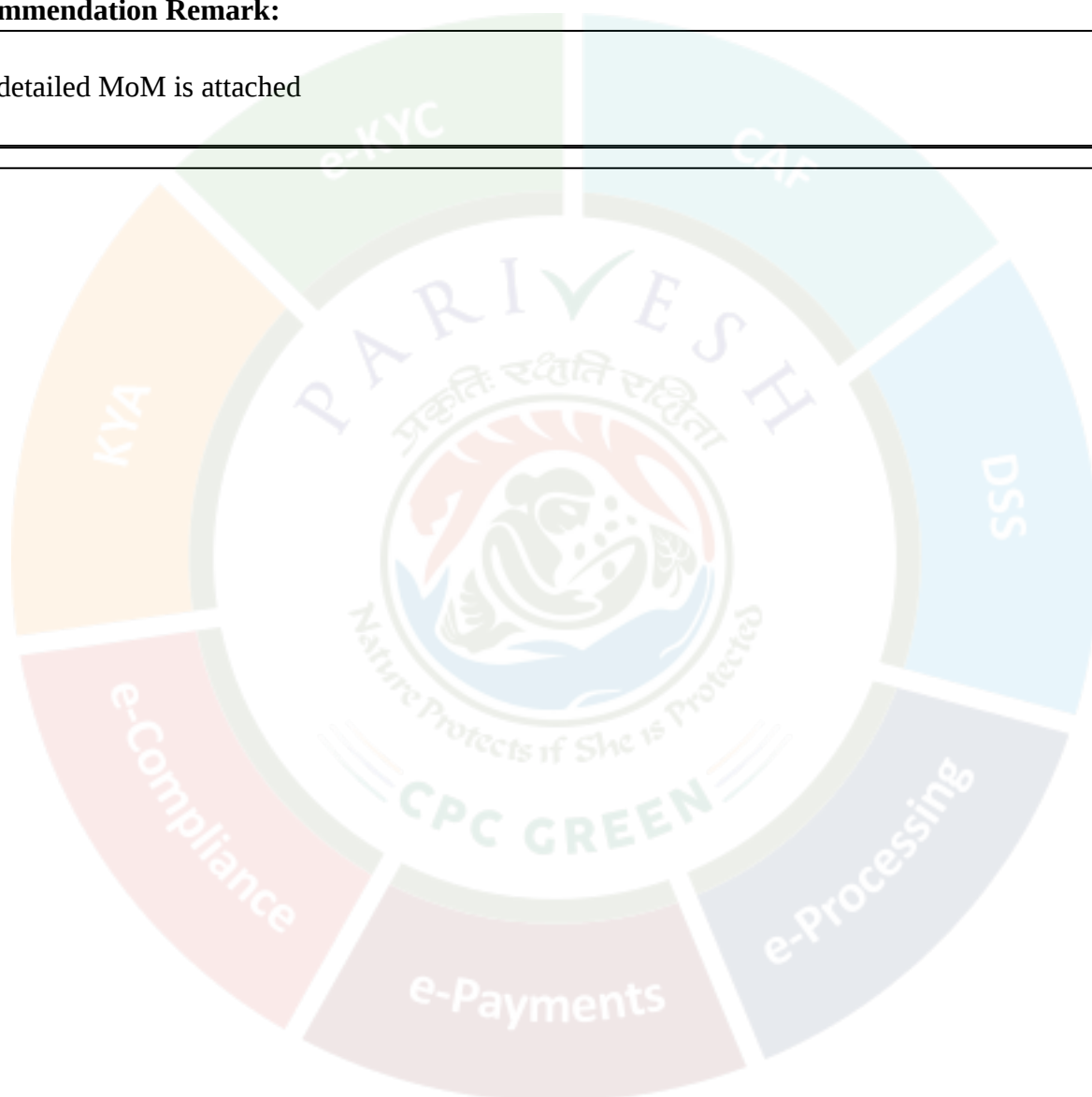
N/A

Current Deliberation Details:

The detailed MoM is attached

Recommendation Remark:

The detailed MoM is attached



MINUTES OF THE **NINETY SIXTH** MEETING OF REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF REGIONAL OFFICE (SOUTHERN ZONE), BENGALURU HELD ON **26/03/2026** IN THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREST, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE, REGIONAL OFFICE (SOUTHERN ZONE), KENDRIYA SADAN, KORAMANGALA, BENGALURU.

The list of members who participated in the **Ninety Sixth** meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office, Bengaluru is enclosed as **Annexure-1**.

The Member Secretary extended a warm welcome to the Chairperson, the Members of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC), the officials from State Forest Department and the User Agency. Member Secretary made a presentation on the below listed agenda item. REC examined the following proposal. The deliberations & decisions of the REC in respect to the proposal is as under: -

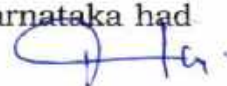
VSESA, 1980 PROPOSALS

STATE: GOA

Agenda No 1: Request for revocation of abeyance order on Forest Diversion proposal in Kalem-Kulem section involving diversion of 15.6077 ha of forest land for Kulem-Madgaon Railway Doubling Track under Wildlife and Eco tourism (North) and North Goa Forest Division in favour of (South Western Railway) Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (Proposal No. FP/GA/RAIL/28650/2017) (15.6077 ha).

The Committee considered the following facts of the proposal: -

- The Government of Goa had earlier submitted 3 proposals totalling diversion of 138.39 ha of forest land in Goa State and Government of Karnataka had



submitted one proposal for diversion of 10.45 ha of forest land in Karnataka State for the diversion of forest land for Hospet-Tinaighat-Castlerock-Kulem-Vasco railway doubling project in favour of Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. Details of which were as under:-

- i. Diversion of 10.45 ha. of forest land in Devalli, Kalambuli and Konashet villages in Kyasalaraka Hobli, Jodi Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Haliyal Forest Division and Kali Tiger Reserve) for doubling of Tinaighat-Castlerock Carzon Railway Lane (Southern Western Railways) in favour of Chief Engineer (Construction), Club Road, Keshwapur, Hubballi, Dharwad District Online Proposal No. FP/KA/RAIL/34288/2018.
 - ii. Diversion of 120.875 ha. of forest land for Castlerock to Kulem Railway Doubling Track under Wildlife & Eco-Tourism (North) and North Goa Forest Division in favour of (South Western Railway) Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd., - Online Proposal No.FP/GA/RAIL/22041/2016.
 - iii. Diversion of 15.6077 ha of forest land for Kulem-Madgaon Railway Doubling Track under Wildlife & Eco-Tourism (North) and North Goa Forest Division in favour of (South Western Railway) Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. - Online Proposal No. FP/GA/RAIL/28650/2017.
 - iv. Diversion of 1.9089 ha of private forest land for Kulem-Madgaon (also referred as Kalem-Sanvordem) Railway Doubling Project by South Western Railway - Online proposal No. FP/GA/RAIL/28665/2017.
- In Karnataka State, out of 10.45 ha proposed for diversion, 9.57 ha falls in Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and 0.88 ha is in Haliyal Forest Division. In Goa, out of the 138.39 ha proposed, 1.9089 ha. is private forest land, 14.4185 ha is in Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary, 113.857 ha is in Bhagawan Mahaveer National Park and remaining 8.2071 ha area falls in North Goa Forest Division. The Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife recommended the proposals of Goa portion and Karnataka portion in its meeting held on 17/12/2019 and 05/01/2021 respectively.

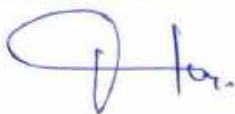


- The above proposals were considered in its entirety as per Para 11.2 of the Comprehensive Guidelines (issued under FC Act, 1980) by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) in its meetings held on 25.02.2020 and 27.01.2021. Based on the approval of REC, Stage-I approvals were accorded by RO, Bangalore on 4th February, 2021.
- Subsequently, Compliance reports were also received from Government of Goa and Karnataka.
- Meanwhile an NGO Goa Foundation filed the application before the Central Empowered Committee alleging the violation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 5.10.2015 in IA No. 1308 of 2005 and related IAs in WP No. 202/95 by these proposals.
- Based on the application No.1440 of 2020 filed by the Goa Foundation before CEC, CEC filed its Report No.6 of 2021 before Hon'ble Supreme Court on 23/04/2021 and CEC recommended revocation of permission granted by Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (SC NBWL) for doubling of railway track passing through the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats from Tiniaght Castelerock in Karnataka to Kulem in Goa involving 120.875 ha of land (Protected Area 113.857 ha. and Non Protected Area-Reserved Forest 7.108 ha) from Bhagawan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary (BMWLS) in the State of Goa and 10.45 ha (9.57 ha Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and 0.88 ha in Haliyal Forest Division) in the State of Karnataka.
- Regional office vide its letter dated 27/01/2022 sought the opinion of the Ministry on the observations made by CEC for processing these proposal for final approval.
- Ministry vide letter No.7-10/2021-ROHQ(Pt-I) dated 25/03/2022 informed that there is no embargo put by the Hon'ble Tribunal or courts to issue final approval under FCA, therefore, RO is empowered to take decision to issue final approval a per extant rules. Based on the said directions of the Ministry Stage-II approvals were granted vide letters dated 05/04/2022 in respect of Karnataka portion and 12/04/2022 for Goa portion.
- Subsequently, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 09/05/2022) in I.A.No.61370 of 2021 (Report No.6 of 2021) in Application No. 1440 of 2020,

I.A.No.107884 of 2021 and I.A.No.30853 & 30855 of 2022 in W.P.C.No. 202 of 1995 revoked the approvals granted by Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife between Castlerock to Kulem. The relevant para of the orders of Hon'ble Supreme court is as under:-

----- for the foregoing reasons, we uphold the conclusions of the CEC and revoke the approval granted by the Standing Committee of NBWL for doubling the railway line between Castlerock to Kulem. However, this will not preclude the RVNL to carry out a detailed analysis on the impact of the proposed project on biodiversity and ecology of the protected areas under the wildlife sanctuary as indicated hereinabove and then submit a fresh proposal to the Standing Committee of NBWL which shall be considered in accordance with law.

- The matter was brought to the knowledge of Ministry vide Regional Office letter dated 12/5/2022 and Ministry had issued directions to keep in abeyance of approval issued by the Regional Office. Accordingly, the Stage-II/final approvals accorded in connection with diversion of forest land for Hospet-Tinaighat-Vasco Rail Doubling Project were kept in vide Regional Office letter dated 30/05/2022.
- Thereafter, User Agency i.e. M/s. RVNL requested the Regional Office to permit them to go ahead with the doubling work outside the purview of Supreme court order and to revoke the abeyance order of Stage-II approval in respect of two stretches, i.e. Kulem-Kalem Section (15.6077 ha) and Kalem-Sanvordem Section (1.9089 ha) (proposals mentioned in Sl. No. iii & iv).
- In this regard, a meeting was held with the User Agency on 28/10/2022 and User Agency was informed that the proposals connected to stretches of Tinaighat Caranzol, Carenzol-Kulem and Kulem-Kalem are covered by the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 09.05.2022. With regard to revoking abeyance order of Stage-II in respect of Kalem-Sanvordem, User Agency was advised to submit the request through the State Government with proper justification.



- The Goa Forest Department vide letter dated 03/01/2023 has forwarded the request of User Agency for revocation of abeyance order pertaining to two stretches, i.e. Kulem-Kalem Section and Kalem-Sanvordem Section (proposals mentioned in Sl.No. iii & iv above).
- The request of the user agency as recommended by the State Forest Department was placed before the REC meeting held on 20/01/2023. REC after deliberation decided to recommended revocation of abeyance order from chainage 65/700 to 66/100 and 66/100 to 66/650 involving diversion of 1.9089 of private forest land in the Kalem-Sanvordem only, as other stretch viz Kulem -Kalem section involving diversion of 15.6077 ha was not recommended considering the fact that said stretch falls in Bhagavan Mahaveer Sanctuary and in the ESZ of Bhagawan Mahaveer Sanctuary. The recommendation of REC was forwarded to Ministry on 31/01/2023 for approval /concurrence.
- Based on the approval of the Ministry the abeyance order was revoked by RO on 06/04/2023 for proposal related to diversion of 1.9089 ha (Sl. No.iv) only.
- The State Government vide its letter dated 12/02/2025 forwarded the representation of the RVNL with request to re-consider the revocation of abeyance order on the proposal pertaining to Kulem-Kalem Section from chainage 50.200 to 59.900 involving diversion of 15.6077 ha (Sl. No.iii). The contention of the user agency is that Kulem-Kalem section and Castle rock-Kulem section are mutually exclusive as both are separate projects and the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is binding only for the proposal from Castle Rock to Kulem i.e Sl. No.i and ii only.
- The request of the user agency as recommended by the State Forest Department was placed before the REC meeting held on 26.02.2025. The user agency was of the view that the said order of the Hon'ble Supreme court as well as CEC report is only binding on the proposals related to Castle Rock to Kulem section, but not on the Kulem-Kalem section. User agency also informed the Committee that CEC has only inspected the area between Castle Rock to Kulem section and it has not visited other stretches including Kulem-Kalem section.



- REC was of the view that though the Hon'ble Supreme court has not specifically mentioned about the remaining sections, but the operative part of Hon'ble Supreme court judgement has to be read in its spirit as it has also directed the user agency to carry out detailed analysis on the impact of the proposed project on biodiversity and ecology of the protected areas under the wildlife sanctuary. REC also noted that the same request of the user agency was deliberated by the REC in its previous meeting and this section involving diversion of 15.6077 ha was not recommended considering the fact that said stretch falls in Bhagavan Mahaveer Sanctuary and in the ESZ of Bhagawan Mahaveer Sanctuary. Goa forest department was also of the view that there is not much difference with respect to ecological diversity between the Castle Rock-Kulem section and Kulem-Kalem section.
- REC after detailed deliberation did not agree to the request made by the RVNL/State Government and directed the user agency/State Government to expand the scope of study to the proposed stretch i.e., Kulem-Kalem section as it is also part of Bhagawan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary. The decision of the REC was conveyed to State Government vide R.O. Bangalore letter dt 06.03.2025.
- Now the State Government vide letter 17.02.2026 has once again forwarded request of UA for revocation of abeyance order on Forest Diversion proposal in Kalem-Kulem section along with the Cumulative impact assessment report of proposed Kulem-Kalem section carried out by Wildlife institute of Indian, Dehradun and has also submitted a future traffic study report undertaken by RITES.
- The UA vide letter dt 17.09.2025 has stated that RVNL entrusted the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun with the task of expanding the scope of study to cover the Kulem-Kalem section on 25.04.2025, as it is also part of Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary. The WII has now completed the expanded scope of the study covering the proposed stretch of the Kulem-Kalem section, as directed in the 84th REC meeting held on 26.02.2025. Further the Key mitigation measures recommended by WII includes:



- Increase in height and span of all the existing structures for better animal movement along with hydrological needs.
 - Provision of additional opening adjacent of existing structures with increased height and span for wildlife needs.
 - Revision of animal overpass locations; duly widening of all 3 proposed overpasses, additionally proposed with 2 additional overpasses.
 - Revision of the location of the proposal animal underpass duly widening the underpass.
 - Provision of 14 at grade animal crossings with DAS system in flat terrains.
 - Chain-link fencing (1.20 m dia or suitable size RCC box) at the location where opening is not found near 100 m to nearby water bodies for herpetofauna crossings.
 - Escape ramps at 3 locations.
 - Noise and light barriers along the rock.
- RVNL undertakes to comply all the above mitigation measures recommended in the WII Report in consultation with the Goa Forest Department to implement them at the suggested locations as feasible at site.

Deliberations:

The Member Secretary, REC made a presentation on the proposal, the details of the deliberations are as follows:-

1. The REC observed that the instant proposal had earlier been considered in its meeting held on 26.02.2025, wherein the Committee had not agreed to the request for revocation of abeyance. The Committee noted that a study has since been carried out by the Wildlife Institute of India and a report has been submitted. However, the REC was of the view that the said report should first be placed before the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) prior to its consideration by the REC.



2. The User Agency submitted that the Kulem-Kalem section and the Castle Rock-Kulem section are mutually exclusive and constitute separate projects. It was contended that the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are applicable only to the Castle Rock-Kulem section (Sl. No. i & ii) and not to the Kulem-Kalem section.
3. The User Agency further submitted that the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as the report of the Central Empowered Committee are binding only on the Castle Rock-Kulem section and not on the Kulem-Kalem stretch. It was also informed that the cumulative impact assessment study for the proposed Kulem-Kalem section has been carried out by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, along with a future traffic study conducted by RITES Limited. The User Agency further apprised that the proposal, along with the study reports, has been submitted to the Goa Forest Department; a site inspection has been carried out by the PCCF and other officials; and the cumulative impact assessment report has been approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Goa
4. REC deliberated on the Minutes of 84th REC Meeting, in which "REC was of the view that though the Hon'ble Supreme court has not specifically mentioned about the remaining sections, but the operative part of Hon'ble Supreme court judgement has to be read in its spirit as it has also directed the user agency to carry out detailed analysis on the impact of the proposed project on biodiversity and ecology of the protected areas under the wildlife sanctuary. REC also noted that the same request of the user agency was deliberated by the REC in its previous meeting and this section involving diversion of 15.6077 ha was not recommended considering the fact that said stretch falls in Bhagavan Mahaveer Sanctuary and in the ESZ of Bhagawan Mahaveer Sanctuary. Goa forest department was also of the view that there is not much difference with respect to ecological diversity between the Castle Rock-Kulem section and Kulem-Kalem section."
5. The REC further noted that, in its 84th meeting, it had not agreed to the request of the User Agency/State Government and had directed them to expand the scope of the study to include the Kulem-Kalem section, as it forms part of the



Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary. The said decision was communicated to the State Government vide Regional Office, Bangalore letter dated 06.03.2025.

6. The REC reiterated that the cumulative impact assessment report pertaining to the Kulem-Kalem section must be placed before the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) and thereafter before the Standing Committee of NBWL or the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) for consideration and approval, prior to its submission before the REC.

Decision:-

The Regional Empowered Committee (REC), after detailed deliberation, decided to defer the proposal. The Committee observed that the report of Wildlife Institute of India should not be limited to proposing mitigation measures, but must also include detailed analysis of the impact of the proposed project on the biodiversity and ecology of the protected areas under Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary and suitable measures to address these adverse impacts.

Further, the REC advised the User Agency to approach the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) or the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) for further consideration and decision in the matter, prior to its submission before the REC.

STATE: KARNATAKA

Agenda No 2: Diversion of 11.8373 ha of forest land in Sy.No.600 of Bailur Village, Mavalli Hobli, Bhatkal taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Honnavar Forest Division) for establishment of Beena Vaidya Super Speciality Hospital, Medical College and allied Institutes favour of the Managing Director, Beena vaidya Educational trust (R), Modakapriya, Gasti, Kaikini, Bhatkal, Uttara Kannada District -581320. (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/OTHERS/531662/2025)

The Committee considered the following facts of the proposal: -

- The Government of Karnataka submitted the above proposal in PARIVESH 2.0 on 08.12.2025.
- The location -wise details break up of forest land required for the project is as under:-

District	Village	Sy.No	Forest land proposed for diversion (ha)	Legal status of the forest.
Uttara Kannada, Bhatkal, Honnavar Division, Manki Forest Range.	Bailur	600	11.8373	Reserve Forest
		Total	11.8373	

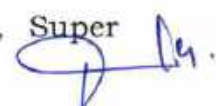
- The component -wise details break up of forest land required for the project is as under:-

Sl.No	Component	Forest land proposed for diversion (ha)
1	Hardscape	0.6733
2	Parking	0.6046
3	Playground	0.9979
4	Buildings	4.2773
5	Green cover	3.1876
6	Road	2.0456
	Total	11.7863 or 11.8373 ?

- The legal status of the forest is Reserved Forest.
- The proposed area comes under Eco Class -II (As per Nodal Officer) or I (as per DCF) and having 0.6 (As per Nodal Officer) or 0.7 (as per DCF).
- The non forest land required for the project is nil.
- The area proposed for diversion does not form the part of any Protected Area and Eco-Sensitive Zone.

- The top soil appears to be barren with shallow depth and closely associated with lateritic formations. The slope of the proposed land for diversion is almost plane with slope less than 30 degrees. Therefore, possibility of soil erosion due to run-off is very minimal.
- Wild pigs, Fox, some reptiles and rodent species are found in the proposed area for diversion.
- The proposed area for diversion contains 2373 no. of trees. Main species includes *Acacia auriculiformis*.
- No violation has been reported.
- **Justification given by User Agency:-**

- Uttara Kannada district has 10,277 Sq Km of geographical area, of which 8280 Sq Km, i.e. more than 80% of geographical area is Forest land.
- Total Population of the district as per 2011 Census was 14,37,169 (Male – 7,26,256 Female – 7,10,913) which may be approximately around 20 Lakhs till date. The major population lives in rural area in small villages deep inside forests undertaking agriculture and fishing as their main occupation. And are lacking access to the essential medical facilities.
- There is no Super Speciality Hospital in the whole district. Due to the absence of Super Speciality Hospital, People are feeling extremely difficult for obtaining critical medical Care. And they are dependent on Super Speciality Hospitals of neighbouring districts like Udupi, Mangalore, Dharwad, Belgaum etc. in the time of extreme emergencies people feel very difficult to reach the Super Speciality Hospitals of adjacent districts due to long distance and also due to the fact that most of the roads passes through forest in highly undulating terrain.
- Although this district is rich in forest but there is no proper Ayurvedic medical college, and also there is a need for providing good educational facilities to the local rural population for their overall upliftment.
- Keeping all the above factors in mind Beena vaidya Educational Trust is committed to provide low cost, high quality affordable medical facilities and also quality school and college education for the needy. For this trust is committed to establish medical college, Super



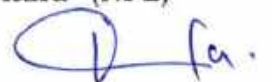
Speciality hospital, Ayurvedic College, Nursing and Physiotherapy College, IB School, PU School, and Old Age Home etc, in one place.

- For the above project around 12.00 Ha of Land is required, since more than 80% of geographical area is under forest cover and there is no suitable revenue land available.
- Due to the above facts, it was found that the forest land abutting National Highway No – 66 in Sy no – 600 of Bailur village, Mavalli Hobli, Bhatkal Taluk is perfectly suitable for the proposed project. The forest area Proposed for the project is already stratified and is an isolated patch due to the fact that adjacent forest areas have already been diverted for 3 projects ie National highway 66 to the west, Konkan railway line to the east, and KPTCL transmission line in between. The remaining area is having private lands with human habitation along its periphery. There is no wildlife movement in the proposed area. The proposed land is almost flat and do not involve large scale land cutting and filling. There are no natural streams flowing through the area.
- The area proposed is most suitable for establishment of medical college and other facilities because it is directly connected to the national highway – 66 and is easily accessible to all. If the project is allowed to materialize in the said area it will benefit the people immensely.
- Through this project more than 5.00 Lakh Coastal and rural people will get world class health facilities. It will also attract students from all over the state. It creates women empowerment by way of providing employment opportunities. It also boosts skill development in the field of medical, nursing and allied fields for local talent pool. It also boosts economic activity of the region with improved transport services, opportunity for local vendors, establishment of rental housing and other support services. This project will also provide employment to thousands of local people there by improving the standard of living of the local population.



➤ **Justification given by Nodal Officer for Site specificity of the proposal:-**

1. It is a single isolated forest patch surrounded by already diverted forest lands under V(SES) Adhiniyam 1980 in East (Konkan Railway) and West (NH 65) as well as private lands to its North and South directions.
2. Further, there is another case of forest land diversion (under V(SES) Adhiniyam, 1980) for laying of 110 KVA power lines that runs across and splits the proposed land for diversion into two land Parcels. FP/KA/TRANS/22761/2016. User Agency has also uploaded NOC from KPTCL in this regard.
3. The proposed forest land for diversion is next to National Highway 66 which is almost 3 km away from the coast. Hence, adverse impact on the coastal environment is negligible.
4. Further, the proposed project envisages providing specialized medical care to the needy community in the region. This serves very essential public service as there is no super specialty hospital in Uttara Kannada district. This district being the fifth largest district in the State with more than 80 percent of the geographical area under forests that include coastal plains, steep Ghats as well as regions with highly undulating terrain. It poses a great difficulty for the people who need emergency special medical care. People have to travel either to Hubli or Mangalore to get access to special medical care which is inaccessible to the communities living in interior locations.
5. Also, as there are no major industries located in Uttara Kannada district, a super specialty hospital is likely to generate large scale employment opportunities and contribute to socio-economic development of the region including women empowerment.
6. Possible beneficial effects of the proposed project on the society at large as well as the location (within the Sharavathy valley LTM Sanctuary) and nature (having forest characteristics with good canopy density in one third of area) of the Compensatory Afforestation land (NFL)

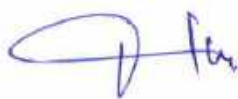
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proposed to be given in lieu of diversion, the proposal may be considered for further processing and approval.

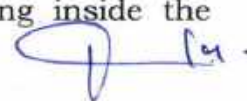
➤ **Additional information:-**

Nodal office has raised EDS to User Agency and field officers regarding Possibility of reducing the area as the built-up area is only 4.2 Ha. and remaining is open space and also Site Specificity of the Proposal. Further, UA has submitted EDS reply that the total forest area requested for the establishment of Beena Vaidya Super Speciality Hospital, Medical college and allied institutes in Bailur village of Bhatkal taluk is (Patch 1 = 6.205 Ha + Patch 2 = 5.6323 Ha) 11.8373 Ha is bare minimum land required for the project due to following reasons:-

1. 4.2779 Ha area is reserved for building construction. 2.0598 Ha of the area is reserved for the construction of necessary connecting roads. 2.8956 Ha area is proposed for green scape, 0.9942 Ha is proposed for playground establishment, 0.79 Ha is kept under hard scape, and 0.6141 Ha of the area is proposed for parking. The area proposed for buildings i.e., 4.2779 Ha is bare minimum land required for the construction of all the essential buildings required for the project.
2. The project aims at the establishment of Medical College, General hospital, Super speciality hospital, Ayurveda College, Ayurveda Hospital, old age home and Nursing & Physiotherapy College and other allied facilities.
3. 2.0598 Ha area is reserved for the construction of necessary roads for connecting various buildings that are proposed to be taken up in the proposed project. Since the total number of different buildings proposed is more than 30 in number, this area proposed is bare minimum for the effective and smooth movement of vehicles, patients and pedestrians inside the hospitals and medical colleges' campus complex.



4. 2.8956 Ha area is proposed for green scape i.e., for the creation of area under green covers in the project. Since more than 30 big and small buildings are proposed in the project and as the project is related to health care, suitable separation is required in between various buildings for proper ventilation as well as maintenance of adequate isolation and hygiene. Most of the area considered for green scape is those areas in between these buildings. We also propose to plant as many as native species in these green spaces and also establish herbal medicinal gardens for use in Ayurveda College.
5. As the proposed project site is located very near to sea coast and surrounded by barren lateritic areas, it is known for its extreme hot and humid climate especially from January to June. Therefore, presence of green scape will help in maintenance of suitable micro climate inside the campus.
6. An area of 0.99 Ha is proposed for the establishment of playground. It is said that a sound mind resides in a sound body. Keeping this thought in mind and also as per the guidelines for establishing medical college and allied institutes, presence of play ground is mandatory and minimum area required for establishment of modern playground is around 1 ha. Therefore, an area of 0.99 Ha is proposed for creation of playground inside the campus. This project aims at providing suitable sports and fitness facilities for the people connected with the campus and all the students of proposed medical colleges.
7. 0.79 Ha of area is kept under hard scape. It is the area which is proposed to be used as foot paths along the road side and the thin stretch of land surrounding the buildings is proposed to be laid with interlocks or stone pavements or concrete platforms. The area proposed for this is bare minimum and this is an essential component of the project.
8. The project aims at the establishment of Medical college, General hospital, Super speciality hospital, Ayurveda college, Ayurveda Hospital, Old age home and Nursing & Physiotherapy college and other allied facilities. It requires adequate parking space for all the people living inside the



campus as well as daily visitors to the various facilities available inside the campus.

9. Keeping in view of the total parking requirement of the campus and the expected vehicular traffic, an area of around 0.60 Ha of the area is proposed for parking.
10. Based on all the factors discussed above, it is evident that bare minimum forest area required is sought to be diverted for the establishment of Beena Vaidya Super Speciality Hospital, Medical college and allied institutes in Bailur village of Bhatkal taluk. We would also like to bring to your kind notice that one such similar project i.e., establishment of Chikmagalur Institute of Medical Sciences (a State government run medical college and hospital) in forest area of Chikmagalur district of Karnataka has already been approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

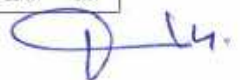
- **Compensatory Afforestation details:** The User Agency has identified an extent of 8.9032 Ha of patta land in Sy. Nos. 47 (1.1938 ha), 49 (3.8850 ha), 19 (3.4601 ha) and 50 (0.3643 ha) of Hadgeri Village, Bhatkal, Mavalli, Honnavar Forest Division, Gerusoppa Range, Uttara Kannada District for raising Compensatory Afforestation. The identified NFL is an enclosure within Sharavathi Valley Lion Tailed Macaque (LTM) Sanctuary.

The area proposed for diversion is 11.8373 ha and the CA has only been identified for 8.9032 Ha based on Schedule II [Rule 13 & rule 14], wherein there is a 25% concession in the size of CA Land if it is located within the notified boundary of protected area.

- As per the DSS analysis the area proposed for diversion is not inviolate.
- After analyzing the proposal EDS was raised by this office on 16.01.2026. The State Govt. submitted the EDS reply on 19.02.2026. The details of the EDS and the reply furnished may kindly be seen at below table:-



Sl No	EDS raised	Reply submitted
1	The proposal involves the construction of a Medical College, Super Speciality Hospital, Ayurvedic College, Nursing and Physiotherapy College, IB School, PU School, Old Age Home, and allied facilities. It is observed that all the proposed activities are non-site-specific in nature. In this regard, the State Government is requested to submit a proper and detailed justification for the requirement of forest land for the proposed project, keeping in view the public utility of the project, availability of suitable State Government land or private land, and the criteria adopted for selecting the proposed site for the establishment of such facilities.	The necessary justification is respectfully submitted as below. 1. Availability of suitable State Government land or private land: It is humbly submitted that honest and exhaustive efforts are made by the user agency to secure alternate revenue land from the revenue department and also from private land holders across the region. However, the user agency couldn't find/get suitable non-forest government or private lands due to following facts. a) Private lands : Sincere attempts are made from the user agency to procure suitable land required for the project from private land owners. But user agency could not get a single patch of land of 30 acres/feasible collection of this extent from different land owners at a single place as suitable for the project owing to following reasons. i. Most of the geographical area i.e., around 80% of Uttara Kannada district's geographical area is forest and private holding is very minimal. ii. Majority of these private land holdings are less than 1 ha in extent. As these lands being utilized for cultivation and other bonafide livelihood purposes, people are extremely reluctant and unwilling to sell their lands. b) Revenue lands: Alternate revenue land from the revenue department: Due to unavailability of suitable private land for the said purpose, the user agency has requested the Deputy Commissioner of Uttara Kannada district vide letter dated 16/1/2025 to



	provide suitable revenue land of 30 acres required for the said project. In response, Deputy commissioner of Uttara Kannada district had replied vide letter RB/LND-1/VIVA/2024-25/E89808 dated 6/3/25 that based on the reports of Tahsildars and Assistant Commissioners, suitable revenue land required for the project is not available in Bhatkal and Honnavar taluks. In addition, Deputy commissioner of Uttara Kannada district vide letter RB/LND-1/VIVA/2024-25/E89808 dated 28/01/26 has stated following reasons for the unavailability of suitable revenue lands. 1) Total geographical area of district is 10270 sq.km. of which 8280 sq.km. i.e., around 80% is forest. 2) Most of the land parcels available in Honnavar and Bhatkal taluks are patches of less than 5 acres. 3) Majority of these government lands are hadis and bettas, which are statutorily assigned to adjacent land holders for leaf litter collection and lopping as a privilege. 4) Most of these government lands available are situated in remote areas as enclosures inside forest areas without easy accessibility and in difficult topography. 5) Majority of private land holdings in this district are less than 1 Ha in extent and used for cultivation purposes. People's livelihood is directly dependent on these lands. Because of the above facts the user agency could not get a suitable Revenue land required for the project. c) Site suitability : 1) The proposed forest land for diversion is already disconnected from main patches of forest and is present in the form of small isolated patch i.e., to the east, forest land has been leased to Konkan Railways and to the west, forest land has been leased to the
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	National Highway Authority of India. And in the middle a strip of the forest land has been leased to KPTCL. Private land holdings adjoin the north and south directions leaving the remaining forest land as an isolated patch. 2) The selected land is situated immediately adjacent to National Highway 66 and is accessible from all the parts of district. 3) The soil is semi lateritic with poor edaphic characteristics which is suitable for the growth of only acacia trees. The land is having only acacia trees and devoid of natural vegetation. 4) The land is not a part of any known or established wild life corridors. 5) There is no threatened species of flora or fauna documented in the proposed land for diversion. 6) The proposed forest land does not have any natural water body or natural stream. 7) The proposed land is almost flat with less than 10% slope. 8) The proposed land is not a part of any protected areas. 9) The proposed land is not part of any notified Eco Sensitive Zone. 10) The requested land does not involve much of land reclamation as it is almost flat and no slope cutting is required. 11) The question of muck generation and disposal does not arise. 12) District Health officer vide letter No. DHO/personal/77/2025-26 dated 3/2/2026 stated that maternal mortality rate is around 45 and also, there is presence of considerable number of communicable and non-communicable diseases in the District. And if this project is implemented it will be of great help to the surrounding people to get effective treatments. 13) As per the data given by the Police Department i.e., Superintendent of Police of
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		Uttara Kannada district vide letter No. DCRB/UK/2026 dated 02/02/2026, a total of 10676 accidents have been reported in the last decade and 2500 peoples have died and 17870 people are injured in Uttara Kannada district. Further, they have stated that "As there are no Super Specialty Hospitals available in Uttara Kannada district, the injured victims of road accidents are being referred for advanced medical treatment to the neighboring districts of Udupi, Hubli and Mangaluru, and also to the State of Goa. During the process of shifting injured persons to these hospitals, several victims have unfortunately died enroute, and such cases are also reported to be considerably high". 14) And if we see some of the nearest super specialty hospitals from the proposed site, Kasturba Hospital, Manipal is located at more than 100 km away, Father Muller Hospital, Mangalore is located at more than 160 km away and the Secure Hospital, Hubli is located at more than 200 km away. Therefore, people from surrounding area do not have access to super specialty hospitals in case of emergencies and in critical situations. As it is evident from Annexure-4 valuable lives are being lost during the transportation of accident victims. 15) Uttara Kannada is one of the socio-economically backward district in the State and the people living around the proposed project site i.e., Bhatkal, Honnavar and Kumta directly or indirectly benefit from the project which will help in overall socio-economic upliftment of the people and the region. This project aims at filling the gaps in educational and healthcare sector and it is anticipated that the implementation of the project will directly and indirectly generates
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		more than 5000 skilled and semi-skilled employments in the region. Because of all the facts listed above, this project is having great public utility prospects and the site is most suitable for the said project. After exercising and exhausting all the options of getting non forest land, this land is being proposed for the project. It is respectfully submitted that the non-forest CA land in lieu of proposed land for diversion is identified deep inside Sharavathy Valley LTM Sanctuary. User agency believes that proposing this revenue enclosure within as CA land will augment wildlife conservation. Keeping in view of issues presented above and compelling reasons/justification for locating the project on forest land, it is humbly requested that the proposal may kindly be considered favorably and necessary approval may be given. DCF stated that that the user agency aims to expand the existing educational facilities to provide affordable quality education to all the needy students from surrounding areas. The justification submitted by the user agency may be accepted in the larger public interest and the growing needs of quality education and healthcare at one place.
2	From the Google Earth imagery, it is observed that an existing Beena Vaidya School and College is already located towards the north-west of the proposed project site. However, under the present proposal, the User	It is respectfully submitted that there is Beena Vaidya School and College is located adjacent to forest land proposed for diversion. Presently, there are 328 students studying in state syllabus from 1 to 10th standard, 268 students studying in ICSE syllabus from 1 to 10th standard, 106 students are pursuing Pre-University studies and 27 students are pursuing Bachelor degree in commerce. Due to absence of quality boarding school and other related facilities students from

	Agency (UA) has also proposed the establishment of PU College, IB School, hostels, and other allied educational facilities. In this regard, the UA/State Government is requested to submit a detailed justification for proposing additional educational institutions, particularly schools, in the project area when similar educational facilities already exist in close proximity.	surrounding areas are going to faraway places to get quality education. Our trust aims to expand the existing educational facilities and provide affordable quality education to all the needy students from surrounding areas by establishing both day school, boarding school and allied facilities for the benefit of the local community. Keeping this vision in mind, we have sought for additional forest land for the purpose of expanding the existing facilities so that the institution acts as one point access to quality and affordable education as well as healthcare needs of local communities. Based on the information available in the Parivesh website a similar proposal FP/KA/Others/44486/2020 for establishment of medical college, hospital and allied facilities in Chikmagalur District of Karnataka State has already been accorded approval.
3	In Form-A, under the description of the project, the proposal has been described as the establishment of Beena Vaidya Super Speciality Hospital and Medical College, Ayurvedic College, Nursing and Physiotherapy College, General Hospital, Ayurvedic Hospital, PU College, IB School, hostels, staff quarters, playground, swimming pool, shopping complex, and other related	The detailed component-wise breakup is submitted along with the KML file. The KML files were analysed and the same is annexed as Annexure-I.



	establishments. However, it is noted that while a component-wise breakup has been provided in terms of area under hardscape, parking, playground, buildings, green area, roads, etc., the proper layout plan clearly indicating the location and extent of each proposed component has not been submitted. Further, the KML file submitted does not provide bifurcation of the individual components proposed for diversion. In this regard, the State Government/User Agency is requested to submit a detailed and duly authenticated layout plan, along with a revised KML file clearly demarcating and bifurcating all proposed components.	
4	The Eco Class and canopy density has been reported as 2 and 0.6, respectively by Nodal Officer but as per DCF as per it is	DCF has informed that there was a typographical error while filling Part-II of the Application. The proposed land for diversion is a lateritic area which is not part of any protected area, does not have any natural and indigenous vegetation, has poor edaphic factors, is not a part of any wildlife corridor



	1 and 0.7. The same requires clarification.	and plain slope. It is an acacia plantation. There are only acacia trees in the proposed land with an average canopy density of 0.6. This land potentially bears the characteristics considered for Eco class-2. And Eco class and density reported by the Nodal Officer is correct. Therefore, necessary corrections have been incorporated in PART-II of the revised proposal.																																
5	As per the proposal submitted, the total area proposed for diversion is 11.8373 ha. However, based on the component-wise breakup details provided, the total area works out to 11.7863 ha. Thus, an area discrepancy is observed. In this regard, the State Government/User Agency is requested to rectify the discrepancy by revising and reconciling the area calculations and submitting corrected and consistent details.	DCF has informed that upon verification of the component wise breakup of the proposed area for diversion, it was found that there was a discrepancy in area due to arithmetic and plotting error in the area calculation. The same has now been rectified and revised as below by the user agency. It is verified and found to be correct. <table><tr><th>Sl no</th><th>Name of the component</th><th>Earlier area (Ha)</th><th>Present area (Ha)</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Details of Play ground and emergency assembly area</td><td>0.9942</td><td>0.9979</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Details of Parking Areas</td><td>0.6141</td><td>0.6102</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Details of Green Component Area</td><td>2.8956</td><td>3.2030</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Details of Hard scape and drainage area</td><td>0.79</td><td>0.6737</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Details of Road Component Area</td><td>2.0598</td><td>2.0592</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>Details of Area under Building components</td><td>4.2773</td><td>4.2933</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Total</td><td>11.631 Ha</td><td>11.8373 Ha</td></tr></table>	Sl no	Name of the component	Earlier area (Ha)	Present area (Ha)	1	Details of Play ground and emergency assembly area	0.9942	0.9979	2	Details of Parking Areas	0.6141	0.6102	3	Details of Green Component Area	2.8956	3.2030	4	Details of Hard scape and drainage area	0.79	0.6737	5	Details of Road Component Area	2.0598	2.0592	6	Details of Area under Building components	4.2773	4.2933		Total	11.631 Ha	11.8373 Ha
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	Total	11.631 Ha	11.8373 Ha																															



		Further the detailed component wise break up is also submitted and the same is annexed as Annexure-II.
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➤ **Rule position with respect to non-site specific proposals as per VSES rules 2023:-**

1. It may be noted that Para 1.10 of chapter 1 of consolidated guidelines issued under VSESA 1980 states that:-

- i. Utilization of forest area for establishing industries, construction of residential colonies, institutes, rehabilitation of displaced persons, etc. are non-site-specific activities and cannot be considered on forest land as a rule. For that matter, no non-site specific proposal can be entertained for considering approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. In exceptional circumstances, residential projects up to one ha, can be considered for approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 by the MoEF&CC, subject to appropriate justification and recommendation by the concerned State Government and the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC.
- ii. In case of any ambiguity regarding non-specificity of a particular project, the same shall be referred to the Ministry for decision. Further, the Regional Offices/Sub-Offices shall ensure that non-site specific proposals, which have been recommended by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) or Regional Office, need to be submitted to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi for decision on case to case basis. Proposals which have been rejected by the REC or Regional Office/Sub-Office should not be submitted to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

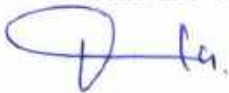
2. Further the Ministry vide guideline dt 24.09.2024 clarified that legitimacy of the requirement of a public utility with no viable

alternatives, make such proposals site-specific and use of forest land inescapable and accordingly, the concerned Regional Offices of the Ministry should ascertain the legitimacy of a public utility projects as non-site specific or site specific in the light of justifications provided by the State/UT. Proposals found to be site-specific for want of viable alternatives should be considered on their merits by the concerned Regional Office in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Deliberations:

The Member Secretary, REC made a presentation on the proposal, the details of the deliberations are as follows:-

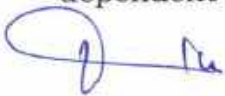
1. REC is of the opinion that the project is non-site specific and deliberated the in detail about the guideline issued by Ministry dt 24.09.2024 which clarified that legitimacy of the requirement of a public utility with no viable alternatives, make such proposals site-specific and use of forest land inescapable and accordingly, the concerned Regional Offices of the Ministry should ascertain the legitimacy of a public utility projects as non-site specific or site specific in the light of justifications provided by the State/UT. Proposals found to be site-specific for want of viable alternatives should be considered on their merits by the concerned Regional Office in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
2. Member Secretary, REC informed that the proposal was placed before the REC as per the above said guidelines.
3. REC deliberated on the alternatives and enquired whether there is a viable alternative available or not. DCF informed that this district is having 82% forest cover and hence non-forest land / revenue land are not available and private land owners were not ready to sell their land. DCF informed the REC that the User Agency made earnest efforts to identify suitable non-forest land



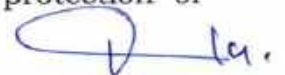
(private and Government) for the project but could not secure the required 30 acres. In Uttara Kannada, majority of the area is under forest cover, and private land holdings are small, fragmented, and primarily used for livelihood, making acquisition unfeasible. Further, as per the Deputy Commissioner, suitable revenue land is not available in Bhatkal and Honnavar taluks, as available Government lands are limited, fragmented, located in remote and inaccessible areas, or already assigned for local use. Accordingly, no suitable non-forest land is available for the project..

4. The DCF also informed that the proposed forest land for diversion is already disconnected from main patches of forest and is present in the form of small isolated patch i.e., to the east, forest land has been leased to Konkan Railways and to the west, forest land has been leased in favour of National Highway Authority of India. And in the middle, a strip of forest land has been leased to KPTCL. Private land holdings adjoin the north and south directions leaving the remaining forest land as an isolated patch.
5. The DCF further State that the User Agency submitted that the proposed forest land is an isolated and fragmented patch, surrounded by diversions for National Highway-66, Konkan Railway, and KPTCL transmission line, with private lands on the remaining sides. The site is located adjacent to National Highway-66, ensuring easy accessibility without the need for any additional approach road. The terrain is flat with gentle slope (<10%), and the soil is semi-lateritic with poor edaphic conditions, supporting mainly acacia and thorny vegetation.
6. Further it was also stated that the area does not form part of any protected area, Eco-Sensitive Zone, wildlife corridor, or natural water body, and no threatened species of flora or fauna have been reported. The land is ecologically degraded, with 2,373 trees (primarily *Acacia auriculiformis*) proposed for felling. The proposal does not involve significant land reclamation, slope cutting, or muck disposal.
7. It was further informed by the DCF that that non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation has been identified within the Sharavathy Valley LTM Sanctuary, which is expected to contribute to wildlife conservation.

8. DCF also appraised the committee that the nearest super-specialty hospitals from the proposed site are located at considerable distances—Kasturba Hospital is more than 100 km away, Father Muller Hospital is over 160 km away, and Secure Hospital is beyond 200 km. In view of these distances, residents of the surrounding areas lack timely access to super-specialty healthcare during emergencies and critical situations. As reported by the Superintendent of Police, Uttara Kannada, valuable lives have been lost during the transportation of accident victims due to delays in accessing advanced medical facilities. Further, the District Health Officer, Uttara Kannada, vide letter No. DHO/77/2025-26 dated 03.02.2026, has indicated that the maternal mortality rate in the district is approximately 45, along with a significant prevalence of both communicable and non-communicable diseases.
9. DCF, Honnavar also informed the committee that Uttara Kannada is one of the socio-economically backward districts in the State. The proposed project is expected to benefit the population residing in and around the project site, particularly in Bhatkal, Honnavar, and Kumta taluks. The project aims to address critical gaps in the education and healthcare sectors and is anticipated to contribute significantly to the overall socio-economic upliftment of the region. It is further projected that the implementation of the project will generate more than 5,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities, including skilled and semi-skilled jobs, with substantial benefits for women.
10. Nodal Officer, Karnataka informed that the proposal is not site specific, but under modified guidelines issued by the Ministry this proposal can be considered. Further it was emphasized that, after exhausting all alternatives for non-forest land, the present site has been identified as most suitable for the project considering its public utility. In Uttara Kannada, a substantial portion of the geographical area is under forest cover, while only about 18% constitutes revenue land. Consequently, availability of non-forest land for developmental activities is extremely limited, and local populations are largely dependent on forest areas.



11. REC further enquired whether this proposal comes under site specific proposal or not. 80% of this district comes under forest and it is socio-economically backward district. Hence how many people can afford to get treated in super speciality hospital.
12. The REC enquired whether the land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is private land or non-forest land. The Committee further questioned that if private land is available for CA purposes, the justification for proposing the project on forest land needs to be clarified. In response, the DCF submitted that the land identified for CA is located in interior areas, and although certain private lands exist, the landowners are unwilling to sell. It was further clarified that, being a private entity, the User Agency does not have the authority to compel landowners to part with their land. REC further informed that many multi-speciality hospitals are not more than 3 acres and enquired as to why this particular hospital requires such a large area. DCF clarified that the proposal involves other components also.
13. The REC enquired whether any No Objection Certificate (NoC) or formal approval has been obtained from the District Health Department prior to proposing the project. In response, the DCF informed that no such NoC/permission has been obtained. However, it was assured that necessary approvals from the concerned department will be obtained, if required.
14. The REC observed that several activities proposed under the project appear to be redundant. The Committee was of the view that merely on account of the land being lateritic in nature, diversion of forest land cannot be justified. While the contention that the area constitutes an isolated patch was noted, the REC expressed concern that the land is being proposed for multiple other purposes as well.
15. With regard to the justification citing road accidents and lack of medical facilities, the REC opined that such issues are to be primarily addressed by the District Administration and Health Department of the Concerned State Government. The Committee emphasized that the role of the Forest Department is to focus on conservation aspects, including protection of wildlife and mitigation of human-animal conflict.



Decision:-

After detailed deliberation, the REC deferred the proposal for want of the following:-

1. The State Government should provide a clear justification establishing the legitimacy of the proposal as a public utility, and demonstrating that no viable alternatives are available, thereby rendering the proposal site-specific and the use of forest land inescapable, in accordance with the Ministry's guidelines dated 24.09.2024.
2. NOC from Health department and other district authorities.

The REC also decided to undertake a site inspection of the area proposed for diversion, as well as the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land, before arriving at a final decision.

FELLING PROPOSAL:**STATE: KARNATAKA**

Agenda No. 3: Proposal for the extraction of fuel wood (Acacia) plantations to an extent of 140 ha pertaining to Fuel wood plantation working circle as per approved Working Plan of Belagavi Forest Division for the year 2024-25.

The Committee considered the following facts of the proposal: -

- The Working plan of Belagavi Forest Division is under currency period (the Working plan will be expiring on 31st March 2034).
- The Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bangalore vide its letter No. F(C)A/11.6/9/BGM/WP/KAR/ 935 dated 19TH January, 2026 had accorded



approval for the Draft Working Plan of Belagavi Forest Division for the period from 2024-25 to 2033-24 (10 Years) subject to certain conditions.

- The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Karnataka Forest Department vide Letter NO. KFD/WP/RFO (EXT)/11/2019-WP dated 24-02-2026 had forwarded the proposal for extraction of Acacia plantations to an extent of 140 ha as per approved Working Plan of Belagavi Forest Division for the year 2024-25.
- The proposal involves 7 acacia plantations to an extent of 140 ha for the year 2024-25 pertaining to Kanakumbi and Nagaragali Range of Belagavi Division is submitted for extraction.
- The proposed arrear plantations are not part of the previous list furnished by the State Forest Department vide Letter No. KFD/WP/RFO(EXT)/11/2019 WP dated 29.01.2026 which was approved in 94th Meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) held on 06.02.2026. The Details of Acacia Plantations proposed for Extraction:-

Particulars	Plantations No	Extent of area in ha	No of trees to be felled	Quantity of seedlings made available prior to felling	KML Files	Budgetary allocation (Lakhs in Rs)
Plantations falling within ESZ	-	-	-	1,10,380 (Species like Honne	Furnished	Not furnished
Plantations falling Outside ESZ	7	140	6311	(Pterocarpus marsupium), Shivani (Gmelina arborea), Bamboo, Nerale (Syzygium cumini), Halasu (Artocarpus heterophyllus) and Acacia etc.)		



➤ **Prescriptions for Acacia Fuelwood Working Circle**

Acacia Plantation: The silvicultural system prescribed for the Acacia Fuelwood Working Circle is clear felling with a rotation period of fifteen years followed by regeneration as per the site specific plan.

- The State Forest Department has furnished the area harvested and area regenerated statement for the extraction carried out as per the approvals accorded in the previous years. As per the report, the area harvested is 607.00 ha and area regenerated is 607.00 ha.

➤ **Issues:-**

1. The standing consultative committee recommendation for the arrear plantations is not furnished by state forest Department.
2. The budget quantification have not been furnished by the State Forest Department.
3. Only the slope map image of the regenerated area has been furnished; the KML files have not been submitted.

Deliberations and decision:

REC noted that, certain deficiencies have been observed in the present proposal. The recommendation of the Standing Consultative Committee (SCC) for arrear plantations has not been furnished. Further, budget quantification details have not been provided and KML files of the proposed and regenerated areas are also not submitted, with only slope map imagery being furnished. It is also noted that the proposal has been submitted at the end of the financial year, leaving very limited time for execution. In the event that extraction is not carried out within the current financial year, the proposal would be treated as an arrear plantation, necessitating deviation approval and fresh consideration by the REC after obtaining SCC recommendation.

REC further examined the matter in detail. The APCCF (Working Plan) requested that permission may be accorded subject to post facto ratification by the



SCC, which is scheduled to meet on 07.04.2026, and assured that the outcome would be communicated to the REC. It was further submitted that sufficient budgetary provision and quality seedlings are available, and that advance works can be undertaken in areas where felling activities are already in progress. On being queried by the REC regarding the feasibility of undertaking advance work without felling, the APCCF clarified that such activities can only be taken up in areas where felling has already commenced. The APCCF also stated that the proposal was inadvertently omitted from earlier submissions placed before the 94th REC, and forms part of ongoing operations linked to previous approvals. It was further assured that if execution is not feasible within the current financial year, felling will not be carried out.

After careful consideration of the facts and submissions, the REC decided to defer the proposal. The Committee observed that, with the financial year nearing closure, execution of the proposed activities is not feasible at this stage. The REC further noted that the SCC recommendation for arrear plantations has not been furnished, and essential documents, including KML files and detailed budget estimates, are yet to be submitted.

The proposal may be reconsidered upon submission of complete documentation, including SCC recommendations, and compliance with all procedural requirements under the approved Working Plan framework.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA:

Extraction of 124 Eucalyptus trees in Ramanagara Division for construction of elephant kraals at Bheemanakatte and Rampura Elephant camps in Hunsur Wildlife Range of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve.

The Committee considered the following facts of the proposal: -

- The Working plan of Ramanagara Forest Division is under currency period (the Working plan will be expiring on 31st March 2033).



- The Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bangalore vide its letter No. F(C)A/11.6/RMGR/61/WP/KAR/332 dated 7th July, 2025 had accorded approval for the Draft Working Plan of Ramanagara Forest Division for the period from 2023-24 to 2032-33 (10 Years) subject to certain conditions.
- The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Karnataka Forest Department vide Letter NO. KFD/WP/RFO (EXT)/8/2019 dated 25-03-2026 had forwarded the proposal for extraction of 124 Eucalyptus plantations to an extent of 2 ha as per approved Working Plan of Ramanagara Forest Division for the year 2025-26.
- The proposal involves extraction of 124 eucalyptus trees out of 750 trees for the year 2025-26 pertaining to Vandaraguppe plantation to an extent of 2 ha in Channapattana Range in **Ramanagara Division for construction of elephant kraals at Bheemanakatte and Rampura Elephant camps in Hunsur Wildlife Range of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve.**

Deliberation and Decision: -

REC noted that the proposal involves selective extraction of 124 Eucalyptus trees out of a total of 750 trees from the Vandaraguppe plantation located in Channapattana Range of Ramanagara Division. The extraction has been proposed to meet the urgent requirement of timber for construction of elephant kraals at Bheemanakatte and Rampura Elephant Camps in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, considering that the species and size of the trees are suitable for such structures. REC further noted that the plantation is more than 30 years old and is listed at Sl. No. 17 of Appendix 39(a) of the approved Working Plan. It was also noted that the remaining 626 trees are proposed to be taken up in subsequent years and will be placed before REC separately.

During deliberations, the REC sought clarification regarding the necessity of partial felling of the plantation and whether such selective extraction is in accordance with the Working Plan prescriptions. The Committee reiterated that approvals are to be guided strictly by the prescriptions of the approved Working Plan. The DCF, Ramanagara clarified that regeneration will be undertaken



with mixed species as per Working Plan prescriptions, and confirmed availability of adequate budget for the same. REC also enquired whether a formal requisition had been received from the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), to which it was informed that approval for construction of kraals has been accorded by the competent authority. The APCCF (Working Plan) emphasized the urgency of the requirement, stating that the identified trees are immediately needed for construction purposes.

Considering the urgency of the matter and the specific requirement for construction of elephant kraals, the REC decided to accord special approval for extraction of 124 Eucalyptus trees out of 750 trees from the Vandaraguppe plantation over an extent of 2 ha in Channapattana Range of Ramanagara Division for the year 2025-26, as per the list furnished by the State Forest Department vide its letter dated 25.03.2026. The approval is, however, subject to the condition that the State Forest Department shall submit post facto ratification from the Standing Consultative Committee (SCC) for selective felling, along with budget quantification details, status of regeneration of areas previously approved by REC and KML files of regenerated areas.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

(Confirmed by e-mail)

(P.S. Somashekar)

(Member)

(Confirmed by e-mail)

(Dr. Rohit Kumar Pradhan)

(Member)

(Confirmed by e-mail)

(Pawan Kumar Sharma)

(Member)



(Yasodha K)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

(Member Secretary)



(S. Senthil Kumar)

Deputy Director General of Forests (Central)

(Chairperson)

Annexure-1

List of members who participated in the **Ninety Sixth** meeting of Regional Empowered Committee of Regional Office, Bengaluru held on **26/03/2026** office of the Regional Officer, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bengaluru.

Sl.No.	Name, Designation & Address		
(1)	Shri. S. Senthil Kumar, I.F.S Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Regional Office, Bengaluru.	---	Chairman
(2)	Shri. P.S. Somashekar 14, 1st Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, Behind Maruti Dental College, Kammanahalli, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru	---	Member
(3)	Shri. Pawan Kumar Sharma, I-42, GAMA-2, Greater Noida, Uttara Pradesh	---	Member
(4)	Dr. Rohit Kumar Pradhan, Professor, School of Life Science Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur.	---	Member
(5)	Smt. Yasodha K, I.F.S., Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Regional Office, Bengaluru.	---	Member Secretary
(6)	The PCCF and Nodal Officer (VSESA) Karnataka Forest Department	---	Special Invitee
(7)	The APCCF (Working Plan), Karnataka Forest Department	---	Special Invitee
(8)	Representative of APCCF and Nodal Officer (VSESA) Goa Forest Department	---	Special Invitee
