

To,
The Deputy Conservator of Forest,
Ballari Division, Ballari.

Date: 02.01.2026

Respected Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 4.035 Ha of forest land for Approach Road to ML. No. 0016 in Hulikunte Village, in Swamymalai (SM) Block, near Sandur South Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District in favor of M/s. Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited, Bevinahalli-Reg., (Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/143973/2021).

Ref: 1. Letter. No. M1/MNG/Kirloskar/ROAD/2021-22(5.4476 Ha) dated. 14.11.2025. from DCF Ballari.

Adverting to the subject cited above, the proposal pertains to the diversion of 4.035 ha of forest land in Swamymalai (SM) Block, near Hulikunte Village, Sandur South Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District, for the purpose of providing an approach road to Mining Lease No. 0016 of M/s Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited.

In this regard, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari, vide reference cited above, has raised an Essential Details Sought (EDS) on 18.12.2025, directing re-examination of the proposed road alignment and revision of the proposal in accordance with the instructions conveyed during the field inspection conducted on 09.10.2025 by the Chief Conservator of Forests and the Technical Assistant to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bengaluru.

In compliance with the above directions, the following facts are respectfully submitted for kind consideration:

1. The existing approach road towards Ranjithpura (3.862 ha) passes through forest and revenue land that originally formed part of the erstwhile 'C' Category mining lease of M/s BMM. As M/s BMM has established a manufacturing facility on the adjoining revenue land, which commences immediately after the forest stretch, the lessee has restricted access to the said road citing plant safety and operational concerns. Since the present mining lease is an auctioned block granted for a period of 50 years, a separate and independent approach road without dependence on the erstwhile 'C' Category lessee is essential.
2. From the inception of the project, the lessee has consistently requested a dedicated approach road, and the same was duly applied for and recommended by the State Government to the Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Bengaluru, for grant of Stage-I Forest Clearance.
3. While Forest Clearance was obtained for the lease area of 24.47 ha, and to facilitate commencement of mining operations, the lessee was advised to temporarily use the existing approach road (3.862 ha) under Temporary Working Permission (TWP). As per prevailing practice in Karnataka, TWP can be granted

only after the regular forest diversion proposal is duly examined and recommended by the State Government, necessitating continued processing of the present proposal.

4. The lessee has entered into an agreement with M/s KIOCL for use of the road towards the Nandihalli side, and the required No Objection Certificate (NOC) has already been obtained. Further, a re-diversion proposal for an extent of 1.389 ha has been duly submitted through the PARIVESH portal.
5. As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 562 of 2009, mining lessees are encouraged to utilize rail-based transportation systems, such as railway sidings, conveyors, wagon loaders, etc., to minimize road congestion and environmental impacts. In line with these directions, the proposed approach road provides critical connectivity between the mine and the nearest railway siding at Nandihalli (Hulikunte Village).
 - i. The railway siding at Nandihalli is owned by M/s JSW, which presently operates a closed pipe conveyor system to transport material to its Tornagallu Integrated Steel Plant. As this infrastructure is not fully utilized, it offers an opportunity for shared use, fully consistent with the spirit of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions.
 - ii. Additionally, maintaining operational flexibility through both road and rail transportation is essential to meet raw material requirements of the lessee's Koppal and Hiriyur plants.
6. The proposed road alignment does not pass through any villages and provides direct access to the Nandihalli railway siding. In contrast, the existing approach road (3.862 ha) towards Ranjithpura would require movement through the BMM plant premises and several habitations such as Narsinghpura/Narasapura, Ranjithpura, and Mudakalpet, thereby resulting in higher social, safety, and environmental impacts.
7. Similarly, in the event of road transportation, the proposed alignment towards Nandihalli involves passage through only one village (Laxmipura) before reaching the Sandur Bypass Road. Conversely, use of the existing road would necessitate truck movement through Mudakalpet, Ranjithpura, Narasapura, NMDC Donimalai, and Bhujanganagar, significantly increasing traffic load, safety risks, and public inconvenience.

In view of the above facts, technical justification, and alignment with the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it is most respectfully requested that the proposal for diversion of 4.035 ha of forest land for the approach road towards the Nandihalli side may kindly be reconsidered and processed favorably for grant of Forest Clearance.

Thanking You,

For Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited,

Authorized Signatory.



To,
 The Deputy Conservator of Forest,
 Ballari Division, Ballari.

Date: 15.04.2025

Respected Sir,

Sub: Submission of response to clarification sought by MoEF&CC, IRO in respect of our application for diversion of 4.035 Ha of forest land in Swamymalai (SM) Block, near Hulikunte Village, Sandur South Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for approach road to ML No. 0016 of M/s. Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited. (Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/143973/2021).

Ref: 1. F. No. 4-KRB1496/2024-BAN dated. 03.03.2025.
 2. Letter No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/10/2021-FC dated. 28.03.2025 of the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru.
 3. Letter No. KIOCL/MINING/2024/173 dated. 26.02.2024 *[NOC from M/s. KIOCL]*

With respect to the above and reference letter, the MoEF&CC, IRO, GoI has sought clarification to the State Government to provide specific comments regarding the submission of a new proposal despite an approved road already being in place, and information regarding Re-diversion for 1.389 Ha passing through M/s. KIOCL Ltd Mine Lease area.

In this regard, we would like to reiterate the justification previously submitted and provide additional clarifications as follows:

Sl. No.	Essential Details Sought	Compliance
1	The State Government may kindly examine the instant proposal in more detailed manner including its inescapability and provide specific comments for submission of above mentioned fresh proposal which involves felling of large number of trees when there is already approved road in	<p>The already existing FC approved road towards Ranjithpura village passes through private land owned by M/s. BMM, the erstwhile 'C' Category Mine lessee. They have established a manufacturing unit on this land, restricting our road access due to plant safety concerns. There is no alternate road connecting the existing forest road to the public road.</p> <p>As per the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 562 of 2009,</p>

Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited

A Kirloskar Group Company

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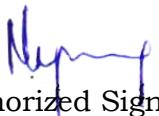
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	<p>place for approach to mining lease.</p>	<p>lessees are encouraged to transport iron ore through railway sidings, conveyors, wagon tipplers, wagon loaders, etc., to ease transportation bottlenecks. In line with this, the proposed road provides vital connectivity between our mines and the nearest railway siding located at Nandihalli (Hulikunte) village.</p> <p>Railway siding at Nandihalli is owned by M/s. JSW, which currently uses a closed pipe conveyor system to transport material to its Tornagallu Integrated Steel Plant. Since this infrastructure is not being fully utilized by JSW, it gives us an opportunity to utilize the same in-line with direction of Honorable Supreme Court.</p> <p>Further to this, maintaining flexibility in both road and rail transport is essential for meeting the raw material requirement to our Koppal and Hiriyur plants.</p>
2	<p>State Government is requested to clarify whether the user agency has applied for re-diversion of 1.389 ha already diverted in favour of M/s KIOCL.</p>	<p>As per Para 5.6 of Chapter-5 of VSESA, 1980, the primary use and secondary use by user agencies is same and for the Segment-3 & 5 (Extent- 1.389 Ha) of the proposed approach road passing through ML area M/s. KIOCL Limited. We have already obtained NOC from M/s. KIOCL Limited and submitted the same along with this proposal. Hence, the re- diversion of 1.389 Ha is not-applicable.</p>

In light of the above facts, we kindly request you to review our justification and consider granting Forest Clearance for the proposed approach road.

Thanking you,

For M/s. Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited


Authorized Signatory



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